

**Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council**  
**Thursday 14 January 2016 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

**104/15-16**

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Cook.

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

**105/15-16**

**Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of**

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.** Cllr Moon declared an interest in item 7 (a).

**106/15-16**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 10 December 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**107/15-16**

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

The Clerk informed the meeting that:

- A fire extinguisher is now in the recreation round pavilion.
- Chasing up Bridge Down weed spraying will be deferred until later in 2016.
- An electrical certificate is awaited for the works carried out to the ladies toilet in the pavilion. (ACTION: Clerk)
- A letter has been received from the Tennis Club regarding the pruning of trees adjacent to court number 3. The contents of a reply were agreed. (ACTION: Clerk)
- The next meeting with Canterbury City Council regarding the new lease for the Mill Centre will take place on 20 January. Each side will pay its own legal costs.
- Canterbury City Council has confirmed the precept request made for 2016-2017.
- It appears the butcher's shop may yet be sold as a going concern and that interest has been shown by an interested party to take on the Post Office. This is why the Bridge branch is no longer advertised on the Post Office website.
- The Clerk awaits clarification about which parking road sign(s) needs to be purchased. Conyngham Lane has been registered with Canterbury City Council as a "traffic managed area" though pressure needs to be maintained at regular intervals to ensure that enforcement officers attend more often.
- Would councillors publicise the forthcoming skateboarding day on 19 March 2016.

Cllr Atkinson recorded his thanks and those of the Parish Council to the volunteers who had erected and dismantled Christmas trees on the High Street.

**108/15-16**

**Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)**

Cllr Cook's report was read for him in absentia. Villagers should report fly-tipping to him or to Serco at the City Council. He invited responses to the current Canterbury City Council consultations on the budget, transport enhancements and the corporate plan, either to him or through the website. The transport issues will be discussed at public meetings to be held on 21 and 22 January at 7.00 p.m. (at the Guildhall and in Whitstable respectively). The next RAMP (Rural Area Member Panel) meeting on 25 January will discuss the budget, concurrent function funding changes and arrangements for the "cleaning for the Queen" event across the district in March 2016.

**109/15-16**

**Report from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey.**

Cllr Northey mentioned a meeting for councillors at the City Council offices on 26 January at 12.30 to discuss the proposed new A2 junction layout as part of the Mountfield Park development. (The Clerk was asked to forward the latest plans to councillors. ACTION: Clerk). A consultation is about to run from 22 January to 4 March on the Kent mobile library service. It is likely to be cut by £150,000 though many of the visits at present attract only two people and are considered inefficient. The savings made will make possible a

revised service, keeping 80% of locations and the great majority of users, which will offer an improved service, with longer hours for many people. Villagers can read the details on the Kent County Council website when published and respond. He noted also that a proposed lorry park near Westenhanger, currently under discussion with the Highways Agency, may alleviate some of the parking problems experienced in the lay by at the top of Bridge Hill. The lorry park will not be ready until the end of 2017. The exact location and layout of the new lorry park has yet to be published and consulted upon.

#### **110/15-16**

##### **Disposal of business from the last meeting**

##### **Recreation Ground**

The Clerk will inform Bridge School of the winning entries in the competition for recreation ground signs (which have now been approved by the Parish Council) and thank the pupils for their contributions, some of which have been slightly amended. (ACTION: Clerk)

Cllr Hodges circulated a list of incomplete jobs. Some will be carried out by a local handyperson, whose details were discussed at the meeting. Insurance arrangements will need to be finalised (ACTION: Clerk). Council resolved to purchase 2 new anchored picnic benches for the childrens' play area (£1,024); repair one of the swings (£1,136) and pay for improvements to the pathway around the pavilion and the provision of a ramp for wheelchair access (approx. £4,200). The latter job was awarded to one of two contractors who had submitted a quotation-on the understanding that the BVST has a chance to approve and, if necessary, improve the proposed works.

