

DRAFT Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 thJuly 2009 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmunds (Chairman), Hill, Beesty, Beinder, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin, Lewis and City Councillor J Anderson

26/09-10 Apologies for absence; There were apologies for absence from Cllr Wilmshurst and KCC Cllr Northey

27/09-10. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items. There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items.

28/09-10. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th. June 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

29/09-10 Disposal of business from the last meeting

- a. Recreation Ground – It was agreed that the refurbished bench would be painted brown. Cllr Esdale would attend the RoSPA Playground inspection again. It was agreed not to repaint the spider at present as it had been painted fairly recently. Cllr Beinder reported more damage to the guttering and tiles of the pavilion. There had been some damage done to the wild flower area when vehicles were parked on it thoughtlessly during the fete. It was agreed that the fete committee would be asked to ensure there was stewarding for the car parking next year. Daffodil bulbs had been ordered for the Spring.
Cllr Edmonds thanked Brian Cox and Cllr Esdale for removing the old goal posts from the recreation ground and an old tyre from Renville.
It was agreed that Cllr Hill would attend the Lyminge Youth Action Group meeting on 21st July to hear about their fundraising campaign for recreation ground equipment –
Action; Cllr Hill
- b. Affordable Housing – The problems with drainage and access at the site had now been resolved. A new survey had been requested. The parish council re-affirmed its strong support for the scheme and it was agreed to write to Southern Housing Group assuring them of the parish council's continued backing for the project. **Action; Clerk**
- c. Speedwatch – Three Speedwatch sessions had taken place in the village with equipment borrowed from Lower Hardres. It was noted that the average speed of motorists dropped by 10mph when the signs and equipment were in place. More volunteers were welcome to assist with the scheme, the purpose of which was to slow traffic not to catch speeding motorists. Lower Hardres would contact the Clerk to discuss a financial contribution to cover their insurance costs for the equipment.
- d. Bus shelter – Agreement from Kent Highways about the location of the bus shelter was still awaited. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- e. Bridge Environment Group – Cllr Gulvin agreed to convene the group initially but it was intended that the group would operate independently of the parish council in the future. The new group would complete an expression of interest form requesting support from the Energy Saving Trust, the deadline for which was 17th July. The next newsletter would ask for volunteers to serve on the Bridge Environment Committee. Elham Environment Group had invited a representative from Bridge to their next meeting on 17th. July. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**

30/09-10 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

There were no reports from representatives to outside bodies

31/09-10 Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

Grindley Lodge, Higham Lane, Bridge

Cut back to the boundary line a hedge of two yews ,three beech, a laurel and a collection of leylandii around the property

Trees, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Re-pollard the yew trees adjoining Bridge Hill and Higham Lane **Action; Clerk**

Canterbury City Council has confirmed that the following proposal fell outside the conservation area;

17 Union Rd. Bridge

Remove two cedar trees located in the garden

32/09-10 Matters for Discussion and Action

a. Planning Applications; CA/09/00827/FUL Land to rear of 24 High St, Bridge

Erection of two detached dwellings with associated parking

There was a lengthy discussion about this application with comments from members of the public and councillors. It was agreed that the parish council would object to this application on several grounds, including that it contravened several city and county planning policies for development in a conservation area and development in the setting of a listed building, there would be further damage to the remaining trees, there had been no demonstrated need, there were potential problems with localised flooding, car parking spaces would be lost and the entrance would cause additional dangers at the corner of Dering and Union Roads.

Action; Clerk

CA/09/00773/FUL & CA/09/00883/LB 73 High St. Bridge CT4 5LB

Conversion of restaurant to dwelling with four additional dwellings, first floor rear extension, external staircase, internal and external alterations and associated parking

The parish council objected to this application because, if approved, it would result in the loss of another commercial property in the village. In addition it was thought that there were insufficient parking spaces for the number of dwellings. This would lead to further on-street parking problems in the village. The dwellings had inadequate amenity space outside. It was an over development of the site. The parish council asked that proof should be obtained that the owner had made sufficient efforts to sell the property as a commercial concern and at a reasonable cost. Once the building was lost as a commercial enterprise it would never be restored to the village, which had previously shown it was capable of supporting three restaurants. The parish council deplored the changes to the character of the village which the progressive loss of local businesses would cause.

Action; Clerk

- b. Pavilion Renovations-** Quotations for new guttering and other repairs were awaited. Matter deferred to September parish council meeting. **Action ; Cllr Gulvin**
- c. Repair of bridge over Nailbourne, Patricbourne Rd-** The engineer's report supplied by Savils had shown that the bridge was structurally sound. It was agreed to obtain two further quotations for refurbishing the bridge. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- d. Access to Dering Road –** There had been a complaint about access problems by a resident. It was noted that Kent Highways Dept had said some years ago that double yellow lines would be installed on Dering Road once the road had been resurfaced. The parish council was not in favour of this as it would lead to further parking problems elsewhere. The council was aware that the road was narrow and access was difficult, particularly for delivery vehicles. However, the council did not have the authority to resolve this issue. It was suggested that individuals inform neighbours when they were expecting large vehicles and asked them to find alternative parking temporarily.
- e. Allotment lease-** A draft lease had been received from Savils. A legal opinion had been obtained from KALC and there were several matters to be resolved. It was agreed to write to Charles Gooch explaining the concerns which included the short length of the lease, the amount of rent being asked, the level of public liability insurance cover stipulated and the length of notice to be given to allotment holders if the land were to be developed by the landlord at a future date. **Action; Cllr Gulvin & Clerk**

f. **Bridge Hill drains** – It was noted that these had recently been unblocked.

33/09-10 Correspondence – Noted

34/09-10 Bank transfers:

The council noted the transfer of £3,000 between Parish Council accounts

35/09-10.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	£70.89	9 th March-4 th June £61.64 + £9.25
Roger Casement	£45.11	2 Speedwatch signs £39.23 + £5.88 vat
Christobel Seath	£665.47	Salary & office allowance for June 2009
Les Barleycorn	£110.50	Repainting the bus shelter
Kent County Council (KCS)	£1,293.66	Half year costs grounds maintenance £1124.92 +£168.74 vat
The Mill Centre Management Committee	£450.00	Electrical work at the Mill Centre
The Audit Commission	£327.75	Annual Audit Fee £285 + £42.75 vat

* Paid by direct debit

36/09-10. Any other business:

- a. **Overgrown hedges in Patrixbourne Road** – It was reported that the hedges of several properties had been allowed to grow over the footpath in Patrixbourne Road. It was pointed out that householders were responsible for ensuring that their hedges did not block the footpaths and cause inconvenience to pedestrians.
- b. **Autumn Newsletter** – Cllr Corfield requested that copy for the next newsletter should reach him by 1st September.
- c. **Mansfield Court** – It was reported that there had been problems with local youths climbing into the gardens of Mansfield Court and causing damage. The matter had been reported to the police.

The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 10th. September 2009 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.