

**Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council held on Thursday 9 July 2015 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30p.m.**

**34/15-16** Prior to the formal meeting, a villager spoke of the need to secure village representation at the Local Plan public meeting regarding transport. She was happy to represent the village or for a Parish Councillor to do so.

Another villager mentioned that he had not had any requests to clear footpaths and that the Village Hall noticeboard is inexplicably locked. He added that in his view council funds should not be used to pay for legal costs associated with the public hearings of the Canterbury Local Plan as suggested at the last Parish Council meeting.

**35/15-16**

**Apologies for absence** were received from PCSO Williams and Cllr Corfield.

**36/15-16**

There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.

**37/15-16**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11 June 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**38/15-16**

Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7.

Cllr Atkinson was not elected to the standing committee of KALC. (Minute 28/15-16 item j)

Following a meeting with Mr Sid Miller of Kent Highways, the Clerk has written to the KCC Traffic Schemes to regarding the location of the bus stops in the village near the post office. Motorists are systematically driving on the pavement because of the location of the bus stops causing danger to pedestrians and damage to the kerbs and pavement. Other matters raised with Mr Miller included repair of drains and one "aquakerb" along the High Street. (Minute 28/15-16 item i)

A fire extinguisher has now been provided in the pavilion. (Minute 28/15-16 item b)

**39/15-16**

Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)

Cllr Cook talked of the recent Rural Area Members Panel meeting and the successful outcome for Bridge. He would like all villages to the south of Canterbury to be invited to the skateboarding event on 28 October. He outlined the timing of the forthcoming inspection of the Council's Local Plan. A final decision will not be known (probably) until early 2016, with open sessions being held in July and September. The city council is publishing a weekly email to Parish Clerks to inform local inhabitants of what is happening in the city council. Feedback is requested. Cllr Cook talked of his forthcoming joint surgery with the Citizens Advice Bureau on Thursday 16 July at St Peter's Church, Bridge from 9.30-12.00. He explained that the city council has a wide spectrum of responses to parking enforcement and is happy to take advice from parish councils. Councillors should write to him about specific concerns. He outlined the process for attempting to overturn the previous administration's decision to sell the Mill Centre. On July 23, the issue is likely to be deferred to a sub-committee at which the public can be

present, with a final decision due in September 2015. The proposed sale of the centre is on hold until a final decision is reached. He promised to look into parking enforcement powers in rural areas. **ACTION: Cllr Cook**

**40/15-16 Report from KCC Councillor (Michael Northey)**

Cllr Northey assured the meeting he would follow up concerns raised in the village about traffic in the High St. He outlined the law on pavement parking and advised taking a staged approach to public highways issues, taking each one by one. The Council should send an official email identifying locations in the highway where road markings have become faded. He is happy to put his influence behind improving the environment in the Green Court area. He welcomed the Council's list of desired improvements from Kent Highways. He advised copying in Cllr Cook to correspondence concerning the highway since their responsibilities sometimes appear to overlap.

KCC has planned for 5% surplus places in the latest educational plan now available on the KCC website. He updated Council on the latest developments in Operation Stack, Ofsted inspections of schools in Kent (both targets and current figures) and the increasing numbers of unaccompanied immigrant minors.

**41/15-16 Report from PCSO Williams**

There were 5 crime report incidents in the North Nailbourne area relating to thefts, threat to damage property, assault, biking and making off without payment during June 2015.

Numerous calls were made to the police about a young offender knocking on doors trying to sell items from a bag, blackmail involving on-line gaming, parking obstructions, disturbances, threats from builders towards a resident, concern for dog welfare, threats to a person, drugs information, a firearms incident, a noise issue, bad driving near school, thefts, a dog biting a person and a neighbourhood dispute. A van driver was spoken to for parking on the faded double yellow lines outside Bridgeway Stores.

She will patrol the primary school area during school drop off/ collection times from 16 July 2015 and conducted a foot patrol in the village with no issues to report.

