

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th. January 2014 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman) (to item 9), Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hill, Moon, Ward & Wilmshurst
- 100/13-14** **Councillor Bill Oakey** - Cllr Hill paid tribute to Bill Oakey who had died of cancer on 6th. January after a brave fight. He described him as an effective Parish Councillor until ill health forced his resignation. Bill Oakey had helped to organise the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and led a band of snow clearance volunteers in the village. The Parish Council offered its sympathy to his wife and his family and held a minute's silence in tribute to Cllr Oakey.
- 101/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from CCC Cllr Simon Cook and KCC Cllr Northey.
- 102/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying or written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 103/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 12th. December 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 104/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- 105/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground** – Cllr Ward reported that there had been no significant storm damage on the recreation ground. There had been a lot of litter, following the holiday period, which Cllr Ward had cleared up
 - b. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Mr Gulvin reported that Stella Scrivener of Planning Aid would attend the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee on the following day. A car parking survey and meetings with local landowners were planned for January.
 - c. **Mill Centre-** Martin Bovingdon and Ian Barnes of the City Council had visited the Centre in December but there had been no feedback. The AGM had been held the previous week and the officers remained the same. There would be a meeting with Mark Bursnell of Canterbury City Council the following day to discuss the transfer of the Mill Centre to the Parish Council under the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.
 - d. **Nailbourne Pollution** – Cllr Atkinson reported that the sealing of the sewer, which was currently being undertaken in Patricbourne Road, was likely to be completed at the weekend or possibly on 13th. January. There were no problems with the Nailbourne so far but the borehole water depths were at the same level as 2001. The Environment Agency report was due at the weekend and would show levels of water in bore holes was rising rapidly.
 - e. **Village Sign** – Cllr Hill reported that the new post had been delivered to his home as he had to make some modifications to it before it was erected.
Action; Cllr Hill
 - f. **Village Clock-** Gillett and Johnston had been told that their contract to maintain the village clock would be terminated at the end of 2014. The cost was increasing and it was debatable whether the contract was value for money. The money saved could be put towards the purchase of a new clock when needed.
 - g. **Withdrawal of green sack collection service;** Canterbury City Council officials had offered to visit a house in Bridge High Street to see first hand the problems caused by the withdrawal of the green sack service. The Clerk had arranged for a resident to meet them and was now waiting for the Council to confirm a date for the meeting.

106/13-14 Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposal was noted;
Higham Cottage, Higham Lane, Bridge CT4 5AY
Reduce holly by 1/3rd, reduce crown of eucalyptus gunii by 1/3rd, reduce cherry laurel by 1/3rd & rebalance width to match new height.

107/13-14 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Date of Annual Parish Meeting-** It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 1st May in the village hall.
- b. **Draft Canterbury District Parish Charter –**Parish Councillors had considered the draft of the Parish Charter, which had been put forward by the City Council. Councillors were critical of the lack of any hard commitments in the document. They also commented on the lack of consultation that there had been over new planning procedures. Several specific amendments to the Charter were proposed, which would be submitted to the City Council for consideration. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Parish Councillor vacancy;** There had been two applications to fill the vacant post of parish councillor. A panel would meet to interview the prospective candidates.
- d. **Emergency preparations in severe weather;** Cllr Moon proposed that the contact telephone numbers of those with keys to the sandbag store should be made available on the village notice boards. Details were already on the village website. It was agreed to buy a barrow to transport sand bags in an emergency, as they were extremely heavy. Cllr Moon would look at options. Cllr Moon would take over the production of the Bridge Emergency Plan and would attend a Resilience Course run by the Emergency Services on 8th February. **Action; Cllr Moon**
Cllr Moon thanked Colin North for his help with removing a fallen tree from Bridge Hill on 23rd December and Mark Esdale for his help with the sandbags.
- e. **Start of World War I commemoration;** Councillors considered Cllr Hill's proposal that the parish council should commemorate the start of WWI in some way. It was agreed that Cllr Hill should liaise with the parish church and that the Parish Council would offer support to any plans they had. **Action; Cllr Hill**

108/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

109/13-14. Sealing of Documents

The Agreement between Bridge Athletic Football Club and Bridge Parish Council was signed

110/13-14 Bank transfers

The Council noted the transfer of £1,000 between Parish Council accounts.

111/13-14 The following receipts were noted;

South Eastern Power networks - £3.45
Christmas tree donations - £154.00

112/13–14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT*	£74.51	Telephone account 10.9.12 - 9.12.13. + rental £63.95 + £10.56 vat
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Clerk's salary & allowance for December 2013
Post Office Ltd	£214.65	PAYE and arrears of Employer NI contribution for July.- December 2013
Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations	£20.00	Annual subscription

CPRE	£29.00	Annual subscription 2014
BVHMC	£54.50	Hire of Village Hall Sept – Dec 2-13 4X £12.00 and 12 th . Dec £6.50
BVHMC	£26.00	Neighbourhood Plan Account - Hire of Hunter Room Sept – Dec £6.50 x 4

* paid by Direct Debit

113/13-14 Any Other Business

- a. **Bill Oakey** – It was agreed to send a letter of condolence to Mrs Oakey – **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Christmas trees**- Parish Councillors thanked the many villagers who turned out in record numbers to put up and take down the Christmas trees this year. Mark Esdale was thanked for his superb organisation of the event again.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 13th. February 2014 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.