

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

PRESENT Cllrs A Atkinson, Fawke, R Atkinson, Dhillon, Hodges, Davies and Corfield

33/16-17 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sole and from Cllr Brooks who has resigned.

The meeting began with a presentation from a villager about recent cutting of hedges on the public highway in Bridge which appeared to have contravened the law on the obligation to preserve nesting birds' interests at least until 31 August. Cllr Cook agreed to look into the allegation on behalf of Canterbury City Council. (**ACTION: Cllr Cook**)

34/16-17 Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - there were none.

35/16-17 The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 9 June 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed and dated by the Chairman.

36/16-17 Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7 of the agenda.

- The Clerk reported that new swings are to be installed on the recreation ground by the end of July. Total cost £3, 253.95. It is hoped to get the Wicksteed contractors on site to replace the parts now received to repair the broken swings.
- An oral response from the Monitoring Officer at Canterbury City Council explained that a general dispensation for Councillors from Declarations of personal and pecuniary interests always requires a rationale. Assuming proposed housing sites have been whittled down, the existing rationale should be revisited. On the basis of advice received, the Clerk suggested Councillors wait to see what happens with the proposed Brickfields development (to be decided upon by the Local Planning Inspector) as this could influence other housing proposals and therefore the need to revisit the rationale for the existing general dispensation.
- Cllr Corfield will look into who is merging the parish website databases regarding village groups.

37/16-17 Report from Canterbury City Councillor Simon Cook

In light of comments made under 36/16-17, Cllr Cook undertook to ensure that the Estates department at the City Council communicates and synchronises its activities with all other potential house developers to ensure that all parties are fully apprised of developments regarding potential house building on the Brickfields site. He referred to the recent Joint Transport Board (JTB) meeting (involving Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council) when a resolution was passed to conduct a full inspection of those drains in the village which have contributed to recent flooding events.

The Local Planning Inspector (working on the Canterbury Local Plan) resumes his work next week continuing into September. Canterbury Policy and Resources committee has recommended investigation of a potential merger of all 5 East Kent District Councils. It should be clear by the end of July if all 5 of the councils agree. If agreed, consultation will then follow with interested parties (including Bridge Parish Council) about potential devolution of some aspects of current Canterbury City responsibilities. If waste bins are not emptied on time, leave them out and contact Cllr Cook if they remain unemptied after several days. The Area Members Panel has contributed £90 to the purchase of traffic cones and £1,000 towards the renovation of the Parish Church. He apologised for the delays encountered by the Parish Council in trying to secure a lease on the Mill Centre, and responded sympathetically to complaints raised by a number of councillors about the damage caused to waste and food bins by the current waste contractors, caused by excessive speed in trying to empty waste bins.

38/16-17 Report from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey

Cllr Northey has contributed £10,000 of his members fund towards the renovation of the Parish Church. Kent County Council flood drainage team is now looking into the problems we face in

Bridge (see below in this section). He concluded by praising the 83% of schools in Kent now Ofsted "Good or Outstanding" and the Key Stage 2 test results in Kent primaries which have outperformed their national counterparts by 5%. Kent Highways is about to tackle road signage problems (cleanliness and vegetation overgrowth) with a clear focus on road safety. There will be an extra weed spray this year (compared with last) on designated areas. Extra funding has also been allocated to the "find and fix" pothole programme.

Agenda item 9 (6) on flooding and drainage was taken at this point. Kevin Gore, Team Leader for Kent's planned drainage works responded to questions posed by Councillors. He was unaware of the JTB promise (see above 36/16-17) made of a full survey. June 2016 was the wettest June for the last 10 years and assuming drains were all functioning correctly, the village drainage system is designed to withstand a 1 in 10 year weather event. Councillors pointed out the drains do not work properly and therefore this figure is not relevant. As a flood hot spot, drains in the High St and Bridge Hill will be cleaned every 6 months rather than annually. Councillors offered to assist with the enforcement of no parking restrictions prior to draining clearing activity assuming Kent Highways give sufficient advance warning. A drainage pipe recently severed by British Telecom north of Aunt Betsy's Hill will take 7-8 months to repair. Mr Gore was unaware of the severity of the flooding problems in Bridge as there had not been many complaints registered on the KCC website. He said that for action to be taken quickly, KCC highways relies on the number of complaints received. He will contact Mr Chris Maw (Kent Highways) about supplying new sandbags for the village. He could not give a timescale for the proposed drains survey as there is only one CCTV system to cover the whole of Kent highways. If possible he will reschedule the plans for Bridge to respond to the imminent threats caused by heavy downpours. Any villagers with any complaints about flooding or drainage should contact 03000 418181 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways.

