

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>. March 2014 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman) Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hill, Moon, Ward & Wilmshurst
- 129/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Wortham, CCC Cllr Simon Cook.
- 130/13-14** Cllr Atkinson declared lobbying on item 8d of the Agenda; re-siting of Higham Lane bus shelter.
- 131/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup>. February 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 132/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- 133/13-14** **Report from Cllr Cook** (Via Email) Cllr Cook reported that the Boundary Commission had made recommendations regarding the new electoral boundaries. Residents would have until 20<sup>th</sup>. May 2014 to comment. The Mill Centre had been added to Bridge's list of Assets of Community Value, a group of representatives from the PC and Mill Centre would meet Suzy Wakeham at the City Council to discuss its future the following Monday. A new round of Rural Area Member Panel Funding was about to commence. Small grants would be available on a 'first come first served' basis. Rubbish collections had resumed in Brewery Lane and Bridgeford Close.
- 134/13-14** **Report from KCC Cllr Northey-** Cllr Northey said he had visited Bridge during the flooding and had been impressed by the level of co-operation between all the parties involved. Potholes were a continuing problem in the District and there were crews being deployed to deal with them so residents should continue to report any potholes to Kent Highways. Regarding the proposal to move the bus shelter, Cllr Northey said he would arrange for a suitable expert to look at the site and he would listen to the debate.
- 135/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground-** Cllr Ward said that the recreation ground had re-opened following the flooding although the river levels were still high and warning notices had been posted. There were some branches that needed to be collected. Cllr Corfield commented that the daffodils planted by the school children looked lovely.
  - b. **Neighbourhood Plan –** Prof Connor reported that the parking survey had been delayed because of the traffic disruption during the flooding .He said that the Neighbourhood Plan needed to consider the future environmental consequences of the flooding and the Parish Council agreed that the Committee should talk to the Environment Agency and the City Council on this subject. Cllr Atkinson agreed to be present at such a meeting. Invitations had been sent out to local landowners to talk to the Committee but as yet there had been no response. The next meeting was on 14<sup>th</sup>. March
  - c. **Mill Centre-** It was confirmed that the Mill Centre had been added to Bridge's list of Assets of Community Value. Staff from the City Council's Estates Department had visited the Centre during the week with a view to re valuing the site. The outcome was awaited. Parish Council and Mill Centre representatives would meet Suzy Wakeham at the City Council on 17<sup>th</sup>. March.
  - d. **Nailbourne Pollution –** Cllr Atkinson reported that the Nailbourne continued to run high, fed by exceptionally high ground water levels and

there was still significant contamination in the water. The sewage system remained fragile in the village. A new group had been formed to look at the 'pinch points' of the river and there had potentially been some funding for this identified. More information about potential Government funding could be found on the village website. Cllr Atkinson and other representatives from Littlebourne & Wickhambreaux attended KCC's Flood Management Committee on 11<sup>th</sup>. March. A meeting of the LSNRM was scheduled for later in the month.

- e. **Village Sign** – Cllr Hill reported that the new sign was in place.
- f. **Bus shelters** - KCC would make good the damage to the bus shelter in the High Street. Cllr Hodges thanked Cllr Moon for arranging for this to be agreed. An estimate for work to renovate the Higham Lane bus shelter had been requested.
- g. **Relocation of sand bag store**- It was planned to move the sand bag store to the Mill Centre, where it would be more accessible. Five large grey boxes, donated by the Environment Agency, would be used to store sandbags and one box would be used for rock salt storage. The old store on the recreation ground would be used for wild flower project tools.
- h. **Flood update**- Cllr Moon reported that the pump had been moved from 100 High Street to the gate at Church Meadow and was now pumping from 'the lake' out via the fields and into the Nailbourne. This seemed to be working well without any significant rise in river level. The ramp had been removed from the end of Brewery Lane and the Portaloos had gone from the village. Cllr Moon said that householders should retain their sandbags for the present.
- i. **New parish computer**- Item deferred to next meeting.
- j. **Annual Parish Meeting**- Guy Gardener and Ted Edwards of Canterbury City Council, both of whom had been central to the planning during the flood emergency, had agreed to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- k. **Membership of Alliance of Canterbury Residents' Associations**- It was agreed that Bridge PC should continue to be a member of this Association.

#### 136/13-14 **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Football Clubs**- After some discussion it was decided not to offer the football clubs compensation for the closure of the recreation ground during the floods. It was pointed out that the ground would have been too sodden for matches during this period in any event.
- b. **Additional hours payment to Clerk**- Payment for additional hours worked by the Clerk during the flood was agreed.
- c. **Kent Downs AONB application to Heritage Lottery Fund**- The Parish Council agreed to support this application. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Higham Lane Bus shelter**- It was decided to defer any decision as to whether the Parish Council supported the proposal to move the shelter until after an engineer had considered the site and reported back. Cllr Hodges asked to be present at any site visit. Cllr Northey would arrange the visit. **Action; Cllr Northey & Cllr Hodges**
- e. **Amendment to Standing Order para 11.**- Councillors decided that the Standing Order under reference would remain as it was stated and that decisions of the parish council should not be reversed within 6 calendar months regardless of how many parish council meetings had been held in the interim.
- f. **Sevenoaks Council's proposal that a percentage of Business Rates should benefit the local economy**- Parish Councillors decided to take no action in this matter.
- g. **Clerk's salary**- It was agreed that the Clerk should progress to salary point SCP 24 on the anniversary of her appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.
- h. **BVST Insurance** – It was agreed that the Parish Council would reimburse Bridge Village Sports Trust the cost of the pavilion insurance for 2013-14. **Action; Clerk**

#### 137/13-14 **Correspondence** – Noted

### **138/13-14 Bank transfers**

The Council noted the transfer of £2,000 between Parish Council accounts.

**139/13–14** The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Christobel Seath- Clerk	£52.12	Petty cash
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£864.51	Clerk's salary & allowance for February 2014 and 38 additional hours
Post Office Ltd	£199.09	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for February 2014
Cllr Moon	£50.40	Mileage expenses payment for work during floods
Savills Client Account	£275.00	Recreation ground rental 29.9.13-24.3.14
Hart Lee	£820.00	Work on recreation ground
Mervyn Gulvin	£85.70	Photocopying services £70.90 + £14.80 vat
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£48.00	Hire of hall Jan, Feb Mar 2014 + extra Planning Cttee = 4 sessions @ £12.00
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£19.50	Neighbourhood Plan Hire of Hunter Room 3 sessions @ £6.50
Gary Horn	£100.00	Re-siting, digging out & concreting village sign.
Bridge Village Sports Trust	£306.21	Pavilion insurance 2103-14

### **140/13-14 Any Other Business**

**a. Brewery Lane drains-** Cllr Atkinson reported that in August 2013 KHS had investigated the drains in Brewery Lane and found a blockage. No further action had been taken to remedy the problem and this had contributed significantly to the flooding experienced by residents at the High Street end of the Lane. There was need for a survey of the drain to be undertaken and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact KHS, copied to Cllr Northey, requesting this and also reporting the difficulty there was in discovering what action was being taken on problems reported via the KHS website. **Action; Cllr Northey & Clerk**

**b. Village Litter Pick** – Cllr Ward reminded the Council that the village litter pick would take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, weather permitting. Volunteers should meet at the Post Office at 9.30am

**c. Spring Newsletter** – It was agreed to produce a Spring Newsletter. Items were requested by Cllr Corfield by the end of the following week and the Newsletter would be distributed in April

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. April 2014 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.