

**Minutes of the meeting of Bridge Parish Council held in the Hunter Room on Thursday  
09 May 2002 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Beer (vice chairman), Connor, Corfield, Dobson, Gulvin, Hill, Monk and Walder. Also present were two members of the public who attended for part of the meeting.

Before the meeting commenced Cllr Beer invited members of public to address councillors on the matter of the footpath at Bridge Hill.

The meeting commenced at 7.40 pm.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderson (holiday).

**2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2002-2003**

Cllr Anderson was proposed for the post of chairman by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Monk and elected unanimously.

**3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2002-2003**

Cllr Beer was proposed for the post of vice chairman by Cllr Corfield and seconded by Cllr Monk and elected unanimously.

**4 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2002-2003**

(a) **Recreation Ground and Sports Sub-Committee:** Cllrs Gulvin, Hill and Walder.

(b) **Streets, Footways and Lighting Sub-Committee:** Cllr Anderson.

(c) **Environmental Sub-Committee:** Cllr Connor (footpaths), Cllrs Monk and Dobson (trees).

(d) **Planning Sub-Committee:** Cllrs Connor, Corfield and Hill.

(e) **Representatives to Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllrs Dobson and Gulvin.

(f) **KAPC Area Committee Representatives:** Cllrs Connor and Monk.

(g) **Representatives to the Mill Centre Management Committee:** Cllrs Beer and Walder.

(h) **Internal Audit of Accounts:** Cllr Hill.

**5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2002**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April were confirmed and signed by the vice chairman. The report relating to the recreation ground footpath was amended from unanimously agreed to agreed and the report on the recreation ground play equipment was amended from Cllr Walder to Cllr Hill.

**6 SANDBAG STORE**

It was **AGREED** to accept Canterbury City Council's offer to replace the vandalised metal sandbag shed with a concrete shed and the clerk was requested to write to this effect and request that the shed be supplied without the spar coating. It was also **AGREED** to investigate the possibility of painting the flat roof with a vandal-proof coating.

**7 CAR PARKING - WESTERN AVENUE**

Kent Highways have advised that it is unlikely that the scheme will receive highway funding. Kent Highways will, however, be pleased to prepare a scheme for public consultation but the Parish Council will be charged fees for the time spent. Due to priorities of work this could not be done until later this Summer. The clerk was requested to write to Kent Highways for an estimate of the costs involved.

**8 STREET LIGHTING - PART NIGHT**

i) A quotation of £165.65 has been received for installing an electronic time switch to the light outside the Old School House, Patricbourne Road, Bridge and it was **AGREED** to go ahead with the repair subject to confirmation that the lighting would be set to part night lighting as it was previously.

ii) It was reported that the new street light installed in Patricbourne Road near the Surgery is on all night and it is believed it should be part-night and the clerk was requested to investigate the matter further.

**9 RECREATION GROUND FOOTPATH**

Cllr Dobson reported that a third quotation is still awaited and the Landlord's consent has not yet been received. The clerk was requested to write again to FPD Savills chasing the consent. Cllr Monk advised that the original footpath had been laid in 1971 by the late Mr B Robson.

#### **10 FOOTBRIDGE AT MILL LANE**

Kent County Council have confirmed their agreement for the date stone to be installed by their contractor at our expense. The clerk reported that she had asked Kent County Council if the stone could be installed by our contractor but this would only be acceptable if he met their indemnity insurance requirements or could be employed for the work by a Kent County Council contractor. The clerk was requested to look into the matter further.

#### **11 BEECH TREE - THE NEW CLOSE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME**

Cllr Dobson reported that at a recent meeting with representatives from the Kent Community Housing Trust, the City Council and Cllr Oakey, the Housing Trust had agreed not to fell the tree until consultation had been completed. Mr Ian Embry, who also attended the meeting, was preparing a report for the parish council and it was also **AGREED** to go ahead with an independent specialists report which the clerk was requested to arrange.

#### **12 RECREATION GROUND PLAYGROUND SURFACE**

The clerk reported that Wicksteed Leisure had inspected the site but had not yet sent in their report. It was reported that the joint between the soft area around the slide where it meets the toddler swings was opening up and it was **AGREED** to ask Wicksteed to carry out this repair at the same time as they did the area by the swings. The clerk was asked to arrange this. The clerk reported that Wicksteed have recommended pressure washing to remove the moss and grass from the surface and the clerk was requested to obtain quotations to carry out the work from Wicksteed and Trevor May, who has recently carried out similar work on the tennis courts.

