

**DRAFT Minutes of  
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>.January 2015 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges (Chairman,) Atkinson, Corfield, Hill, Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst and Wortham.
- 101/14-15** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Edmonds, CCC Cllr Cook, KCC Cllr Northey & PCSOs Cannadine & Williams
- 102/14-15** **Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.** Cllr Hill declared an interest in respect of items 8a and 9c as President of Bridge Tennis Club.
- 103/14-15** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup>.December 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 104/14-15** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 105/14-15** **Report by CCC Cllr Simon Cook;** (via email) Cllr Cook confirmed that the recent scoping request should have been filed under Barton rather than Bridge. Cllr Cook also reported that the planners for the South Canterbury Development, David Lock Associates, would start consulting parishes and other groups once the Plan is in place, probably after the elections. CCC's budget meeting would be on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Cook reminded councillors of CCC's Small Grants Fund, which is still open for applications.
- 106/14-15** **Report by KCC Cllr Northey** (via email) KCC's budget proposals would be published on 12<sup>th</sup>.January. The deadline for parents to apply for primary school places in September was 15<sup>th</sup>. January. Parents should give 3 choices. There was no advantage in naming only one school. Places were allocated under a strict system. Details were on the KCC website.
- 107/14-15**
- a. **Disposal of business from the last meeting**  
**Recreation Ground;** Cllr Ward noted the increase in litter over the holiday period, which she had cleared. There was also an unusually large number of tennis balls outside the tennis courts. Rubbish had been cleared from the Nailbourne to some extent when the banks were strimmed.  
It was agreed to arrange a meeting between the Tree Warden, a member of the Tennis Club and the tree surgeon to discuss tree work on the large trees by the tennis court. **Action; Cllr Wilmshurst**  
Cllr Hodges reported that she would be collecting leaves on the recreation ground the following Monday & Wednesday afternoons from 2.00pm. She had removed a quantity of rubbish left on the ground behind 15 Riverside Close.  
The mole situation was improving after increased visits by the contractor. A donated wheelbarrow would be kept in the former sandbag store.  
The down pipe by the garage door needed a new clip near the bottom of the pipe.
- b. **Nailbourne –** Cllr Atkinson reported that weekly reports were now being produced on the state of the Nailbourne. The river was rising and the ground water levels were higher than at the same time last year. Unless there were 30 mls rain once or twice a week flooding was unlikely. An amber flood warning was likely to be issued within the next fortnight and springs may emerge. No sewage was currently being pumped into the river but this could change. Cllr Atkinson had attended several meetings and shown various politicians & journalists round the area recently. It was likely that Bridge

church would again be used as the local centre for the Elham valley should an emergency situation develop.

- c. **Neighbourhood Plan** - The Clerk as Treasurer of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee had managed to get the Dept of Communities & Local Government to agree that the Committee could re-apply for additional funding after April. The deadline for comments on the draft Plan from businesses and organisations had been 5<sup>th</sup> January. The next meeting would be on 23<sup>rd</sup> January

#### 108/14-15 **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Police presence in Bridge**; Posters advertising the PCSO surgeries were on the notice boards and it was agreed that they should also be advertised on the website. This was a police issue and it was up to them to find a solution if members of the public did not attend the surgeries in the format they had arranged.  
It was agreed to ask PCSO Cannadine to contact the Parish Council via the Clerk. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Bridge Village Sports Trust**; Cllr Wilmshurst presented a report on the refurbishment of the pavilion, which was progressing well. An application for funding under the CCC's Small Grants Scheme would be submitted. It was hoped that arrangements for the hire of the pavilion would soon be in place and that this would produce an income stream that could be used for further improvements. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Wilmshurst, Mervyn Gulvin and all who had helped with this work.
- c. **Tennis Club Access to Recreation Ground in times of Flood** A proposal from the tennis club that a specially fenced walk way should be constructed to allow members of the club to access the tennis courts when the recreation ground was closed to the public for safety reasons was unanimously rejected by the Council. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Emergency Plan Committee Reflective Vests** – Proposal withdrawn.  
It was agreed that the Emergency Plan Committee should spend up to £200 on essential equipment. This would include 2 heavy-duty wheelbarrows and 3 snow shovels. The database of vulnerable residents had not yet been started. The EPC would find out what other parishes did about councillor identification. **Action: Emergency Plan Committee**
- e. **Commemorative bench** An offer of a bench to commemorate a couple with no connection with the village was refused with thanks by the council. It was not easy to find space for new benches and it was decided that any benches placed in the village should be in memory of those with strong connections to Bridge. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Kent Highways Survey Response** Councillors agreed that issues regarding problems over lighting, pot holes, road surfaces, pavements, drainage and congestion to be included in the response to the Highways Consultation. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Recruitment of Parish Clerk**- A timetable had been drawn up for the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk. Information about the vacancy had been sent to KALC and placed on the village website and notice boards.
- h. **Paper Folding Machine**- It was agreed that a paper-folding machine which was now surplus to requirements should be disposed of. **Action; Cllr Corfield**