New signs will be ordered for the recreation grounds entrances and wild flower area: new signs on dog waste will be checked by Cllr Fawke. (ACTION: Clerk, Cllr Fawke)

##### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The date of the next meeting of this group needs to be established. (ACTION: Clerk) The meeting needs to take place as soon as possible.

#### **111/15-16**

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

Cllr Atkinson had sent notes from the local river group dated 8 January 2016 to councillors prior to the meeting.

#### **112/15-16**

##### **Matters for discussion and action.**

##### **(a) An update on the Cantley proposals for the village**

The most recent update from Cantley Estates (dated 11 January)-now available on the parish website- was read out by the Clerk. The document was addressed to the Clerk and is given below:

*“Savills on behalf of Cantley are making representations to the Proposed Amendments to the Canterbury District Local Plan... We are proposing the Brickfields allocation should be deleted and any allocation for Bridge should be left to the Neighbourhood Plan as has always been advised by Canterbury District Council.*

*To follow up on the potential alternative locations for development around Bridge - as requested by some local residents that we consider such alternatives, we will produce SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) forms and plans to Canterbury for the following locations:*

*1. Land south-west of the High Street (i.e. adjacent the allotment site - but not in replacement of the allotments)*

2. *Land north-east of the High Street / North-west of Conyngham Lane (this is the site subject to the most recent illustrative site layout for approximately 30 dwellings*

3. *Land north-west of Patricbourne Road extending up to Conyngham Lane (this is our original SHLAA submission from 2011 (SHLAA/201) and the land promoted by Cantley under the previous Local Plan a number of years ago)*

4. *Land north-west of Patricbourne Road (this is the smaller SHLAA land which followed on from the original draft of the Neighbourhood Plan which identified the potential for 10 dwellings in this location adjacent the doctor's surgery. We followed this up with a revised Illustrative Layout to show, in our view, an improved orientation of any housing).*

*All 4 sites could take more than 10 or perhaps more than 40 dwellings, however, before this causes any alarm this is merely a process for us to go through as part of the Council's evidence base and for Cantley to identify that each of these sites are potentially deliverable now, subject to a process to identify a preferred location or locations for residential development on Cantley land.*

*I want to reassure you that it is not Cantley's intention to bring forward all of these sites, and our position continues to be one of ongoing liaison with the Parish Council and the local community. Through discussions with the local community, it might be, that a preferred option could be for one of these alternative sites to be delivered or perhaps that any residential allocation in the village is distributed around each of these sites and ultimately this can then be a matter for the Neighbourhood Plan to determine through consultation and the referendum. Because this has not yet been fixed it therefore seems appropriate that we request each of these sites are assessed by Canterbury. "*

The Chair gave his own personal response to this development in the following terms, which it was agreed were to be minuted:

Cantley had promised that they would not pursue the SHLAA sites that they had previously registered with the district Council. We, Bridge Parish Council, had placed that assurance upon our website, and I have said the same to residents of the Village at the consultation sessions that have been held. Charlie Gooch (representing Cantley estates) also said this when referring to those pre-existing SHLAA sites at an early consultation session he attended. When we have met with Cantley's representatives, I have always sought to reduce the scale of Cantley's housing development and to contain it, as far as was possible.

However, I am appalled that those opposed to a development of thirty homes north of Conyngham Lane have encouraged Cantley's representatives to consider and then to apply for SHLAA status for four sites around the village: the site north of Conyngham Lane; the area around the Allotments; the area north-east of the Health Centre; and finally, the resurrection of the plan from nearly twenty years ago, which was for up to two hundred homes around the recreation ground. Worse, they will have given Cantley the opportunity to say that the idea has local support,

Therefore, whilst the note from Cantley suggests that not everywhere will be developed immediately, the actions of those few opposed to the scheme north of Conyngham Lane have contributed to a situation where many parts of the village will now find themselves adjacent to a potential housing development scheme, being proposed by Cantley, as they follow up on what was "requested by some local residents." I can only presume that those "local residents," whoever they are, referred to in the note, will now be content with what they have done.

