

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2015 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Hill (Chairman,) Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Moon, and Wilmshurst .
CCC Cllr Cook & KCC Cllr Northey

114/14-15 **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Hodges, Ward & Wortham

115/14-15 There were no **Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** on agenda items.

116/14-15 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

117/14-15 **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

118/14-15 **Report by CCC Cllr Simon Cook;** (via email).

Cllr Cook confirmed he had recently attended a testing of new flood barriers in Barham to supplement and partially replace sandbags as a flood prevention measure.

He is to chair the Best Value Review into parish funding on behalf of Canterbury City Council with the aim of improving the concurrent function funding process. The Review seeks to find out why the gap between parish applications and the city budget has grown so far and fast and to streamline the process. He welcomes any and all ideas. The Review will be completed by the end of April 2015, before the forthcoming elections. The next round of concurrent funding decision making will start in September 2015. The new structure will need some months to bed in. The City Council budget will be debated and approved at the Council meeting on 19 February 2015.

119/14-15 **Report by KCC Cllr Northey**

Cllr Northey noted that KCC published its budget for 2015-2016 on 12 February 2015. There will be £83m of savings compared with the previous year and a rise of 1.99% in the community charge. There will be no referendum in Kent on this issue. Changes have been made to spending under various headings-personal budget plans to pay for home to school transport were cited as an example. Front line services will be protected. He reported that Kent secondary schools achieved a 58% A*-C (including English and Maths) pass rate at GCSE in 2014, compared with a national average of 53.4%. He explained why changes in the composition of the statistics made it hard to compare these figures with previous years. He noted that Kent outstripped the national GCSE 5 A*-C including English and Maths rate by 4.6% in 2014 compared with 3.9% in 2013. He paid credit to schools and their leaders for the results achieved.

Cllr Northey ended by pointing out that LED lights are to replace more traditional street lights in Kent. The policy of turning street lights off between midnight and 5.30 am in some parts of the county will therefore end. The new lighting arrangements, to be implemented over 3 years starting early in 2016, will cost £40m (the largest such scheme in the country). After eight years the new arrangements will have paid for themselves. The new lights will be controlled centrally.

In response to Cllr Atkinson, Cllr Northey undertook to pursue with the Leader of Kent Council (Cllr Paul Carter) the latter's apparent unawareness of the scale and length of the flooding problems suffered in the Nailbourne valley last winter. Cllr Atkinson will write to Cllr Northey about this matter.

ACTION: Cllrs Atkinson and

Northey

120/14-15

Visit of Inspector Chris Gurney, Kent Police

Sergeant Gurney (her current title) informed the meeting that:

PCSO Elaine Cannadine is now working elsewhere in Kent as part of a general restructuring of policing in Kent. Her work is being covered by PCSOs Lisa Williams and Chrissie Cameron. From April 2015 there will be further recruitment to the police service and full coverage of vacant PCSO positions should be achieved thereafter. There have been 2 crimes in Bridge (both thefts) reported in the last month-comparatively few for an area of this size. On both occasions, the thief had forced entry-an indication that residents take security of property seriously. Crime Prevention advice is available on the Kent police website. She reminded the meeting of the Rural Policing Strategy of Kent Police (derived from the mission statement of Kent Police) and cited the work of the Rural Task Force (launched in 2014) as a example of this work. She thanked the local community for all support received. In response to questions raised by Councillors and members of the public she confirmed that she would ensure that the mobile police station is present in Western Avenue at the published times. She clarified the law on long stay parking by vehicles on the public highway and added that Lorrywatch schemes are most effective when committed to the enforcement of existing laws and bye laws. She confirmed that crime victims are contacted by the police when there is relevant information to relay. Finally, she stated that there did not appear to be an obvious explanation as to why Kent roads appear to be the most dangerous in the country, though she pointed out that there has been a reduction in deaths and injuries in the Canterbury district. She was thanked for her contribution to the meeting and was reminded that PCSO Cannadine had been a most effective officer in the parish.

ACTION: Sergeant Gurney

121/14-15

Disposal of business from the last meeting

a

Recreation Ground;

Cllr Corfield reported on a recent inspection he had made of the recreation ground and also passed on comments by Cllr Ward on current mole activity and some problems with paint on the pavilion to be investigated further by Cllr Wilmshurst

ACTION: Cllr Wilmshurst

b.

Nailbourne

Cllr Atkinson spoke to his previously circulated report on the current state of the river. He stated that the Environment Agency is predicting "flow and not flood" this year, though preventative tankering has recently started in Bishopsbourne. He reported on a Kentwide Flood Conference on 6 February-where the exceptional duration of the flood alert in the Parish last year was noted. £1.3m will have been spent by the end of next year on flood protection measures in the Nailbourne Valley with more work to come on improvements downstream of Bridge. No sewage is being pumped into the Nailbourne at present. Current water levels and flow in the river are relatively static.

c.