**42/15-16**

**Disposal of business from the last meeting**

**a. Recreation Ground**

Cllr Hodges reported that she has been trained on the regular checks on the recreation ground. She will cascade this information to relevant councillors. She will hand over the recreation ground file to Cllr Dhillon at the end of August 2015. She reported some fly tipping of garden rubbish and blue graffiti on the youth shelter which cannot be removed easily. Uneven paving slabs in the vicinity of the pavilion and raised tarmac caused by tree roots on the path leading to the school exit constitute trip hazards. A broken clip on a downpipe needs replacement. The hedge adjacent to the Doctor's surgery will need to be pruned in the autumn and an application should be made to reduce three trees by about 1/3 near the tennis courts. Council agreed to a villager's quotation for the recreation ground to be rolled 3 times with a heavy roller. Councillors agreed to trim the willow trees on Patixbourne Rd and to delegate to the recreation

ground committee the task of creating a vision for the future of the recreation ground. This will include consideration of the pavilion refurbishment, fencing off the children's play area, and the provision of picnic benches. **ACTION Recreation Ground Committee and Clerk (for tree work)**

**b. Neighbourhood Plan.**

Joe Connor, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan group reported that the revision of the plan is ongoing with a further meeting to be held on 10 July 2015 to discuss future housing in Bridge. The group will also give initial responses to a plan received on 9 July from Cantley Estates. 4/5 appendices will be added to the plan before it is reprinted, circulated to all villagers and then passed to Canterbury City Council for approval. The Canterbury City Local Plan will need to be adopted before the Neighbourhood Plan can be approved: some months away yet.

**43/15-16**

**Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

- a. Canterbury City Council Standing Committee Meeting 1st July 2015.** Cllr Hodges reported that the main focus of the meeting was the Kent Code of Conduct for Members. Training materials were distributed and the complaints procedure was discussed.
- b.**
- c. Canterbury City Council Training Session on the Code of Conduct 6th July 2015.** Cllr Hodges reported that a pack of materials and copies of the "standards" landscape were distributed. The procedure for dealing with a complaint was outlined. The key messages are to register DPs (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) now and update the register as circumstances change, make Declarations at meetings: read agendas with "declaration" eyes, take advice early and if in doubt declare and leave for that agenda item. The onus is on individuals to comply.
- d. School Liaison meeting feedback.** Cllrs Hodges and Brooks reported that the school is keen to remain involved in the wild flower project, litter picking and the reestablishment of a walking bus from Patricbourne Rd and Higham Court in September 2015. Councillors will attend a school council meeting in September 2015. A school request to use the recreation ground for sporting events must be made in writing to the Clerk. The school would like community volunteers to assist in the school. Relevant checks will be carried out by the school on behalf of potential volunteers.

**44/15-16**

**Matters for discussion and action.**

**a. To discuss proposals regarding the future of the BVST**

After discussion of a number of options presented to the Council it was decided to offer the BVST a new lease to outline their responsibilities and those of the Parish Council, giving the BVST greater certainty about their role and to encourage them to apply for grants. Cllr Brooks will sound out the BVST on the proposals-including the idea that they should propose the financial basis for their ongoing work on behalf of the Parish Council.

**ACTION: Cllr Brooks.**

**b. Canterbury City Council Local Plan-how to respond to the financial request made by a parishioner at the last meeting and feedback on the village's representation at the forthcoming hearings.**

It was decided not to make a financial contribution as requested at the previous meeting (minute 19/15-16). Prof Clive Church is aware of the responses made by Bridge Parish Council in July 2014. It was felt he would be well suited to present the case for the village. Villagers are welcome to attend the meetings to be held from 14 July onwards at the Franciscan Study Centre, Giles Avenue, Canterbury.

**c. To adopt updated financial regulations.**

The Council unanimously adopted the proposed new set of regulations circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. They take effect from 10 July 2015.

**d. To consider the purchase of speedwatch equipment.**

If purchased, Cllr Fawke suggested the equipment would be used 2-4 times per month. He would provide further details of the costs to the Council and also to Cllr Northey in the event that grant monies could be used. The equipment is likely to cost about £2,000.