109/14-15 **Correspondence** – Noted

#### 110/14-15 **Receipts**

The following receipts were noted;

UK Power networks - £3.45  
Christmas trees - £265

**111/14-15. Bank Transfers**

The transfer of £9,000 between parish accounts was noted

**112/14–15** The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
+Supa Glazing	£1,312.50	Deposit for replacement windows, Pavilion repairs
*BT	£87.50	£72.80 + £14.70 vat Line rental Dec- Mar + calls to 8 Dec 2014
Christobel N Seath	£704.43	Clerk's salary and office allowance for December 2014 + consolidated payment £40.54
Post Office Ltd	£145.56	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for December 2014
Campaign to Protect Rural England	£36.00	Annual subscription for 2015
KCC	£248.16	Volunteer work on Bridge Recreation ground ½ day £206.80 + 41.36 vat Wild Flower Project
Sue Hodges	£58.69	Chairman's allowance
BVHMC	£48.00	Hire of hall Parish Council Sept-Dec 2014 = 4 sessions
BVHMC	£34.50	Hire of main hall 1.11.14 & Hunter room X 3 Neighbourhood Plan Account
V Pachenko	£110.00	Repositioning of hot water cylinder & pipe work – Pavilion repairs
Ewart Clough	£756.60	97 Christmas trees £630.50 + £126.10 (Previous invoice cancelled)
Mark Esdale	£464.98	Christmas lights ties etc £362.48 + £72.50 vat 3 Snow shovels £30.00 (£25.00 + £5.00 vat)
Matthew Wilmshurst	£1,277.00	Repair work to benches & door frames, building storage & airing cupboards, removing corridor wall & clearing garage contents – Pavilion repairs
Supa Glazing	£3,937.50	Balance of payment for replacement windows. Pavilion repairs

+ Payment authorised between Parish Council meetings

\* Paid by Direct Debit

**113/14-15 Any Other Business**

a. Cllr Moon circulated a plan of the former sandbag store, drawn up by Mark Esdale, which showed how tools and equipment could be stored. It was agreed to keep approx. 24 sandbags in the store for use in Riverside Close, in addition to the other storage boxes to be deployed round the village. New lighting was required. It was agreed that Cllr Moon would get costs for the installation of brackets and shelving etc.

**Action; Cllr Moon**

b. Cllr Moon would be resuming his place on the Planning Committee from February. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Hill for standing in on the committee for Cllr Moon.

c. Cllr Hill thanked Peter and Cllr Sue Hodges for their hospitality after the Christmas Parish Council meeting.

d. Cllr Hill reported that Cllr Edmonds was recovering well after her recent illness but that councillors should not send emails or circulate papers to her until further notice.

- e. Cllr Corfield asked for final contributions to the Spring Newsletter to be submitted to him as soon as possible. It was agreed that he should edit contributions to fit the available space as required.
- f. Cllr Hodges thanked all the volunteers who had helped to put up and take down the Christmas trees. The trees had made a splendid display and had been commented on by many people.
- g. Cllr Hodges said that there would be a meeting of the Canterbury branch of KALC on 20<sup>th</sup> January.
- h. A Spring Working Party would take place on the recreation ground on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 9.30am. All volunteers would be very welcome.
- i. Cllr Hodges noted that the litterbin in Bifrons Path had still not been replaced despite being requested many months ago. The Clerk was asked to follow this up again. **Action; Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>.February 2015 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.