Neighbourhood Plan

Joe Cooper reported that 20%+ of all distributed consultation documents had been returned (131 replies in all) . These have been collated by Mark Esdale. A revision of the plan based upon these responses is due to the relevant authorities by the end of February.

d.

Emergency Committee

This item was deferred until later in the meeting (see minute 123/14-15)

122/14-15

Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

The Council noted the report circulated by email by Cllrs Hill and Hodges on the Kent Association of Local Council Canterbury Branch meeting held on 20 January 2015.

123/14-15

Matters for Discussion and Action

Sand Bag Store Alterations

Cllr Moon reported that the sandbag stores are not yet fully operational. The matter will be discussed in greater depth at the next meeting

ACTION: Clerk (for agenda)

Annual Parish Meeting Speaker:

The council agreed to invite Mr Brian Lloyd of the CPRE to address the meeting on Thursday April 30 2015.

ACTION: Cllr Hill

New Parish Computer

The Clerk was authorised to purchase a computer at £319, and reminded to check that the machine included the cost of relevant software.

ACTION: Clerk

The clustering of local parish councils

Cllr Hill outlined the thinking behind this measure which has been tested on Romney Marsh. The item will need to be discussed more fully by the new council elected after May 7 2015.

ACTION: Clerk (for agenda)

To consider the reissuing of a footpath map for Bridge

Cllr Hill urged the council to consider reissuing such a map. New sponsors will be sought by the new council after the May elections.

ACTION: Clerk (for agenda)

Report from the Emergency Plan Group, and discussion of the production of an Emergency Information for Residents card at a cost of under £100.

Cllr Atkinson circulated a written report prior to the meeting. Wheelbarrows have been bought; the appointment of a new clerk means the list of volunteers and vulnerable residents can be collated; 8 locks have been purchased (£21.80) for the new sandbag stores. It was agreed to print 750 copies of an Emergency Information card for Bridge residents based upon a local example shown at the meeting. Printing will be organised by Mr Laurence Dunderdale at a cost of £25 with the text decided upon by Cllr Atkinson. The cards will be distributed by the EPGroup at the same time as the distribution of copies of the "What to do in an emergency" booklet. Memory sticks remain to be purchased. Funding of £200 was agreed to cover all of these items-to be taken from underspent areas of the budget.

ACTION: Cllr Atkinson, Emergency planning group and Clerk (to source appropriate funding stream)

To agree to participate in a review by the Strategy and Democracy section of Canterbury City Council of Concurrent Function funding and to nominate a councillor to attend the proposed meeting on 27 February 2015

Cllrs Hill and Atkinson agreed to attend. Cllr Hill and the Clerk will put together initial responses to the consultation questionnaire.

ACTION: Cllrs Hill, Atkinson and the Clerk

124/14-15

Correspondence-the list is to be emailed to all councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

125/14-15

Receipts

The following receipts were noted;
 Fitness in the Park fee for 2014 - £50. The recreation ground will not be used by this group until May 2015, despite the advertisement in "On the Nail".

126/14-15 Bank Transfers

The transfer of £6,500 between parish accounts was noted.

127/14-15 The following items were authorised for payment;

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel N Seath	£14.99	Printer ink £12.49 + £2.50 vat
Christobel N Seath	£676.55	Clerk's salary and office allowance for January 2015
Post Office Ltd	150.72	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for January 2015
Les Barleycorn	£892.00	Interior & exterior decoration pavilion repairs £880.34 + £11.66 vat
Sue Hodges	£14.99	Leaf grab for Wild Flower project
CPRE	£80.00	Two places on Flooding Conference 6 th .Feb 2015 Maidstone
South Canterbury Alliance	£20.00	Annual subscription 2015
Lower Hardres & Nackington PC	£180.00	Hire of Speedwatch equipment from May 2013 – January 2014 = 6 sessions X £30.00
Broad Oak Carpets	£2,495.00	Pavilion flooring (Pavilion repair project)
AP Electrical	£877.60	Pavilion repairs

128/14-15 Any Other Business

- The date of a forthcoming litterpick will be decided at the next meeting.
- Councillors agreed to celebrate the work of the former clerk with a social event on 24 April 2015 to which current and former councillors will be invited. A card is to be circulated by the Clerk and Cllr Hill will be responsible for the purchase of a suitable gift and the selection of a venue.

ACTION: Cllr Hill and Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.