

Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council
Thursday 11 February 2016 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

116/15-16

A member of the public addressed the meeting on the subject of minute 112/15-16 (a) from the meeting held on 14 January 2016.

117/15-16

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cook, attending a Policy and Resources Committee meeting in Canterbury.

Present were Cllrs A Atkinson, Sole, Fawke, Corfield, Hodges, Moon, R Atkinson, Brooks and Dhillon.

118/15-16

Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. There were none.

119/15-16

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14 January 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

120/15-16

Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7 of the agenda.

The Clerk informed the meeting that:

- An electrical certificate has been received for works in the ladies toilet in the pavilion.
- A letter has been sent to the Tennis Club regarding the pruning of trees.
- No-parking road signs have been purchased jointly with the primary school.
- Bridge School have been told of the winning entries for the recreation ground signs.
- Drawings for the new path and handrail by the pavilion are awaited from the chosen contractor before work can begin.
- It was decided to replace the defective cradle swing with a new swing. Quotations to be gathered and presented to the next meeting (ACTION: Clerk)
- Insurance arrangements have been finalised with the parish insurers so that the handyman can begin work.
- A meeting is required with the Chair of the BVST to sign the new Memorandum of Understanding between the Parish Council and the BVST. (ACTION: Clerk)
- Mole contract with Bounty Pest Control remains in force on a month to month basis pending new arrangements. (ACTION: Clerk)

121/15-16

Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)

Cllr Cook's report was read in absentia. He noted that fly tipping is an increasing issue in the district and the City Council needs to look further at enforcement. Please let him know of any hot spots in the parish. The Rural Areas Advisory Committee ran through consultation responses for the new concurrent function funding scheme showing that the changes were generally well received. They will apply from autumn 2016. The City Council will start a community governance review in 2016 including a look at further devolution of powers to parishes. The city council budget will be discussed at the council meeting on 18 February.

122/15-16

Report from Kent County Councillor (KCC) Michael Northey.

KCC has passed its budget for 2016-2017 showing a 3.99% increase in council tax, occasioned by increasing expenditure in adult social care and grant reductions from central government amounting to £18 million. Front line services are being modified where necessary but remain largely intact. KCC has had to save £430 million in the last 5 years. A KCC committee will decide (on 12 Feb) on the hours of street lighting using the new LED streetlights throughout Kent. The mobile library consultation ends on 4 March. It is

proposed that the library will visit Bridge once every fortnight and that borrowers will be able to borrow up to 30 items each. Comments are still welcomed.

123/15-16

Disposal of business from the last meeting

Recreation Ground

Cllr Hodges noted the list of outstanding tasks has been much reduced. The outstanding items concern the removal of the spare roller, repair to the fence behind the youth shelter, removal of the bag of sand, and the fixing of a plaque to the heritage tree. New signs on dog waste will be checked. Cllr Hodges also thanked Mr Barry Bray for his work on the wild flower area. **(ACTION: Cllr Fawke and Clerk)**

The Recreation Ground working party will meet on Saturday 16 April at 9.30 am to prepare the flowerbeds for spring. All help is welcomed.

Neighbourhood Plan

The next meeting will be on Friday 12 February. Joe Connor, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan group extolled the Wye Neighbourhood Plan (now nearing referendum) and stated that he wished to see the Bridge plan completed (and submitted to Canterbury City Council as required) within this calendar year, otherwise the effort expended in generating the Plan might have been wasted.

Village event on 12 June to mark the Queen's 90th birthday

Cllr Dhillon reported that external funding was likely to be limited to about £400 maximum. A costed list of proposals will be presented at the next meeting. In the meantime, keep the day free!

124/15-16

Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies.

- (1) Meeting held on 26 January to review the proposed **new road junction on the A2**. The chair had circulated his notes in advance but repeated his concern about the apparent complacency of planners that "all will be fine" at the northern end of Bridge High St. The new junction will be planned by Highways England and funded by housing developers. It will probably be built some 4-5 years after houses have started to be built in South Canterbury.
- (2) **KALC Canterbury Area Committee** meeting on 19 January 2016. Minutes had been circulated by Cllr Hodges prior to the meeting.
- (3) **Rural Area Advisory Committee** meeting on 25 January. Cllr Dhillon reported on the decisions taken to share funding for the Queen's event on 12 June between all relevant villages and the decision to adopt a new scheme for Concurrent Function Funding.
- (4) Cllr Fawke stated that **Speedwatch training** for the village on 9 February had been attended by 15 people. New locations for the setting up of equipment were agreed and feedback from Guy Rollinson is required before a formal start can be made.
- (5) **Society of Local Council Clerks regional roadshow**. The Clerk reported on the regional roadshow event organised by this professional association on 3 February 2016.

125/15-16

Matters for discussion and action.

- (a) **An update on the Cantley and Brickfields proposals for the village**. The Clerk reminded Councillors of documentation recently received from Cantley Estates and previously circulated to Councillors. He also reminded Council of the Parish Council's response to the Brickfields consultation organised by Canterbury City Council. Council agreed to publish all of the Cantley information on the parish website. Canterbury City

Council expect to publish all responses to their recent plan to extend housing sites districtwide within two weeks.

