

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2012 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Atkinson, Cook, Corfield, Edmonds, Hodges, Oakey and Ward

- 127/11-12** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Wilmshurst and KCC Cllr Northey.
- 128/11-12.** **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items
- 129/11/-12** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 9th. February 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 130/11-12** **Report from Canterbury City Cllr Cook** – Cllr Cook reported that the city council budget had been passed. A review into parish council funding would be completed by the end of March. City councillors had had a presentation on the Localism Act. Further guidance was expected by the summer. The city council's Local Development Plan would take precedence over local Neighbourhood Plans. The city council was taking submissions for the Local Plan at present and there would be a consultation exercise on which the public would have an opportunity to comment over the summer.
- 131/11-12** **Disposal of Business from last Meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground-** Cllr Ward reported that the guttering had been pulled down from the pavilion again and yellow paint had been sprayed over the newly painted sand bag store. It was thought that using anti climb paint on the guttering might make it difficult to repair. It was agreed that the Recreation Ground Committee should discuss the repairs to the pavilion with Mervyn Gulvin, Chairman of BVST. **Action; Recreation Grnd Ctte**
It was agreed that Cllr Hodges should buy an oak tree to be planted on the recreation ground to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The parish council would provide a suitable plaque. **Action Cllr Hodges**
 - b. **Affordable Housing** – The properties would be handed over by Jenners to Southern Housing Group on 19th March. The successful new tenants had been informed. Cllrs Hill and Hodges would be going to Bridge Primary School to accept items for the Time Capsule and the parish council would be happy to receive suggestions for other items to be placed in the capsule. **Action; Cllrs Hill & Hodges**
 - c. **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations-** Cllr Atkinson reported on the progress of the plans for the celebrations, which were going well. There were regular meeting of the committee and in future the minutes of their meetings would be circulated to parish councillors. A flyer giving information about the celebrations and enabling residents who wished to do so to order commemorative coins for their children would be placed in the Parish Council Spring Newsletter. **Action; Cllrs Atkinson, Oakey & Ward**
 - d. **Methodist Chapel** – It had been reported that the matter of the disposal of the Methodist Chapel had been passed to the Property Department of the Methodist Church for a decision. It was agreed to approach that body again to remind them of the parish council's interest in obtaining the building for community use. **Action ; Clerk**
 - e. **Mill Centre-** Mark Esdale reported that the Mill Centre Management Committee was meeting fortnightly to try to resolve the problem of a future base for youth activities. A meeting with the primary school had been arranged for 23rd March to discuss a possible new building in the school grounds but there were many issues to be resolved. It was not clear who would own, use or fund the building. There were many

organisations, not just Scouts and Guides who wanted to use the Centre. It was thought that any building supplied by Cantley Estates as a *quid pro quo* for a large housing development in Bridge would not be suitable for the needs of the youth groups and the Mill Centre Management Committee rejected that idea. If no workable alternative could be found it was planned to mount a major campaign to save the Mill Centre at the end of the school term. It was suggested that money already set aside in the parish reserves for the Mill Centre could be used towards any possible new building.

- f. Bus shelter seat – Deferred to next meeting.
- g. 'Walkers are Welcome' scheme- Cllr Atkinson reported that he had approached two groups of local ramblers who were putting together a plan for the year. This would be used in support of Bridge's application to join the scheme. **Action; Cllr Atkinson**

132/11-12

Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposal was noted;

Bridgeford House, Brewery Lane, Bridge

Pollard poplar in rear garden to first major junction

Crown reduce willow tree next to poplar by 30%, removing storm damaged limbs

Reduce cypress in rear garden by 12-15 ft, raise lower crown by 8ft and cut back from Judas tree

Reduce leylandii at side of house by 50%

133/11-12.

Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Bridge in Bloom competition** – The parish council agreed to support the competition again this year. Cllr Edmonds announced that this year there would be extra marks for plants that attract insects. Further details would be placed in 'On the Nail' and the Parish Spring Newsletter. **Action; Cllr Edmonds**
- b. **Parish Council Accounts** – There was a brief review of the current parish accounts and a request for any invoices relating to the current financial year to be submitted to the Clerk urgently so that payment could be arranged. This was particularly important for items that were funded under Concurrent Function Funding. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Litter at The Butts** – There had been complaints about an increase in litter at the Butts and the old railway line. It was agreed to write to the manager of Mansfield Farms to ask him to arrange for his workers to clear up the sites. Cllr Hill thanked Selwyn Lewis for continuing to pick up litter around the village. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Clerk's salary** – It was agreed that the Clerk should progress to salary point LC22 on the anniversary of her appointment on 1st April
- e. **High Street planters** – Mr Possee, who had cared for the planters in the High Street for many years, would be retiring in the summer. It was agreed to write to thank Mr Possee and also to try and find volunteers to take over his duties. The parish council could arrange reimbursement for the costs plants and other materials used. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Letter of thanks to Kent Highway Services** – Cllr Hodges reported that Kent Highways Agency had completed the re-surfacing and repainting of the white lines at the junction of Higham Lane and Bridge Hill. It was agreed to write to thank KHS for carrying out this work. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Spring Newsletter** – It was agreed to produce a Spring Newsletter and several items were agreed for inclusion. The deadline for copy would be 1st April and Cllr Corfield would email councillors to ask for their contributions. A Diamond Jubilee flyer would be included with the newsletter. **Action; Cllr Corfield**

134/11-12 **Correspondence List** – Noted

135/11-12 **Bank Transfers**

The transfer of £3,000 between Parish Council accounts was noted

136/11-12 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*Bridge Jubilee Committee	£2,000.00	£1,000 grant and £1,000 loan for Diamond Jubilee celebrations
Time Capsules UK Ltd	£168.00	Celebration Time Capsule £140.00 + £28.00 vat
Savills Client Account	£225.00	Recreation ground rental to Cantley Estates 29.9.11 – 24.3.12
Christobel Seath - Clerk	£643.17	Clerk's salary and allowances for February 2012
Post Office Ltd.	£90.54	Employer PAYE & NI Contributions for February 2012

* Cheque authorised between parish council meetings

137/11-12 **Any other business**

- a. Cllr Ward reminded councillor about the village litter pick which had been arranged for Saturday 17th March. Volunteers should meet outside the post office and should bring gloves.
- b. Cllr Hodges informed councillors that Bridge Primary School would be holding an Art and Music Event day on Friday 23rd March. Further details could be found on the schools' website.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 12th. April 2012 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.