#### **13 ALLOTMENTS**

The clerk was requested to invite Mr C Gooch of FPD Savills to a meeting with councillors on Wednesday 12 June 2002 to discuss the matter of the allotments.

#### **14 TREE PLANTING**

Cllr Beer reported that the chairman had received a letter from Bridge Tennis Club concerning the location of the replacement tree and its threat to the stability of the tennis courts. They requested that it be moved further away from the courts. The clerk was requested to write to the Tennis Club advising them that it could not be moved before the Autumn and requesting a meeting with them in September to discuss the re-positioning of the tree.

#### **15 RECYCLING BINS - TOWN HILL**

Cllr Beer reported that the chairman had received a copy of a letter from the City Council to Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne Parish Council confirming that they will be putting up a sign requesting that litter is taken home and informing of the penalties for rubbish dumping. The City Council also advised that they will be looking into the viability of a CCTV camera at the Town Hill site. The clerk was requested to acknowledge the letter.

#### **16 DISTRIBUTION OF PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Concern was expressed that following the distribution of the requests for the Golden Jubilee Mugs it had come to light that not all households had in fact received this. It was **AGREED** that for any future communication that the parish council wished to be circulated to every household it would be better if these were delivered by councillors themselves to ensure full coverage of the village.

#### **17 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

(a) **Authorisation of items for payment:** The following items were authorised for payment:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
BT	£43.38	Clerk's telephone advance rental and calls.
Patrixbourne with Bridge PCC	£200.00	Donation for 2 years - 2001 and 2002.
Cornhill Insurance plc	£1325.96	Annual insurance premium.
The Society of Local Council Clerks	£50.00	Annual subscription.
KRCC	£30.00	Annual subscription.
BVHMC	£15.00	Hire of Hunter Room.

KAPC	£3.88	Code of Conduct stationery.
KAPC Regime.	£9.95	Practitioners Guide for New Audit

(b) **Payments received:** £176.53 Vat reclaim, £9.00 Golden Jubilee Mugs, £100.00 Bridge Tennis Club ground fee, £8651.00 precept, £7352.00 concurrent function grant and £3960.00 capital funding grant.

(c) **Earmarked Reserve:** It was **AGREED** that £10000 be transferred from the General Reserve to the Earmarked Reserve for the purpose of funding the following projects: footpath £3000, village hall improvements including disabled toilet £3500, investigation of parking schemes £1500 and a light in Bifrons Path £2000.

(d) **Estimate for Repair to Street Light:** It was **AGREED** to accept the quotation from Seeboard of £61.16 to provide a new lantern bowl for the light at the footbridge over Mill Lane.

Before the Planning Sub-Committee presented the current planning applications Cllrs Connor and Gulvin declared an interest in CA/02/0405/BRI and left the room whilst the matter was considered.

## 18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) **Planning applications received:** The following planning applications have been received and are under consideration:

CA/02/0405/BRI - Two storey extension to front of dwelling at 1 High Street, Bridge.

CA/02/0508/BRI - Two and single-storey extension to care home including alterations to existing building at Saxon Lodge, 30/32 Western Avenue, Bridge.

It was **AGREED** that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee would be accepted.

(b) **Planning applications granted:** The following planning applications have been notified as granted:

CA/02/0267/BRI - Single-storey extension to front of bungalow at Coppice, Bridge Hill, Bridge.

CA/02/0280/BRI - Change of use from doctors' surgery to dwelling at 2 Green Court, Bridge.

CA/02/0278/BRI - Change of use of ground floor lock up shop from retail to estate agents at 88 High Street, Bridge.

(c) **Applications refused:** No planning applications have been notified as refused.

(d) **Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area:** The following notices of proposed work have been received:

i) Fell two Conifer trees situated in back garden and reduce by 6-8 ft four Leylandi trees at White Gates, Bekesbourne Road, Bridge.

ii) Fell decayed Ash tree from side of house at Bridge Ford House, Brewery Lane, Bridge.

iii) Clean out crown of Cedar of Lebanon, fell Cherry Tree at side of house, reduce Cypress, Elder and Sycamore trees back to hedge at least 1.5m high on boundary to Bridge Down and trees with stem diameter less than 75mm at 1.5m high and all shrubs may be removed from the garden at the side of the house at 6 Bridge Hill House, Higham Lane, Bridge.

No Tree Preservation Order will be served to control the work for items ii) and iii).

