

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th May 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beinder, Esdale, Hill and Wilmshurst.
Also present Michael Harrington (Landlord of the Red Lion) and 97 residents of Bridge

16/07-8 Apologies for absence; There were apologies for absence from Cllrs. Beesty, Corfield, Gulvin and Lewis

17/07-8 Declarations of Interest & Lobbying on Agenda Items. City Councillor John Anderson explained that he was Vice Chairman of the Licencing Committee but during the hearing of this application he would stand down to represent the views of his ward.

18/07-8 Red Lion Application to extend hours of business

Michael Harrington outlined his plans for the Red Lion and a large number of residents spoke against the proposals. It was generally argued that the extended hours would be totally inappropriate to a village public house. Residents felt strongly that there would be unacceptable disturbance to the peace of the village at night. The problems caused to the village previously by patrons leaving Bridge Place Country Club were recalled. It was also felt that there was inadequate parking at the Red Lion and this would lead to additional noise when late night revellers collected their cars. Residents argued there was no local demand in Bridge for the extended hours. The danger of attracting drinkers from other areas once their own public houses had shut was raised. This would not only add to the noise nuisance but would be a danger on the village roads. It was argued that there would be no adequate policing of rowdy incidents in the village at weekends as Canterbury police would be fully occupied within the city.

Residents of the village were urged to write to the city council licencing team expressing their views before the 30th May deadline. 38 people signed a petition asking for the proposals to be rejected totally, without compromise. The parish council agreed to oppose any extension of the current licencing hours and to request Canterbury Licencing Department to reject the application in its totality. It was also agreed that, should the licencing authority agree to the extended hours, the council would explore the possibility of instructing a lawyer to contest the case at appeal.

Action; Clerk

19/07-8 Proposal by Kent Highways to limit parking in front of Western Ave. shops to 20 minutes

After some discussion, it was felt that a parking restriction of one hour between the hours of 8.00 am and 7.00pm would enable people to shop locally and prevent abuse of parking by people who parked their cars in the bays all day. It was pointed out that, contrary to Canterbury City Council's assertion, the Parish Council had never requested a twenty minute limit on parking and agreed that this would be pointed out in the response letter from the parish council.

Action; Clerk

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 14th. June 2007 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.