(b) The Pilot Volunteer Support Presentation presentation did not take place.

(c) The village party to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday will be coordinated by Councillor Dhillon. She outlined plans for the day (12 June; 12-16.00h on the recreation ground) and agreed to submit a request for grant funding to Canterbury City Council. Council agreed to underwrite the event up to a maximum of £2,000. Volunteers will be needed and the event

must be properly advertised and organised. It will become a standing item on agendas until it has taken place. (ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Dhillon)

(d) Council resolved to find out whether defibrillators are available in the village at care homes or at the doctors' surgery. An expert on the use of defibrillators will be invited to talk to the council about their use before making any further decision (ACTION: Clerk)

(e) In response to correspondence from KCC it was decided to move ahead with the Green Court proposals. KCC will be invited to carry out their investigations on tree roots. Plans will be developed further once the required approvals are forthcoming

(f) In the light of legal costs and the relatively short time period for the new lease to be in place, it was agreed to draw up a memorandum of understanding between the BVST and the Parish Council instead of a formal lease. A meeting will be arranged between the Clerk, Chair and the BVST to agree on details. Councillors are encouraged to contact the Clerk with suggestions for clauses which should be contained within the memorandum. (ACTION: ALL)

(g) The Chair spoke of his personal disappointment at the way in which Canterbury City Council had announced potential development on the Brickfield site. The Parish Council agreed to write a letter to the Chief Executive and Leader of Canterbury City Council highlighting their concerns based upon points raised by the Chair in correspondence circulated prior to the meeting. These will include the disingenuous use of the unfinished neighbourhood plan to justify inclusion of more houses than are mentioned in the draft neighbourhood plan. Responses to the Brickfields site consultation can be made through the Canterbury City Council website or through Mr Burns-Stark, parishioner, who was in attendance.

(h) The difficulties of controlling mole infestation on the recreation ground was discussed. Two potentially new contractors are to be contacted by the Clerk to see if a more efficient method of controlling the moles can be found. The current contract with Bounty Pest Control has now lapsed and a new solution needs to be found as soon as possible.

(i) Councillors noted that they have been informed of the advantages and disadvantages of imap and POP 3 email systems for conducting Parish Council business. There needs to be further investigation of the issues before a formal council resolution can be made.

(j) Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk by the end of January of the names of speakers they would like to address the Parish Annual Meeting on 28 April 2016. (ACTION: All)

(k) Council agreed to write again to Stagecoach outlining the apparent unfairness of the current pricing policy with regards to many Bridge residents. (ACTION: Cllr Fawke)

(l) Training will take place on 9 February at 6.30 p.m. in the village hall on the use of the newly acquired speedwatch equipment. 14 volunteers have come forward, but training is a requirement for all.

(M) It was agreed to include a flier about dog fouling in the next edition of the parish newsletter. Serco (to be contacted through Canterbury City Council) will remove dog mess if notified.

**113/15-16**    **The Correspondence list was noted.**

**114/15-16**    **Receipts:** £165 Christmas tree monies and £3.45 from UK Power Networks

**115/15-16**    **The following items for payment were authorised:**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
S W Mount and Sons Ltd	£498.00	Recreation ground fence and gate
Clerk	£676.67	Salary and office allowance
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£196.00	Use of village hall for 2015
Helping Hand Company	£56.94 (Including VAT of £9.49)	3 Litterpickers and 1 Handi hoop for litterpicking
Ewart J Clough	£780 (including VAT of £130)	Christmas Trees

Points of information:

- All councillors were reminded on the forthcoming training on the Code of Conduct. (14 and 24 March at the Guildhall 17.30-18.30 and 14 and 16 March in the Boardroom from 10-11am. Councillors should let the Clerk know which session (if any) they can attend. (ACTION: All)
- Cllr Fawke will attend the forthcoming Dynamic Councillor training to be held in Wingham Village Hall on 22 February 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 9.31 p.m.

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 11 February 2016 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.**