

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Bennett, Corfield, Edmonds, Esdale, Gulvin and Lewis

- 98. Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence
- 99. Ms Renuka Chinnadurai** was welcomed as the new Head teacher at Bridge & Patricbourne CE School. Ms Chinnadurai said that she hoped the school would become more involved in the community of Bridge and that she would welcome a Parish Councillor acting as a liaison with the school. It was agreed to investigate this further.
- 100. Mr Chris Lewis – Development Control Manager, Canterbury City Council** addressed the meeting. He explained the planning process and the procedures for enforcement and consultation with planning officers. He advised that the planning process could be followed on-line and all planning documents were being placed on the Development Services web pages of the Canterbury City Council website. He answered questions from councillors and agreed that planning officers should write to the parish council to explain the reasons for decisions which went against parish council recommendations.
- 101. Mr Bill Oakey** presented the Parish Plan to the meeting. In accepting the plan on behalf of the parish council, Cllr Hill thanked the plan committee for their work and in particular Mr Oakey for his inspiration and leadership in producing the plan. The Countryside Commission funding promised at the start of the process had not been forthcoming and the plan had had to become self-financing. There were still some outstanding contributions to be collected towards the printing costs and it was hoped that when these had been received, the costs would be fully covered. It was confirmed that the parish council would meet any shortfall as had been agreed earlier. Mr Oakey thanked the parish council for its support.
- 102. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 103.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 were confirmed as true records and signed by the Chairman.
- 104. Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. Recreation ground**
- i.** It was reported that moles were an increasingly serious problem and that recently there had been doubt as to whether a Bridge Junior Football fixture was safe to go ahead. It was felt that the present arrangement with Bounty Pest Control was no longer effective and renewal of their contract would be deferred pending further discussion. It was decided that other solutions should be sought. The clerk would contact relevant agencies for advice and Cllr Esdale would research the problem on the internet. **Action; Cllr Esdale & Clerk**
- ii** Cllr Gulvin reported that the sports pavilion had again been the target of vandalism; guttering and windows had been broken and it had been daubed with graffiti. The BVST were arranging repairs and the damaged picnic bench would be repaired at the same time.
- iii.** The damaged recreation ground bench would be repaired by Mr Mortley.
- b. Flood Map** –Deferred to next meeting. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- c. Newsletter** – Cllr Corfield circulated a draft of the Parish Council Newsletter for comment. A revised distribution list will be agreed and the newsletter distributed by councillors as soon as possible. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Corfield for his work in producing the newsletter. **Action; Councillors**

- d. **Slip Road over the A2** – It was reported that Kent Highways' sub contractors had discovered that the damaged balustrade was sub standard and they would therefore have to replace the full length of the balustrade with a higher specification alternative. The sub contractors would inform the clerk within the next few days when the repairs were to be carried out. **Action ; Clerk**

**105. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Cllr Gulvin reported that at the Bridge Village Sports Trust Meeting the Exiles Cricket Club had expressed concern over complaints that cars had been crossing the recreation ground at dangerous speeds on match days. They had undertaken to investigate and asked for details of any vehicle involved. Barham Cricket Club is to be invited to the AGM of the BVST in April 2006. **Action Cllr Gulvin**  
Cllr Beesty reported that he had attended a meeting of the Kent Association of Parish Councils

**106. Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**

18 High St Bridge

Remove reverted upper section of hazel in front garden to create domed upper crown – No objection

