

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th. July 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges (Chairman), Atkinson, Burns-Stark, Edmonds, Hill, Moon, and Ward
- 31/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Corfield and Wilmshurst, CCC Cllr Simon Cook and Prof Joe Connor.
- 32/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying or written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 33/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 13th. June 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 34/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
- 35/13-14** **Report from KCC Cllr Michael Northey-**Councillor Northey reported that road marking had been renewed along the road between Bekesbourne & Patribourne. He informed the Council that he was gathering evidence concerning the Canterbury Draft Local Plan, on which KCC was a consultee. In particular he was investigating the substantial cost of building at least one and possibly two new primary schools and re-locating the Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School in South Canterbury. He said that the cost of the new road system had been estimated at around £40 million and expressed some scepticism as to whether Developers' Contributions would cover the high costs as the plan developed piecemeal.
- 36/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground** – Cllr Ward reported that she had, with the help of Cllr Burns-Stark, removed some of the graffiti from the sandbag store, pavilion, youth shelter and play area. Cllr Hodges thanked them for their efforts. There had been incidents of mole traps working up to the surface of the recreation ground. There was a possibility of children tripping over them. It was explained that the mole problem was increasing and the only effective method of control was by traps. It was agreed that the next Newsletter would include an item asking parents to tell their children to keep away from any traps that had come to the surface. The pest controller was visiting the area more frequently and re-buried traps where necessary. It was important to prevent the moles from invading the football pitch.
- b. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Mervyn Gulvin reported that two successful consultation events had been held in June; one in the village hall and one at the village fete. The aim had been to consult on the issues that the Neighbourhood Plan would cover. The completed questionnaires produced from those consultations were being analysed and a set of objectives would be formulated. It was reported that 'Locality' had agreed a grant of £6,640 towards the production costs of the Plan. These funds would be channelled via Parish Council accounts.
- A draft Village Design Statement had been produced and would be circulated for Councillors to comment on. There would be a public consultation on the Village Design Statement towards the end of the summer, before it was submitted to the City Council.
- The issue of car parking in Bridge needed to be addressed and an assessment of the current situation would be made.
- Cllr Hodges thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Committee for the work it had done so far.

Mill Centre- A Finance Committee meeting had been held. An application to demolish and rebuild the toilets and entrance area had been submitted to the City Council. A decision was awaited before funding could be sought. 'Locality' might be able to offer advice on funding for Community Asset Transfer.

There had been no response from the City Council to the request to produce a valuation of the building. **Action ; Clerk**

- c. **Nailbourne Pollution** – Cllr Atkinson reported that it was intended that three groups would be formulated to tackle the problem from different viewpoints; the existing LSNRMG, a Multi Agency group which had met twice and would meet again on 29th July with the view of overseeing the remedial work and an Enforcement Group which would react promptly and robustly to future damaging flooding episodes. An Emergency Action Plan was being formulated which would act concerning pollution, disruption, highway's verges etc. It was unlikely that the Environment Agency would prosecute Southern Water over future groundwater flooding problems. The aim now was to make it more expensive for SW to delay taking effective action.

SW were proposing to distribute 'FOG' funnels via which fat, oil and grease could be re-cycled, to discourage residents from tipping such substances into drains. It was yet to be determined how these products were to be collected and stored.

The water levels were still high in the village. Tankering was due to end the following week but the process of repairing leaks would be on-going and protracted. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Atkinson for his continued work on this matter.

- d. **Village sign** - Cllr Hill reported that the post had fallen over while the newly painted sign was being replaced. The stump needed removing and the post would have to be replaced. **Action; Cllr Hill**

37/13-14 **Reports from Representatives to outside bodies**

South Canterbury Alliance meeting, 18th. June – Cllr Hill (Report circulated)
Canterbury City Council Overview Meeting – 19th. June – Cllr Hodges – (Report Circulated)

Canterbury Branch of KALC – 10th July – Cllr Hodges (Report circulated)
Cllr Hodges reported that the meeting had been told that the levy from all new house building in Canterbury would go to fund any major road works. It was feared this would affect the number of 'affordable' houses in the Plan.