**ACTION Cllr Fawke**

**e. How to implement allowances for parish councillors.**

The Clerk outlined the procedures which must be followed according to a legal notice written by the National Association of Local Councils. The Clerk will work with Cllr Sole to set up the necessary payroll system. The first payment (to cover the year's allowance on a pro rata basis backdated to 11 June 2015) will be made in September 2015, though Cllr Sole suggested this could be done annually rather than monthly. Cllrs NOT wishing to take the allowance should inform the Clerk by the end of September 2015.

**f. Improving the KCC maintained environment in Green Court.**

Following a meeting (23 June) between the Clerk, the Chair and Mr Sid Miller of Kent Highways (minute 38/15-16 above) and discussion amongst Councillors, it was decided to write to David Mounter of KCC highways about the prospect of grassing over the area. The issue will return to the next meeting.

**ACTION Clerk**

**g. To provide an update on the village tree survey**

Cllr Fawke tabled a copy of the proposed questionnaire which is to be refined in the light of comments received. There may also be a public meeting to launch what is essentially a mapping project. School children may be involved.

**ACTION Cllr Fawke**

**h. To set up a group to plan for the skateboarding event during October half term.** Following the successful Rural Area Member Panel (RAMP) bid it was decided to hold the joint skateboarding event (with Bekesbourne) on the Bridge recreation ground on Wednesday 28 October. Cllrs Brooks and Sole agreed to join a working party with 2 members of Bekesbourne Parish Council. They will determine various aspects of the day such as refreshments, publicity, supervision of young children. They will report back at the next meeting.

**ACTION Cllrs Brooks and Sole**

- i. **To decide upon the date and content of the next village newsletter.**  
The meeting agreed to publish a newsletter in September 2015. The content will include details of the skateboarding event, Art in Bridge and a working party for the recreation ground.  
**ACTION Cllr Corfield**
- j. **To discuss the erection of a fence around the childrens' play area on the recreation ground.** Cllr Moon's suggestion to fence off the area to increase security for parents and children was discussed. It will form part of the wider discussions about the recreation ground (minute 42/15-16 above) and return as a fully costed proposal, though initial estimates are that the ROSPA approved installation, measuring almost 1 metre high, will cost in the region of £7-8,000.
- k. **To review the process for the appointment of a Local Warden.**  
Bridge's application to take part in a pilot scheme has been successful. Cllr Atkinson will attend a briefing session on 10 July 2015.

**45/15-16**

**The Correspondence list was noted.**

**46/15-16**

**The following receipts were noted:**

£1,652.35 VAT repayment. Bank interest of £2.82.

**47/15-16**

**The following items for payment were authorised:**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Philip Wicker– Clerk	£676.67	Salary and office allowance June 2015
Patixbourne with Bridge PCC	£200.00	Churchyard maintenance
KALC	£72 (of which £12 VAT)	Clerk's conference 17 June 2015
Hart Lee Tree Surgery	£222 (of which £37 VAT)	Grinding out of 2 tree stumps on recreation ground,
Vicki White	£38.40	Flowers and compost for Village planters
Cllr Hodges	£16.19	Soil, brush and wild flowers
Deal Light transport	£105.00	Removal of kitchen equipment in preparation for Pavilion redevelopment

**48/15-16**

**Any other business**

Cllr R Atkinson asked about the kitchen equipment destined for the pavilion. This will be incorporated into the work of the recreation ground committee.

**ACTION Recreation Ground Committee**

Cllr A Atkinson tabled plans submitted to him that very day by Cantley estates for a limited number of houses to be built in the village in return for the resolution of many outstanding issues affecting the village. It was agreed to return to the matter for full discussion at the September meeting.

Cllr Hodges asked about the relocation of an unstable parking sign in the layby on Western Avenue. Cllr Cook agreed to take up the case.

**ACTION Cllr Cook**

Cllr A Atkinson agreed to chase up the Environment Agency about clearance of the riverbed.

**ACTION Cllr Atkinson**

Cllr Moon reported on two trees which had fallen since the last meeting and blocked the highway at different ends of the village. Thanks were expressed to Meadow Gardens and KCC highways for removing the obstacles.

**ACTION Clerk**

Mention of the abbreviated nature of the minutes published in On the Nail needs to be emphasised.

**ACTION Clerk**

The meeting concluded at 10.14 p.m.

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 10 September 2015 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.**