- (b) Council agreed to fund **a first aid course** to provide basic life-saving first aid including the use of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Local employers will be invited as a priority and asked for a donation towards the costs which will amount to approx. £225. Cllrs Fawke and Corfield will publicise the event on Facebook and the website once a date has been agreed with the course provider. No decision was taken on the purchase of a defibrillator.
- (c) **Green court proposals.** Council agreed to fund the necessary tree survey of the area to see which parcels of the KCC land can be developed. A team of councillors will ask local residents for their views on a range of possible improvements to the landscaping of the area.
- (d) A contractor who quoted for £2150 of works to upgrade **the pavilion kitchen** was chosen by the Council.
- (e) Cllr Brooks outlined **the BVST response** to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding as expressed at the BVST meeting held on 9 February. The MOU needs to be signed by the relevant signatories. (ACTION: Clerk)
- (f) **A speaker from Speedwatch will be invited to address the Annual Parish Meeting** on 28 April 2016. (ACTION Cllr Fawke)
- (g) Cllr Fawke is awaiting a response from **Stagecoach to his recent letter on the pricing of bus services from Bridge to and from Canterbury.** The issue has been taken up by Councillor Baker of Canterbury City Council. (ACTION Cllr Fawke)
- (h) Council agreed to appoint Ian Davison of Wellers Hedley to act on its behalf as the new lease for the **Mill Centre** is drafted. In the meantime, a tenancy-at-will is to be in place from 1 March 2016 and councillors offered comments on the details, including the use of signs and the state of the property as it is taken over by the Parish Council. These points are to be submitted to the Council's solicitor by the Clerk. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Parish Council and the Mill Centre Management Committee (MCMC) needs to be drawn up for the duration of the tenancy at will. The MCMC has approached Viridor about possible funding opportunities for the Mill Centre. Refurbishment plans for the centre have been lodged with Canterbury City Council. Only when a detailed schedule of works has been drawn up by the MCMC will Canterbury City Council move towards issuing a new 30 year lease. Bridge Parish Council will use its allocated reserves for the Mill Centre in order to meet legal and running costs as the lease is drawn up and as the tenancy at will unfolds, until the existing MCMC is in a legal position to assume its anticipated responsibilities by the terms of a lease which will be drawn up with the MCMC which will effectively pass on all leaseholder responsibilities to the MCMC from the Parish Council. (ACTION: Clerk)
- (i) The Clerk was asked to determine the exact status of the path which leads from the school to the pavilion across the recreation ground. New signs are to be erected shortly which will underline the fact that the current Parish Council, like its predecessor, does **not wish to see dogs on the recreation ground.** The next newsletter will reinforce this message.
- (j) Cllr R Atkinson noted that on 5 March from 10.30-12.30 there will be a village-wide litter pick involving the beavers and cubs. On Thursday 3 March children from the primary school will be invited to participate in a litter pick on the recreation ground. All these activities will be part of the **national "Cleaning for the Queen" project.**

- (k) Cllr Corfield requested copy for **the next newsletter** by Friday 19 February. It will be published and distributed soon afterwards.
- (l) Cllrs Atkinson and Fawke are able to attend the **Mountfield Park invitation on 4 March** for further discussions about the proposed developments in South Canterbury.
- (m) Council decided to opt in to the **proposed auditing arrangements** outlined by the Clerk.
- (n) Previously published proposed amendments to the **Council's financial regulations** were adopted. Council also approved capital project funding which will use approximately £2,500 of parish reserves in the Financial Year 2015-2016.
- (o) The Clerk will write to Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council expressing concern about the disruption caused **by simultaneous road closures** in the local area and a desire to ensure that further disruption is avoided when scaffolding is removed from the Bekesbourne Railway Bridge site. **(ACTION: Clerk)**

126/15-16 Tree works in a conservation area (as published in the agenda) were noted.

127/15-16 The Correspondence list was noted.

128/15-16 Receipts: £250 from Bridge Farmers Market (partial repayment of a start-up donation received in November 2010).

129/15-16 The following items for payment were authorised:

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Philip Wicker	£49.24	Bring Petty Cash up to £50
Philip Wicker	£676.67	Salary and Office allowance
Sue Hodges	£6.30	Travel expenses
Sue Hodges	£6.95	Wild flower seeds
Les Barleycorn	£845.00	Refurbishment of pavilion toilet
Mark Larkins	£3107.50	50% of costs for fencing in the recreation ground around the play area
Ian Sargent	£100.00	One cut/trim and work to saplings
SLCC	£41.40	Training costs for Regional roadshow
Bridge Primary School	£63.46	Contribution (50%) towards cost of no-parking boards)
Philip Wicker	£27.45	Travel expenses Bridge-Chatham and return SLCC conference

130/15-16 Points of information:

1. The Mill Lane ford is likely to remain closed for at least 4 weeks
2. The Local Government Commission has published revised boundaries for use in the 2017 local elections for Kent County Council which will be posted on village noticeboards.

The meeting concluded at 9.36 p.m

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on
Thursday, 10 March 2016 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall**