

**Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council held on Thursday 11 June in  
Bridge Village Hall at 7.30p.m.**

**19/15-16**

3 members of the public asked to speak before the first formal agenda item. A parishioner spoke of her concerns about safety on the High St. She asked for the matter to be an agenda item at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to raise her specific concerns with Kent Councillor Northey prior to the next meeting.

Another parishioner outlined her concerns about the process adopted by Canterbury City Council for the consideration of the Local Development Plan. Her request for further discussion of the village's response to the process was supported by a local barrister who also spoke on the subject. Having outlined her reasons for considering the Canterbury Plan to be flawed, the parishioner requested a financial contribution to the fund being used to pay for legal counsel to resist the Canterbury Local Plan. Councillors agreed that the financial request and indeed the whole issue of the village's response to the Plan would be discussed at the next meeting.

**ACTION Clerk**

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Corfield and from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey and Canterbury City Councillor Simon Cook. Mr Mike Sole was welcomed as the newly co-opted member of Bridge Parish Council. He was asked to sign a declaration of acceptance of office.

**20/15-16**

There were two declarations of interest from Cllrs Atkinson and Hodges concerning the election to the KALC standards committee. There were no other declarations of interest on lobbying on agenda items and there were no written declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

**21/15-16**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair

**22/15-16**

Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7

**Gully cleaning by Kent Highways** will happen by July 7 2015 (147/14-15)

**The Pavilion booking** form is now online (village website) (149/14-15)

All **bins are now to be used for dog mess** and other items of rubbish. Stickers have been provided for village bins to point this out. The bin on Bridgeford Way is close to the water meadow area and the relevant parishioner who raised the issue has been informed. Dog mess bins are being phased out completely by Canterbury City Council.

**The new councillor** was informed by the Clerk as per minute 13/15-16. The Chair announced that Cllr Sole would join the recreation ground committee, act as Snow Warden (as a member of the Emergency Planning Committee) check the monthly bank reconciliations and join the Neighbourhood Plan group.

**Skateboard park request-RAMP** (Rural Areas members Panel) funding has been applied for. Bridge Parish Council may be asked to contribute up to

£250. Cllrs Fawke and Sole agreed to speak on the issue at the RAMP meeting on 22 June at 7.00 p.m. in the Guildhall, Canterbury (13/15-16). Cllr Sole explained how the funding is awarded. The Clerk agreed to brief both Councillors, as well as Canterbury City Councillor Cook, before the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk, Cllrs Fawke and Sole**

**Local Warden Support officer-** a meeting to be held on 15 June 2015 between KALC, Kent Police and KCC will consider Bridge Parish Council's interest in the scheme.

**23/15-16**

**Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)**

There have been some problems with rubbish collection in the last month, both in Bridge and around the district. Serco's performance has not been what it should have been and officers are reminding them of their obligations. Please let Cllr Cook know of any missed collections so that he can get them sorted out.

The new committee meeting cycle starts in the next couple of weeks and we will see how things go. The system is new to everyone and there will be teething problems but everyone is trying very hard to make it work. The first meeting of the Rural Area Members Panel is on the 22nd June in the Guildhall. We would very much like to continue the engagement with Parish Councils that was so useful during the concurrent function funding review and parish councillors are warmly invited. Lord Mayor's Awards are given to recognise outstanding contributions to the community and to individuals by district residents. Nominations have to be made by 8 July 2015. Awards are presented at a council meeting after the summer. For more information go to [www.canterbury.gov.uk/lordmayorsaward](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/lordmayorsaward). If parishioners require any further help or support they should contact Cllr Cook.

**24/15-16 Report from KCC Councillor (Michael Northey)**

Resurfacing of Dover Rd between Old Gate Inn and the A2 in Summer 2015. He is constantly trying to get road improvements, not least to Bekesbourne Lane, and especially to Bifron's Hill, which though technically not in Bridge parish, do affect a lot of local people. He has reminded our Highways officers about this.

**25/15-16**

Councillors were informed of the felling of two trees on the recreation ground one a sycamore tree with the formal approval of the Tree Protection Officer of Canterbury City Council and a dead elm tree. Both tree stumps have been ground out. Wild flowers have been planted around the sycamore tree stump.

**26/15-16**

**Disposal of business from the last meeting**

**a. Recreation Ground**

A verbal quotation of £125 had been received from a parishioner for heavy rolling of the entire recreation ground. Councillors agreed that a further quotation should be sought from another parishioner and a decision taken at the next meeting. Cantley Ltd have been informed of

recent concerns of local residents accessing the recreation ground through unauthorised gates. Cllr Hodges thanked the year 4 schoolchildren for planting wild flowers on 15 May (pictures now on the website). A letter has been sent to the Tennis Club about the trampling of wild flowers behind the courts. A request was made for larger bins by the school gate entrance and for the repair to lids of existing bins. Former Cllr Ward will be asked to lead evening training on the inspection regime required for the recreation ground. The village PCSO will be asked to repeat a talk to Bridge schoolchildren regarding appropriate behaviour in the recreation ground. A decision on fixing picnic benches to the ground was deferred until the next meeting. The Clerk will supply costs of sturdy picnic benches at the next meeting. It appears that one picnic bench had gone missing (see Any Other Business below).

**ACTION: Clerk**

- b. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Redrafting of the plan has been continuing (22 and 29 May) and should continue on 19 June 2015 at 17.30 p.m. in the Hunter Room. No minutes of the May meetings were available because of the indisposition of the minute taker. The Committee will be informed of the presentations made at the start of this meeting and the requests that had been made (see above 19/15-16). Joe Connor gave his apologies for not being present at the meeting.

#### **27/15-16**

##### **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

**Bridge Village Hall Management Committee-Cllr Moon** reported on the meeting held on 28 May 2015- the same day as the AGM. The Chair is Jenny Vye, the Treasurer is Mervyn Gulvin and Secretary and Booking Secretary is Mark Esdale. The Committee is considering the replacement of the main entrance doors. Repairing the damp walls of the Hall is a project for this year-from the Committee's own funds. Booking rates will be unaltered.

#### **28/15-16**

##### **Matters for discussion and action.**

- a. **Communication and decision making. Cllr Brooks**
- b. **BVST-Cllr Brooks**

These items were conflated in the course of wide ranging discussion about the status and role of the BVST as part of a wider consideration of the relationship to the Parish Council of various sub or affiliated groups. Cllr Brooks stated that newer councillors in particular are facing difficulty in understanding how different groups relate to and interact with each other. Discussion focussed mainly on the composition of different groups, leasing arrangements and the application of Parish Council financial regulations to the work of sub groups. It was agreed by all Councillors that a set of options with regard to the BVST should be worked up by Cllrs Atkinson, Moon, Dhillon, Brooks and Sole for discussion and decision making at the next meeting. In the meantime, the apparent lack of a fire extinguisher in the Pavilion must be rectified as soon as possible.

In the course of the discussion Cllr Brooks fed back on the BVST AGM held on 18 May 2015. Of particular note to the Parish Council was the BVST's request for greater clarity on the allocation of funding between the two groups and the news that plans for the internal refurbishment of the pavilion have now been drawn up by Mervyn Gulvin and approved by the BVST. These

plans are now to be costed. **ACTION Cllrs Moon, Atkinson, Dhillon, Brooks and Sole.**

- c. **£200 grant from the main budget for the EPC to spend in the Financial Year** Cllr Atkinson's proposal was seconded by Cllr Fawke and agreed unanimously.
- d. **Snow warden vacancy** Cllr Sole had agreed to take on this position.
- e. **Canterbury City Council Local Plan.** The Clerk reminded the meeting that the item had been included on the agenda to facilitate the address made by a parishioner (see 19/15-16 above). In the course of discussion it was agreed to seek clarification from Professor Church and the Association of Canterbury Residents Associations that the points made to the Local Plan by Bridge Parish Council in 2014 are to be aired during the Inspector's hearings which are start on 14 July 2015. The full plan is to be circulated to all councillors.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- f. **Review of financial regulations.** This item was deferred until the next meeting. A draft version of the new regulations will be circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- g. **Parish allowances.** Cllr Atkinson informed councillors that an annual allowance of £150 can be made available from the Parish budget for each Councillor, except for co-optees, and of £300 for the Chair to pay for the discharge of their duties. These sums have been agreed by an independent remuneration committee. Cllr Atkinson's recommendation that the proposal should be adopted was seconded and voted on: 4 councillors agreed, one councillor voted against and 3 abstained. Councillors were reminded that they can forego this allowance if they so wish by contacting the Clerk.
- h. **Elham walking project.** Sheila Sochacka has agreed to be the Bridge representative and her name has been forwarded to the organiser.
- i. **Green Court/Western Avenue** After discussion of the current neglected state of this area, it was agreed that a meeting on 23 June 2015 between the Clerk and the local KCC Highways steward should be used to point out the its poor state. Cllrs were encouraged to log their requests for action to KCC highways on the relevant website. Cllr Northey will be briefed also. The Chair expressed a desire to draft a list of the improvements sought by the Parish Council which could then be presented to KCC Highways. It was agreed that a complete list could not be drawn up in time for 23 June.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- j. **KALC standards committee election.** The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council had been asked to express its opinion about two candidates for the Kent Association of Local Council's Standards Committee. The Chairman left the room for the rest of this agenda item. The Vice Chair asked for votes to be taken. One of the two candidates garnered 5 votes; 2 councillors abstained. The Clerk will communicate this result to KALC.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**29/15-16**

**The Correspondence list was noted.**

**30/15-16**

**The following receipts were noted:**

£30,570-precept payment from Canterbury City Council; £2.82 in bank interest.

### 31/15-16

The transfer of £3,000 from the interest bearing 30 day account to the current account on 19 May 2015 was noted.

### 32/15-16

The following items for payment were authorised:

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Canterbury City Council	£3,500 flood defences payment	Flood defences (balance from 2014-2015 FY)
Philip Wicker– Clerk	£686.67	Salary and office allowance May 2015
CPRE	£12.60	Expenses for speaker to the Annual Parish Meeting
Cllr Hodges	£4	Wild Flower seeds
Ian Sargent	£240	3 mowings of the recreation ground
Hart Lee Tree Surgery	£804 (of which £118 VAT)	Felling of one sycamore and one dead elm tree on recreation ground.

### 33/15-16

#### Any other business

- Cllr Fawke has requested the repainting of the village pedestrian crossing and asked for the purchase of Speedwatch equipment to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting. He is conducting an online questionnaire about heritage trees in Bridge and asked for councillors' support in this process. A hedgerow survey of the village has just been completed.
- Cllr Dhillon's inquiries about the status of the Mill Centre asset and the management committee were clarified by the Chair who stated that the Mill Centre is not currently an asset of the Parish Council. Cllr Hodges reminded councillors of the need to provide written reports of external meetings if no minutes are available.
- Cllr Sole asked for abbreviations in these minutes to be avoided.
- Mr Selwyn Lewis (parishioner) mentioned that a dismembered picnic bench is currently in the Nailbourne River.
- Cllr Atkinson mentioned that he and the Clerk had held a meeting with the Land Agent of Cantley Estates on 3 June 2015 with the intention of opening lines of communication between the Parish Council and Cantley Estates and for introductions to be made.
- Bank mandate forms were signed by new Councillors.

The meeting concluded at 9.44 p.m.

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 9 July 2015 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.**