**Action; Clerk**

**107. Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Repair of the kissing gate near CB302** – Cllr Hill had made temporary repairs to the gate. It was agreed that a working party would make a permanent repair on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. **Action; Cllr Hill Beesty, Esdale & Gulvin.**
- b. **To agree the precept requirement for 2006/7**– There would be a shortfall of approximately £420 on concurrent funding from the city council. This and other commitments would be reflected in the precept and a 38.63% increase in the precept was agreed by the council. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Esdale for his work on the budget.
- c. **Redundant Road Signs** – It was agreed that Cllrs Esdale and Lewis would walk round the village and identify redundant road signs with a view to having them removed. **Action; Cllrs Lewis & Esdale**
- d. **Keep Bridge Tidy** - Cllr Lewis had suggested that a local contractor might be identified to undertake maintenance work in the village on an ad hoc basis. However, the KAPC had been consulted and outlined the tax, insurance and health & safety issues involved in employing individuals on this basis. It was agreed not to proceed with this suggestion at present.
- e. **Corrall's Fuel Store** – Concern had been expressed over safety issues following the Buncefield Depot explosion last year. It was agreed that Cllr Esdale would contact Corralls and the Fire Service to ascertain what emergency plans were in place in view of the fuel store's close proximity to housing. He would also investigate any future plans for the site at the end of Corrall's current lease. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- f. **Proposal to remove the zebra crossing outside Bridge Pharmacy** – It was agreed that the crossing was made dangerous because of cars being parked on the zigzag lines, thereby restricting visibility. However, it was pointed out that the parish council had fought hard to have the crossing put there initially and the problem lay not with the crossing but with motorists who persisted in parking illegally. It was agreed that the problem would be highlighted in the forthcoming Parish Newsletter and that motorists who continued to park illegally would be 'named and shamed' on the village website and possibly reported to the police. **Action; Cllrs Corfield & Esdale**

**108. Correspondence Noted**

**109.** Letter of authorisation to transfer £2,000 between the two bank accounts held by Bridge Parish Council was agreed. **Action; Clerk**

**110.** The following receipts were noted;

Christmas tree donations; £160.00  
EDF Energy rebate; £3.45

111. The following items were authorised for payment (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque) apart from the Bounty Pest Control payment (see item 104 a.i. above)

| Payee   | Amount  | Purpose   |
|---|---------|---|
| Ewart Clough                                  | £263.20 | Supply of 56 Christmas trees £224.00+ £39.20 vat                      |
| Mervyn Gulvin                                 | £47.70  | Photocopying Jan-Nov 2005 inc vat.                                    |
| Christobel N Seath                            | £385.31 | Clerk's salary and office expenses – December                         |
| Canterbury & District Neighbourhood Watch As. | £120.00 | Annual donation 2005/6  |
| Patricbourne with Bridge PCC                  | £300.00 | Contribution to upkeep of churchyard 2005/6                           |
| Bounty Pest Control                           | £305.50 | Annual contract Dec 2005 to Nov 2006 £260 + £45.50 vat                |
| British Telecom                               | £61.14  | Telephone account £52.04+ £9.10 vat                                   |
| Gillett & Johnson (Croyden) Ltd               | £121.03 | Servicing village hall clock year ended 30/11/06 £103.00 + £18.03 vat |
| KCC Commercial Services                       | £691.58 | Second half yearly invoice grounds maintenance £588.58 + £103.00 vat  |
| Campaign to Protect Rural England             | £26.00  | Renewal of annual subscription  |
| Cllr Esdale                                   | £290.77 | Christmas tree lights   |
| Christobel Seath                              | £44.29  | Petty cash  |
| Bridge Fish Scheme                            | £150.00 | Award from Kent Village of the Year                                   |

112. **Any other business**

- a. Cllr Beinder reported that there had been several complaints from residents about street lights which were not working and had not been repaired promptly by Kent Highway services, who were now responsible for lighting in the village. The East Kent area manager had been contacted and had admitted that there had been teething problems since they took over responsibility as sub contractors for Canterbury City Council. A watch would be kept on the situation **Action; Clerk**
- b. It was agreed to request a new light for Patricbourne Rd, a stretch of which was very dark. **Action; Clerk**
- c. It was agreed to report to Highways Dept that the flyover on the A2 at the Patricbourne road has again become very noisy. **Action; Clerk**
- d. It was reported that the pavement on Patricbourne Rd was very uneven and frequently flooded by large puddles. This was a danger especially to pedestrians walking to Bridge Health Centre. It was agreed to ask for emergency repairs to be carried out. **Action; Clerk**
- e. The Strategic Health Authority had produced a consultation document on the future of Primary Health Trusts in Kent. It was agreed that Cllrs Bennett and Beinder would attend the Canterbury Area consultation meeting on this. **Action; Cllrs Beinder & Bennett**
- f. The council agreed future priorities for policing which had been put to them in a consultation document questionnaire from the Kent Police Service.
- g. It was agreed that Cllr Edmonds would attend the Canterbury & District Parish Forum Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February.
- h. **Christmas trees** – Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Esdale, other councillors and helpers for their work in taking down the 56 Christmas trees in the village. Many favourable comments had been received this year.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>.February 2006 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. The meeting closed at 10.08 pm.

