

DRAFT Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2012 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hodges, Ward and Wilmshurst.
Cllrs Cook and Oakey from item 6c.

- 101/11-12** **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence.
- 102/11-12.** **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items
- 103/11/-12** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8th. December 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 104/11-12** **Report from KCC Cllr Northey** – Cllr Northey was aware of the problems at the A2 slip road and had been in contact with the Highways Agency. He would be taking an interest in any solutions proposed and suggested it would be possible to ask the local MP to take the matter up with the appropriate government Minister.
- 105/11-12** **Report from Cllr Cook** – (Written report) The Executive had recommended a further loan of £1.5 million to the cricket club. A Scrutiny Review had been launched into Parish Concurrent Function Funding, which would be chaired by Cllr Cook. Work had been started to prepare for the Localism Act. A decision had been reached on the future of the Mill Centre (see 106 e below)
- 106/11-12** **Disposal of Business from last Meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground-** A picnic bench had been vandalised and moved into the Health Centre car park. Cllr Wilmshurst had retrieved it and would attempt to repair it. The Health Centre had been notified that their fence had also been broken down. **Action; Cllr Wilmshurst**
Shrubs by the path to the school were getting too big. Cllr Hodges would assess what needed to be done. **Action; Cllr Hodges**
The recreation committee had refused the offer of a sapling walnut tree because of previous damage to saplings without protective cages.
The youth shelter replacement seats and paint had been ordered. Cllr Wilmshurst would investigate how best to remove the bolts. **Action; Cllr Wilmshurst**
- Fresh Air Fitness had agreed to replace damaged parts of the fitness equipment and give the equipment a safety check, the following week.
It was agreed to accept a quote from Hartlee Tree Surgeons to grind out the tree stumps round the sandbag store **Action; Clerk**
It was agreed to paint the graffiti covered side of the sand bag store and then plant along it to prevent more graffiti. **Action; Cllr Hodges**
- b. **Affordable Housing** – The city council housing officer, Gillian Pritchard had advised all those intending to bid for the affordable housing to telephone the city council direct between Friday 20th January and noon on Wednesday 25th January to bid for specific properties. The city council would be informing the parish council of the reference numbers of each individual property and this information would be put on the website and village notice boards as soon as it was received. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations-** Cllr Atkinson confirmed that the village beacon had been officially registered. He asked the parish council for an advance of funds, in addition to the £1,000 agreed, in order to hire entertainers and book facilities such as 'Portaloos' that needed to be secured ahead of any donations and sponsorship, which the committee hoped to raise. It was agreed that a breakdown of costs would be

submitted at the February Parish Council with a request for funding to be loaned by the parish council. **Action; Cllrs Oakey & Atkinson**

- d. Methodist Chapel – English Heritage were still considering national listing for this building. There had been no further information regarding its sale.
- e. Mill Centre – Cllr Hill and Mark Esdale had spoken at the meeting of the City Council's Executive Committee the previous week requesting that that the Mill Centre was leased to the parish council on a long lease at an affordable rent, as had been indicated as probable to Cllr Cook last year. However, the Executive Committee had decided to sell the Centre for housing development with a valuation in the region of £300,000 and give the youth organisations nine months to find alternative premises. The parish council expressed its great disappointment at this decision and its determination to ensure that the youth of Bridge and surrounding areas were able to continue their activities. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the parish council would approach the city council's Head of Community Services to open a dialogue about possible alternative premises for the village youth organisations. Meanwhile the Mill Centre Management Committee would fight to keep the Mill Centre for the youth. Mark Esdale was asked to draw up the requirements of the youth organisations so that these could be put to the city council in the specifications for an alternative youth centre.

Action; Mark Esdale & Clerk

- f. Bus shelter seat – Cllr Hill had located a suitable model of tip up bracket for the bus shelter seat. Cllr Wilmshurst would make further enquiries about the feasibility of installing the seats. **Action; Cllr Wilmshurst**

107/11-12

Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

KALC Canterbury branch 11th. January – Cllr Hodges – Report Circulated
Village Hall Management Committee 17th November 2011 – Cllr Hodges
(minutes circulated)

108/11-12

Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposal was noted;

Garden Ways, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Remove copper beech by up to 20% & remove dead wood

Crown lift 1st yew by max of 3 metres

Crown lift 2nd yew by 3m and reduce overall by 25%

Reduce yew to left of parking space by up to 25%

The city council tree officer had arranged to visit the site because of the extensive nature of the work proposed.

109/11-12.

Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Neighbourhood Plan-** It was agreed to set up a Neighbourhood Plan Committee consisting of parish councillors and other residents of Bridge. The Committee would report its recommendations to the parish council. Cllrs Hill, Wilmshurst, Edmonds and Oakey would initially form the committee.
- b. **A2 Slip road-** There had been a series of accidents with cars overshooting the A2 slip road in the previous six weeks. These had demolished the signs on Bekesbourne Road. Kent Highway Services had not replaced the signs. The Highways Agency and KHS had been asked to take urgent action to improve this dangerous junction, as they had promised at the inter agency meeting held in February 2011. It was reported that the transportation team of KHS would visit the site the next day and would make recommendations. It was agreed to report any further incidents to the Clerk who would inform KHS. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Twinning of Bridge with St Andre** – Cllr Hill asked that the twinning ceremony should be held in Bridge rather than in Canterbury. Cllr Oakey, who had organised the event, explained that Bridge did not have a

suitable civic space available for the twinning, which would take place at the Guildhall on the morning of 10th February at 11.00am.

- d. **Walkers are Welcome Scheme-** It was agreed that Cllr Atkinson would look at the feasibility of Bridge joining this scheme and report his recommendations to the February parish council meeting. **Action; Cllr Atkinson**
- e. **Time Capsule for Affordable Housing Site** – Bridge School had not yet provided details of the items for the time capsule to be buried at the affordable housing site. It was agreed to authorise up to £236 to be spent on a capsule. **Action; Cllr Hill**
- f. **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed to invite Ann Millington, Chief Executive of Kent Fire and Rescue Service, to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Working party for local footpaths** – It was agreed to arrange a working party to clear the footpath CB 309 running from Renville to White Hill Woods. This would take place on Saturday 21st January. Volunteers should meet at Renville Oast at 9.00am and wear boots or wellingtons, gloves and, if possible, eye protectors. Tony Walder, Bridge Footpaths officer, would supply further information Tel 830 057
- h. **Village litter pick-** There would be a village ‘Litter Pick’ on Saturday 3rd March organised by Cllr Ward. Volunteers should meet at Bridge Post Office at 9.30am. **Action; Cllr Ward**
- i. **Low level lighting for High Street bridge over Nailbourne-** The council considered a request from a resident to install low level lighting at the path in the High Street over the Nailbourne. It was agreed not to seek additional lighting but to ask Kent Highways to trim back the bushes to make the area lighter and to ask the city council to repair the footpath. **Action; Clerk**
- j. **Ladders** – The offer of the donation of an extension ladder from Mr Walder to the parish council was accepted. It was agreed that Mr Walder would keep the ladder at his premises.

110/11-12 **Correspondence List** – Noted

111/11-12 **Bank Transfers**
The transfer of £2,000 between Parish Council accounts was noted

112/11-12 **Receipts**
The following receipts were noted;

Christmas trees - £293.00
UK Power Networks Agreement Riverside Close - £3.45

113/11-12 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT Telephone Account*	£87.52	Telephone account Sept / Dec 2011 (£72.94 + £14.58 vat)
Gillett & Johnson	£164.40	Servicing village hall clock (£137.00 + £27.40 vat)
Green Construction Ltd	£1,146.98	Payment of retention monies for village hall refurbishment (£955.82 + £191.16 vat)
Christobel Seath - Clerk	£660.71	Clerk's salary and allowances for December 2011 + adjusted NI for Nov
Post Office Ltd.	£90.54	Employer PAYE & NI Contributions for December 2011
John Hill	£34.20	Travel to Canterbury City Council 5.1.12 = 6 miles @ 45p = £2.70 + Chairman's allowance Christmas Party £31.50

* Paid by direct debit

114/11-12 Any other business

- a. **Website** – Councillors agreed with Cllr Corfield that the website should carry a disclaimer saying that the views expressed on the site were not necessarily those of the parish council.
Action; Cllr Corfield
- b. **Art In Bridge** – It was agreed that Art in Bridge should be hosted on the website.
- c. **Patricbourne Road footpath** – It was pointed out that the large leylandii trees on the corner of Riverside Close and Patricbourne Rd were now obstructing the pavement and major tree surgery was needed. It was agreed that Cllr Hill would discuss the problem with the resident of 1 Riverside Close who had previously cut back the trees. The trees were either the responsibility of the city council or the Environment Agency.
Action; Cllr Hill
- d. **Broadband** – Cllr Cook explained that it was possible for parish councils to apply for 50% matched funding to improve Broadband speed. The process was very complex and it was difficult to estimate the total cost. It was suggested that the scheme would eventually be rolled out in the area without cost to individual parishes. It was decided not to proceed with any funding request.

The meeting closed at 10.03pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 9th. February 2012 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.