39/16-17 Disposal of business from the last meeting

Recreation Ground: Cllr Hodges went through a list of outstanding jobs on the recreation ground. Cllr Fawke reported that "no dog" signs will shortly be provided by Canterbury City Council. It was resolved to reiterate on the parish website (and Facebook page) that dogs are not allowed on the recreation ground. Cllr Davies will replace Cllr Brooks as the BVST representative at least until a new councillor is co-opted. Local residents will be encouraged to develop the flower bed underneath the village sign. There will be a working party on the recreation ground to prepare for the autumn on Saturday 1 October from 9.00 am. All villagers are welcome. **(Action: Clerk)**

Neighbourhood Plan: Prof Connor spoke of recent activity and especially the impetus provided to the plan by planning consultant Jim Boot. Useful consultation had been carried out at the village fete on 25 June and a meeting is scheduled in late June with Canterbury City Council about the Neighbourhood Plan. The group now has a number of regular planned meetings to ensure the plan can be presented to Canterbury City Council by the end of 2016.

40/16-17 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Cllr Hodges reported on the KALC AGM held on 12 July, where the main speaker had talked about growing devolution plans for Parish Councils. Cllr A Atkinson reported on the JTB meeting highlighted in 36/16-17 above.

41/16-17 Matters for discussion and action.

1. Advisory signs regarding HGV lorries using Station Rd will soon be fitted on the High St now that payment has been secured through Kent County Council.
2. The proposed policy on retention of documents is to be redistributed to all councillors.
(Action: Clerk)
3. Shutters are no longer being considered for the pavilion. Quotes for better quality glazing are to be sought by the BVST (Bridge Village Sports Trust) and paid for by the Parish Council if necessary.
4. It is hoped to sign off the Mill Centre lease at the meeting of the Parish Council on 8 September 2016. The draft is with the Council's solicitor.

5. Following an update from Cllr Fawke on issues identified by residents, it was agreed to proceed with an application for tree works in both Green Court and Ford Close. A representative from Kent Wildlife Trust will be invited to offer advice on the Ford Close developments. A plan of all other proposed developments will be presented to all councillors by September 1 2016 so that other options can be decided upon at the September meeting. **(Action Cllrs Fawke, Sole, and Clerk)**
6. Flooding and drainage. See above (minute 37/16-17)
7. Cllr Cook is to be informed of Serco's apparent decision not to replace the existing bins on the recreation ground from Serco funds. **(Action: Clerk)**
8. Cllr Davies will carry out necessary works on vegetation along Higham Lane. **(Action: Cllr Davies)**
9. All councillors agreed to augment the Planning Committee to 4 members, with Cllr Davies as the new additional member.
10. The Chair provided a rationale for the reserves as currently recorded in the PC accounts.
11. All agreed to meet the existing shortfall in potential Neighbourhood Plan expenses as outlined by Jim Boot in his fee proposals, from Parish Council funds, amounting to approx £3,500.
12. A new councillor will be co-opted if no election takes place. The Clerk will make arrangements for applications to be invited and for a decisive meeting on 6 September 2016. **(Action: Clerk)**
13. Council agreed in principle to adopt the equivalent of an "unreasonable customer behaviour policy". Advice on the issue to be sought from the Kent Association of Local Councils. **(Action: Clerk)**

42/16-17 The Correspondence list was noted.

43/16-17 Receipts were noted as set out in the agenda for the meeting

44/16-17 The following items for payment were authorised:

| Payee | Amount | Purpose |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Philip Wicker (Clerk) | £717.06 | (Salary and office allowance) |
| Wellers Hedley | £144 and £57.60 and £172.80 | Legal services relating to the Mill Centre lease negotiation |
| BVST | £20 | Payment for use of recreation ground for village events |
| Emily Lane | £95 | Singer at Queens birthday event |
| Bettina Walker | £50 | Singer at Queens birthday event |
| Philip Wicker (Clerk) | £50 | Petty Cash top up |
| Philip Wicker (Clerk) | £27 | Travel expenses |
| Philip Wicker (Clerk) | £7.16 | Office paper |
| ACRK | £120 | Bridge Village profile (for NP) |
| Philip Wicker | £77.98 | 4 printer cartridges |
| Jim Boot | £1171.47 | Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy costs |
| St John Ambulance | £110.40 | Attendance at Queens Birthday Event |
| ESE Direct Ltd | £133.02 | Traffic Cones |
| Ian Sargent | £431.80 | 4 cuts/mole visits and 2 strims |
| Cllr Hodges | £19.23 | Printer cartridge for Parish Council work |

45/16-17 Points of Information:

1. Cllr Davies raised concerns about parking in the Western Avenue area once the post office relocates to the Spar shop. Illegal parking manoeuvres by delivery lorries and cars should be reported to the policy and parking authorities at Canterbury City Council.
2. Speedwatch data will be collected again shortly-to be arranged by Cllrs Dhillon and Fawke.

3. A hedge close to the Red Lion impeding the footpath needs to be trimmed (**Action: Clerk**)
4. September newsletter-content to be forwarded to Cllr Corfield by 10 September 2016.
5. Footbridges on the Brewery Lane water meadow have been replaced.
6. Art in Bridge to run as usual in October 2016.
7. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Dhillon in particular for the Queens' celebration event on 12/06/2016.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 p.m.

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on
Thursday, 8 September 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Bridge Village Hall**