It was **AGREED** that the Planning Sub-Committee would continue the practise of presenting to full council any applications they deemed necessary and that the clerk would circulate the notifications of grant of planning permission to the sub-committee.

## 19 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Footpaths:** i) The clerk was asked to write to Kent Highways requesting that the footpath in Bridge Hill be cleared as a matter of urgency as it had become too narrow for residents to walk along it in safety, particularly when walking their children to school. Kent Highways are also to be asked to give consideration to a more permanent solution for the future eg a kerb or low wall to prevent the bank from sliding down onto the footpath. ii) The clerk was also requested to write to Kent Highways to confirm whether or not repair work at the steps in Bridge Hill will be carried out.

**Trees:** Cllr Monk had no other matters to report.

**Recreation Ground:** i) Cllr Walder advised that he had carried out the monthly inspection of the playground and there were no other matters to report other than those previously mentioned. ii) Cllr Walder advised that the moles continued to be active. iii) The clerk was requested to write to the clubs using the recreation ground asking them to remove their rubbish. iv) Cllr Gulvin reported that the graffiti is still to be removed from the pavilion.

**Streets, Footways and Lighting:** i) The clerk reported that Maurice Smith continued to monitor the streets and report to the City Council on any work needing to be carried out.

ii) It was **NOTED** that Maurice Smith had advised the Surgery that their car park was being used for skateboarding during the evening.

## **20 KENT PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

It was **NOTED** that Kent County Council have advised that the current scheme ended on 31 March 2002. However, they are supportive of what has been a very popular initiative and are exploring alternative sources of funding to support a similar scheme which might be launched later this year.

## **21 DEPOSIT DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (2001-2011) FIRST REVIEW**

The Deposit Draft Local Plan (2001-2011) has now been received and the consultation period runs until 14 June 2002 with all comments to be made in writing and received by 5.00 pm that day. Cllr Monk agreed to look at the draft in detail and will circulate it to all councillors for further discussion at the next meeting.

## **22 STREET LIGHTING - BIFRONS PATH**

The clerk reported that she had met with the Seeboard representative on site to discuss the installation of a street light and a quotation is now awaited. It was **AGREED** that the clerk should write to the residents in the vicinity of the street light to advise them of the proposed installation.

## **23 NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK**

Cllrs Connor, Monk, Walder and the clerk attended the above event held by Canterbury City Council in conjunction with the KAPC. The event included talks from the Monitoring Officer., Mark Ellender, on the role of the monitoring officer, the District Council Perspective and Standards Committees and from Rodney Williamson of the KAPC on The Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils.

## **24 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator, Frank Sochacki, has requested funds for two new signs to replace the ones that have been damaged at either end of the village. It was unanimously **AGREED** to fund these signs.

## **25 DRAINAGE**

Kent Highways have advised that the proposed improvements to the surface water drainage system are due to begin on 27 May 2002 and will take approximately 8 to 12 weeks to complete.

## **26 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Golden Jubilee:** Buckingham Palace have replied to the Parish Council's letter of congratulations to the Queen.

(b) **Major Emergency Plan:** The clerk will confirm to Canterbury City Council that Cllr Gulvin is the contact for Bridge.

(c) **Canterbury & District Parish Forum Meeting:** Canterbury City Council are holding a meeting on 25 May 2002 and the theme is Rural Young People. Cllr Corfield was provided with the Agenda.

(d) **NALC National Conference and Exhibition:** the date of this event has been advised as 14-16 June 2002 in Preston.

## **27 KAPC/KRCC MATTERS**

i) Cllr Connor reported that at the KRCC meeting the matter of the Kent Structure Plan was discussed. .

ii) Cllr Connor reported that he had received a letter from the Environment Agency regarding the flood warning service for the Nailbourne catchment area advising that the Agency is committed to providing residents with a degree of warning and the overall aim is to connect those householders at risk to the Agency's Automatic Voice Message (AVM) database in order to receive direct flood warnings by telephone. They are also currently developing a telemetry system from which it may then be possible to ascertain the appropriate trigger levels for the issuing of flood warnings.

## **28 ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION AND INFORMATION**

The following items had been received and were available for distribution:

(a) Vision for Kent

(b) Oast to Coast - Spring 2002

(c) The Orchid - Spring/Summer 2002

- (d) KRCC Rural News
- (e) Clerks & Councils Direct
- (f) Kent Trails
- (g) Local Council Review
- (h) Code of Conduct Frequently Asked Questions

**29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 13 June 2002.

There being no further business the vice chairman closed the meeting at 10.20 pm.