

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 12 March 2015 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present:** Cllrs Hodges (Chairman) Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Moon, Wilmshurst, Ward, Wortham and Hill. CCC Cllr Cook & KCC Cllr Northey.
- 129/14-15** **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence
- 130/14-15** **Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.** Cllr Hill declared an interest in respect of item 9 (o) as President of Bridge Tennis Club.
- 131/14-15** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 February 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 132/14-15** **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 133/14-15** **Report by CCC Cllr Simon Cook:**
Cllr Cook chaired a Parish Forum meeting on 28 February 2015 on the issue of Concurrent Function Funding. He thanked BPC for having been represented at the meeting (see below minute 136/14-15) and would welcome any further ideas from Bridge parishioners. The CFF review will report in late March 2015 with implementation of a new scheme scheduled for Autumn 2015.
He explained the timetable for CCC's proposed sale of the Mill Centre and talked about the means of ensuring a 6 month moratorium on the sale. He stressed that the avoidance of double taxation and double provision of council services is vital and that fairness between rural and urban areas was paramount. This will need to be based upon equity of per capita spending between rural and urban areas with a possible rural premium to take account of higher fixed costs. Resources are being reduced nationally and locally. He acknowledged that CCC did not have a complete asset register to hand at the meeting on 28 February 2015 and he will raise this point with CCC. Cllr Hodges reminded the meeting that BPC had sent a formal response to CCC prior to 28 February 2015 about Concurrent Function Funding. **ACTION:** Cllr Cook
- 134/14-15** **Report by KCC Cllr Northey**
Cllr Northey reported that litter picking on the A2 between Bridge and Wincheap is now underway. In response to local pressure, this will extend to the mini roundabout in Patixbourne. Paul Carter (Leader of KCC) has been fully briefed as to the nature and extent of the flooding suffered by the village in 2015-as a follow-up to minute 119 of the previous meeting. In response to questions, it was agreed that Cllr Moon would report a malfunctioning lamppost in Western Ave via the appropriate portal. Cllr Wortham will inform Cllr Northey of the job number associated with the cleaning of blocked drains on the High St. Cllr Hodges will send Cllr Northey details of the problems experienced in Higham Lane with potholes. The Clerk will search for the agreement which entrusted the steps to Bridge Down (now becoming a health

and safety hazard) to KCC, so that maintenance can be carried out. Cllr Northey reminded the meeting that the consultation on the future of the Library Service is open until 8 April 2015. Support for the mobile library service in Bridge should be made expressed there. He pointed out that the current library service in Kent is more extensive than in Essex-a comparable local authority.

ACTION: Cllrs Moon, Wortham, Hodges and Clerk

135/14-15 **Disposal of business from the last meeting**

a **Recreation Ground;**

Cllr Ward reported that mole activity has greatly diminished (report dated 3 March) and thanked all concerned (including children from Bridge Primary School) for the narcissi which look so resplendent. Cllr Wilmhurst confirmed that no action is required to replace the flaking paint on the pavilion.

b. **Nail Bourne**

Cllr Atkinson noted that the groundwater level has stabilised in the local area and current advice from the relevant authorities is that there is no likelihood of flooding of houses this year-despite problems in neighbouring parishes. The ford in Brewery Lane is likely to remain closed for a number of months. There is no sewage being 'overpumped' into the Nail Bourne at present. A meeting of the Little Stour and Nailbourne River Management Group is planned for Saturday 21 March-to be attended by Cllr Atkinson.

c. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Mr Connor explained that the Parish Neighbourhood Plan is being revised in the light of comments made on 27 February 2015 by a consultant, Mr Brian Whiteley, of Planning Aid. The next meeting on 10 April will consider his comments in full, though the implementation of the Bridge plan is dependent upon the Canterbury Local Plan being adopted. This has not yet happened. Councillors agreed to delegate Mr Connor as parish representative for a forthcoming NP awareness event in Hythe. The group will shortly apply to the DCLG for funding to continue their work.

ACTION: Mr Connor.

d. **Emergency Committee**

Plans are proceeding as outlined in the February 2015 meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Wortham was pleased to report that BPC has been commended by other local groups as an example of good practice in formulating an emergency plan.

136/14-15 **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Cllrs Hill and Atkinson reported on a meeting held with CCC on 28 February 2015 to discuss Concurrent Function Funding. Discussion of points raised in minute 133/14-15 was resumed-with particular reference to the apparent unfair treatment of parishes in relation to the urban areas of CCC. Cllr Cook assured the meeting that CCC now understood the complaints being made by parish councils and that he would ensure that the pain of funding cuts would be shared out fairly across all areas within the jurisdiction of CCC.

137/14-15 **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. Cllr Moon reported that alterations to the sandbag store would cost in the region of £100-£200. After discussion, Councillors agreed that these changes are no longer necessary.
- b. Cllr Ward's suggestion of Saturday 18 April at 9.30 am for a village litterpick was agreed. Volunteers will gather at the junction of Conyngham Lane and High Street. The Clerk will provide Cllr Ward with litterpicks and high visibility vests from the parish store. Cllr Hodges agreed to litter pick in the Bridge Down area. **ACTION:** Clerk
- c. Cllr Wilmshurst reported growing interest in hiring the new pavilion-including a youth club on Saturdays. If income permits, cleaning will be needed in the pavilion. No rates will be charged on the recreation ground by CCC in 2015-2016. Booking of the pavilion is likely to be online through the same portal as for booking the village hall. Interested parties should contact Mr Mark Esdale, via the clerk.
- d. Cllr Hill noted that the speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting on 30th April will be Mr Brian Lloyd of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He will talk about the Canterbury District Plan.
- e. Cllr Hodges confirmed that a Recreation Ground working party will meet at 9.30 am on 21 March. Participants will need to bring pruning equipment and weeding tools together with gloves. Refreshments will be served in the new pavilion.
- f. Cllr Hodges stated that the cost (£75) of the Clerk's annual conference (17 June 2015) would be reduced to £25 due to monies already owed to BPC by the Kent Association of Local Councils.
- g. It was agreed to spend £79.20 on essential software for the new parish computer. **ACTION:** Clerk
- h. It was agreed to place "Bridge in Bloom 2015" on the agenda of the meeting on 14 May 2015. This will allow for a notice to be placed in "On the Nail" for the June issue. **ACTION:** Clerk
- i. Councillors agreed unanimously to award the maintenance contract for the recreation ground for 2015-2016 to Mr Ian Sargent of Mown and Grown. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to Mr Sargent.
- j. Cllrs Moon and Cook (CCC) spoke further (see minute 133/14-15) on the decision by Canterbury City Council to sell the Mill Centre. Cllr Cook suggested that there is a possibility that the CCC executive decision to sell the centre might be overturned now that decision-making processes in the council elected after 7 May 2015 will no longer be in the hands of an executive group. It was agreed unanimously that all should be done to trigger the moratorium outlined above in minute 133/14-15. A motion to this effect was proposed by Cllr Corfield and seconded by Cllr Moon.
- k. Cllr Edmonds advised that Bridge's participation in an annual "Walkers are Welcome" festival should be decided upon by the new council after May 7, 2015. Councillors were unanimous in wishing to support the event. The clerk will write to this effect to the organisers in Elham parish. It was also agreed that this event should be linked to the discussion at the February meeting to reissue the footpath map for Bridge. **ACTION:** Clerk
- l. It was unanimously agreed to assign £200 in this financial year to the Emergency Committee to be taken from the "projects" heading of the budget. **ACTION:** Clerk
- m. It was agreed to conduct a site visit of the water meadow near the ford to inspect current arrangements for the disposal of dog mess. The matter will return to the next meeting in April. **ACTION:** Councillors and Clerk

- n. The Clerk went through the election timetable in preparation for May 7.
- o. The meeting agreed to inform Bridge Tennis Club that BPC felt it was unnecessary to re-register the Club as a Community Asset. **ACTION:** Clerk

138/14-15 Correspondence (List circulated)

139/14-15 To note the following receipts;
£70 for Christmas tree donations

140/14-15 The following items were authorised for payment;

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Philip Wicker	£666.67	Salary
Alan Atkinson	£93.48	2 Wheelbarrows (£77.90 + £15.58 VAT)
Alan Atkinson	£75.40	Travel claim and parking
Philip Wicker	£319	Parish computer from Dell online £265.83+ VAT of £53.17
Mark Esdale	£84	Website hosting and maintenance £70 + £14 VAT
Cantley Ltd	£275	Rent for playing field Sept-Mar 2015
Canterbury City Council	£37.50	750 copies of newsletter
Robert Moon	£9.09	Travel expenses
Robert Moon	£21.98	8 padlocks for sandbag store (£18.32 + £3.66 VAT)
Christobel Seath	£83.93	Ex gratia payment for handover work in February 2015 (7.5 hours in total)

141/14-15 Any Other Business

Cllr Atkinson asked for an update on current spending levels under all main budget headings for this financial year. **ACTION:** Clerk

Bridge School Summer fair will be held on 13 June 2015. The Clerk will respond to the request recently received for the recreation ground to be used for parking. **ACTION:** Clerk

Cllr Hodges encouraged Councillors to nominate themselves for a meeting of the Area committee of KALC on 21 April, in which working relationships with Canterbury City Council will be discussed in the light of changed decision-making processes to be used by CCC. There were no volunteers.

PCSO Lisa Williams reported 4 crimes in the period 12 Feb-11 March covering the North Nialbourne Ward (which includes Patrixbourne, Bridge, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne). Further details will be posted on the police website http://www.kent.police.uk/Your_Neighbourhood/ward.seam?id=1272

The meeting closed at 9.29 p.m.

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