38;13-14 **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Canterbury Draft Local District Plan-** There was a detailed discussion of the Canterbury Draft Local Plan. Councillors expressed concern about the plans to build 4,000 houses in South Canterbury and the effect this would have on Bridge and the AONB as a whole. Councillors were worried about proposals to build 17.5% of houses in rural areas and the possible change in the designation of Bridge by the City Council from a village to a 'Local Centre'. The Draft Plan was considered to be ambiguous. There were vague references to the A2 Interchange, which were very confusing. Councillors were concerned that there would only be a gap of 250 metres between the new South Canterbury development and Bridge at its narrowest point. It was suggested that Bridge should try to influence what sort of development went nearest to the village and this could improve local recreational activities for young people. The SCHLA sites were not mentioned and Cllr Burns Stark highlighted inaccuracies and errors that Amec had committed in their Sustainability Appraisal for SCHLA site 186. The Plan did not appear to include a cycle path from Bridge. The South Canterbury development would destroy the historic approach to the cathedral city from the south.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would draft a response to the Draft Plan, which would be circulated to Councillors for comment.

Action ; Cllr Hodges & Clerk

- b. Electoral Review of Canterbury** Following a vote it was decided not to support the reduction in the numbers of City Councillors from 50 to 38. It was thought that a reduction in the Executive from 10 to 8 would mean that too few individuals would make decisions affecting the District. The Constituencies were already very large in the District and a reduction in Councillors could affect the level of local representation.
Action; Clerk
- c. Recreation Ground Lease-** A letter had been received from Savills, the agents for Cantley, owners of the recreation ground, refusing to extend the current recreation ground lease at present. After much discussion it was agreed to acknowledge their reply and to express the hope that they would work closely with the Parish Council in the future.
Action; Clerk
- d. Areas of Responsibility for Cllr Burns Stark-** Areas of responsibility were agreed for the newly co-opted Councillor Burns-Stark. He would sit on the Emergency Planning Committee, the Recreation Ground Committee and assist with Speedwatch, Litter collection and possibly 'Art in Bridge'.
- e. Bridge in Bloom** – Cllr Edmonds reported that she was short-listing for the competition. Judging would take place at the end of July and Viv Brazier would assist her. Cllr Edmonds reported that the High Street planters were being tended by Vicky White, who was a Committee member of the Horticultural Society.
Action; Cllr Edmonds
- f. Weeds in the High Street** – A spraying programme by KCC was currently under way, although slightly behind schedule. Residents were encouraged to pull up any weeds outside their property to improve the appearance of the village.

39/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

40/13–14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT Telephone *	£74.58	Telephone account April/ June & Plan costs to Sept13. £62.15 + £12.43 vat
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£611.17	Clerk's salary & allowance for June 2013
Post Office Ltd	£151.20	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for June 2013
V White	£53.38	Reimbursement for costs of High Street planters £51.38 + £2.00 vat
Cllr John Hill	£20.17	Travel costs £8.95 and village sign materials £9.35 + £1.87 vat
AJL Garden Services	£175.20	Recreation Ground maintenance June 2013

* Paid by Direct Debit

41/13-14 Any Other Business

- a. Police Forum – Cllr Atkinson reminded Councillors that the Police Forum would be on the recreation ground on Sunday 14th. July from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. He urged residents to go along and ask questions about local policing.
- b. High Street Planters – Cllr Hodges thanked Vicky White for agreeing to care for the High Street planters.
- c. Meetings – Cllr Atkinson would attend the Parish Charter meeting on 20th July if possible. Cllr Burns Stark would attend the AONB Countryside Day at Boughton Aluph on 23rd.July.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm
The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 12th. September 2013 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.