

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council
Thursday 12 January 2017 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllrs A Atkinson (Chair), R Atkinson, Hodges, Davies, Sole and Corfield.

A villager addressed Council on a matter concerning trees on the recreation ground.

102/16-17 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fawke, Dhillon and Dhaliwal and from Canterbury City Councillor Simon Cook and KCC councillor Michael Northey

103/16-17 Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - there were none.

104/16-17The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8 December 2016 were confirmed as a true record, signed and dated by the Chair.

105/16-17 Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7 of the agenda.

- In light of the negative reply received from KCC highways regarding the safety concerns about the Zebra crossing, council resolved to ask for a survey of the crossing to be conducted by KCC

106/16-17 Report from Canterbury City Councillor Simon Cook

Cllr Cook supplied a written report in his absence which pointed out that the business case on the potential East Kent council merger is due by the end of the month.

107/16-17 Report from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey

Cllr Northey's written report (received after the meeting) indicated that little has happened at Kent County Council since the last meeting. The proposed Budget for 2017-28 is now online and will be voted on in February.

108/16-17 Disposal of business from the last meeting

Recreation Ground:

Maple Trees at the Riverside Close ned of the tennis courts: it was resolved to apply for a canopy reduction of 20%. Planning permission will also be requested to thin the weeping willow trees over a two year period.

Play area-new swings to be fitted in w/c 23 January.

Footpath now resurfaced near the primary school and bridge repairs are about to be carried out.

Youth Shelter and vandalism: Council agreed not to promote the removal of the youth shelter to another part of the recreation ground as a result of recent vandalism caused to the fencing of the children's play area. More stakes will be provided to support the wire fencing in the vicinity of the youth shelter more adequately. The conifers around the tennis courts which have .recently been cut need to have their stumps ground out. A compost bin will be set up by Cllr Davies on the recreation ground. A local contractor who has failed to restore the area used for bonfire night will not be used again by the Parish Council-certainly not until the repairs requested by the PTA of the school have been carried out. Cllr Davies will provide fencing and lighting for the section of the footpath which is not in a straight line and complete the improvements requested on the sandbag store on the recreation ground.

Neighbourhood Plan:

Joe Connor outlined the contents of the meeting held on 6 January of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the parish website once available. He explained why the committee had decided to include housing development sites in the latest version of the plans and the steps still required for the plan to be put before the public in a referendum. He also explained that a meeting with Canterbury City Council planners is scheduled for 17 January, that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on January 20 at 5.30 in the Hunter Room, the day before the planned information event to be held in the village hall from 10-1.00p.m. on Saturday 21 January.

109/16-17 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies.

There were none to report.

110/16-17 Matters for discussion and action.

1. Council decided to nominate a villager for a KALC award. The Clerk was to contact the person concerned before submitting the citation.
2. Council decided to renew the Volunteer Warden Scheme with the concomitant cost of £585 to be borne through the annual budget. It was suggested that the warden could communicate more effectively through Facebook and the village website.
3. Council decided not to apply to the Rural community energy fund though it would support other village groups who might choose to apply.
4. Council agreed to spend the identified Section 106 monies in accordance with the suggestions put forward by the clerk (approx. £90 towards the Green Court project: £260 towards the resurfacing of parts of the children's recreation area and £2,900 on a replacement of the "spider" climbing equipment. The item purchased will be discussed at the next meeting once councillors have been able to consult village groups about the best value for money item, based on quotations to be supplied by the Clerk.
5. Council deferred a decision on the proposed summer fete due to the absence of Cllr Dhaliwal. Council noted that the Parochial council have already earmarked 24 June 2017 as a date for their summer fete. Council suggested a committee be set up by Cllr Dhaliwal to organise any proposed Parish Council fete and that a proposed date should be finalised at the next meeting.
6. Cllr Corfield proposed no changes to the parish council element of the village website
7. Quotations have been received for the plants and also for the topsoil needed for the agreed Green Court improvements-though not yet for any additional trees. . A licence has yet to be obtained from KCC. Once in place, a tender will be put together for the relevant groundworks.
8. The Mill Centre Lease can be signed by the Chair and one other councillor once clause 17.3 has been satisfactorily resolved. A meeting is planned with CCC to resolve this issue quickly.
9. Cllr Atkinson informed the council that section 106 monies have been identified for village hall improvements and also to resolve parking problems in the village. These items may find themselves included in the emerging neighbourhood plan
10. Council agreed that councillors should forward ideas for a speaker to the Chair for the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday April 27 2017, to be decided on at the next meeting.
11. The Chair updated Council on a number of governance issues relating to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee which were all agreed to by all Councillors present. These matters included the status of the committee (as an advisory committee of the Parish Council); membership was confirmed as being composed of 3 parish councillors (A Atkinson R Atkinson and S Hodges) and 7 villagers, 6 of whom have been on the Committee since its inception in 2012. These 7 villagers (whose membership of the committee will be reviewed in May 2017 at the same time as all other committees) –includes Joe Connor (Chair), Mervyn Gulvin, Terry Wilmshurst, Christobel Seath, Kathy Walder, John Hill and Esther Hall (who is also the minute taker). Neighbourhood Plan meetings are open to all members of the public and the committee is advised by Consultant Jim Boot and the Clerk to the Parish Council. Agendas and minutes will be published in accordance with standing orders. The Parish noticeboard will henceforth have a section devoted to the Neighbourhood Plan and the Clerk resolved to look into the issue of Disclosable Pecuniary interests of the members of the committee, now that its status as an advisory committee of the Parish Council has been agreed. It was also agreed after some discussion that the role of the committee is to produce a neighbourhood plan for the parish of Bridge which would then need be adopted (or otherwise) by the Parish Council. Once this has happened, the Plan can be taken forward for public referendum. The Chair confirmed that the report received recently from a planning expert will be published on the village website.

111/16-17 The Correspondence list for January 2017 was noted.

112/16-17 The following receipts were noted: £425 for Christmas Trees and £3.45 annual payment from UK Power Networks

113/16-17 The following items for payment were authorised:

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Philip Wicker	£611.14	Salary and Office allowance
Post Office	£171.52	Tax and NI
Wellers Hedley	£576.00	Legal Costs (Mill Centre Lease)
Ashford tarmac Constructors	£828.00	Repair to footpath in recreation ground
Jim Boot	£120.00	Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy
Tulip	£114.26	Green Court development consultancy
Philip Wicker	£75.46	4 printer cartridges
Mark Esdale	£302.54	Christmas Tree expenses (lights)
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£272.00	Hire of village hall and Hunter Room for 2016

**114/16-17
Points of**

Information:

- The Clerk pointed out a change to his working pattern for Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week only.
- **Hedge by river near Ford House??**
- **Light bollard on Conyngham Lane?**
- There will be a spring cleaning day in the village on 4 March to be organised by Cllr R Atkinson.
- Cllr Corfield's plans for a photographic competition were outlined and well received. Mr David Curl, a villager present at the meeting, offered to support the competition.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on
Thursday, 9 February 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in Bridge Village Hall**