

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin, Hill, and Wilmshurst also City Councillor John Anderson (to item 11c) and County Councillor M Northey (to item 11d)..

Before the meeting KCC Cllr Michael Northey formally declared the new youth shelter on the recreation ground open.

**1/08-9 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2008-9**

Ann Edmonds was nominated as Chairman by Cllr Esdale, seconded by Cllr Gulvin and elected unanimously

John Hill was nominated as Vice Chairman by Cllr Esdale, seconded by Cllr Beesty and elected unanimously

**2/08-9 Areas of Responsibility to Committee and Outside Bodies**

The following changes were made to councillors' responsibilities;

Cllr Beesty ceased to be Bridge Primary School liaison and have responsibility for the Teen Shelter. He is now the Bridge Village Sports Trust representative.

Cllr Beinder is Bridge Primary School liaison

Cllr Corfield is no longer the ACRK representative. This role has been taken on by Cllr Wilmshurst.

Cllr Hill is the KALC representative with Cllr Wilmshurst.

Cllr Esdale would no longer sit on the now defunct Youth Group Committee

**3/08-9. Apologies for absence; There were apologies for absence from Cllr Lewis**

**4/08-9. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items. There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.**

**5/08-9.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup>. April 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**6/08-9 24 High Street -**

Cllr Edmonds made a statement on 24 High Street at the start of the meeting. The High Court had given permission for a judicial review of Canterbury City Council's decision to grant planning permission for a dwelling in the garden of 24 High Street. The parish council's barrister had therefore written to the city council seeking a settlement to the matter and as the case was ongoing no further comment could be made.

**7/08-9** KCC Cllr Northey reported that there would be a debate at the County Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup>. May about the increased use of the high pitched 'Mosquito' device used to disperse teenage groups. The County Council wishes to ban such devices from its premises.

**8/08-9. Disposal of business from the last meeting**

**a. Recreation ground – The Recreation Ground Inspection folder was taken over by Cllr Beesty.**

It was agreed to ask Mr Glew to re-concrete the new sign at the Patrixbourne Rd entrance as it had been pushed over to one side. **Action; Clerk**

Cllr Beinder had given Kent Landscape Services a map of the planting so that they could avoid cutting areas of wild flower and bulb planting at the wrong time.

Kent Landscape Services would send estimates for filling in the hollow in front of the practise goal post, renewing the wire on the closed entrance to the field by the pavilion and would also send a brochure on benches made from re-cycled materials. They would provide details of their charges for ROSPA accredited playground equipment inspections.

- It was agreed to discuss the possibility of buying replacement trees for the recreation ground at the September Parish Council meeting. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Higham Park Planning Inquiry** – The Planning Inspector had comprehensively rejected the appeal by Paigle Ltd against the city council's decision to refuse the application for housing development at Higham Park.
- c. **Youth Group** – Cllr Esdale reported that the Youth Group Committee had reluctantly decided to terminate the group with immediate effect as it was no longer sustainable given the low numbers attending, neither was it fulfilling a social service to the village any longer. The city council youth worker had been informed and the city council had been given a month's notice of termination of the contract to provide youth services to Bridge. The committee could re-assess the decision at a later date should sufficient numbers of young people come forward. The parish council recorded its thanks to the committee and volunteers who had helped to keep the youth group going over the years.
- d. **Methodist Chapel** – The Parish Council had received no reply from the Methodist Church to its enquiry last October about the possibility of buying the building to use as a village resource, should the Methodist chapel close for worship. The council had heard informally that it was thought that the parish council no longer wished to pursue this. It was therefore agreed to write to Rev Marshall again, confirming the parish council's interest and requesting an urgent response. **Action; Clerk**

**9/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Allotment Association AGM 14<sup>th</sup>. April – Cllr Gulvin

It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Mr Spencer who had resigned as Secretary to the Association **Action; Clerk**

BVST Meeting – Cllrs Gulvin & Beesty

**10/08-9 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposals were noted;

Silver Leaves, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Reduce height of evergreen at front of property & remove dead wood

Reduce height by 2-3 m and thin out branches to trees on rear boundary

Remove hawthorn tree in rear left hand corner

The Tree Wardens objected to the removal of the hawthorn

On north west retaining wall alongside No.104 Bridge Church Yard

Two ash trees to be felled as they are too close to the old flint wall. To be replaced in a more suitable location. **Action; Clerk**

**11/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Audited Accounts for 2007-8** The audited accounts and annual governance statement for 2007-8 were agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer. It was agreed to re-appoint Kevin Funnell as internal auditor and to ask him to carry out the half yearly audit in October. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Bridge Place Country Club Licence Application** A number of local residents spoke against this application. Concern was expressed about the noise and disruption that would be experienced late into the night by the whole village if a licence was allowed until 2.00am on Fridays and Saturdays and until midnight on weekdays. Residents recalled the previous disturbances and damage caused in the village when the country club was operating and commented on the attractive appearance of the High Street now that planters and flower boxes were no longer in danger of vandalism from patrons of the country club leaving the village in the early hours. It was felt that the proprietor had previously shown he was unable to control the behaviour of his clientele. He had himself objected last May to the proposed extended opening hours of the Red Lion, claiming they were inappropriate for a rural village. Residents were warned that, once granted, the licence would apply permanently regardless of the use of the club. It was felt that restrictions on the operation of the club should include prohibiting access via Brewery Lane and that a taxi calling service should be installed on site. It was suggested that the Country Club should have the same licencing hours as other public houses in Bridge. There was no local demand for the extended hours.

The parish council agreed to write to the City Council Licencing Authorities opposing the application for extended opening hours and urged residents to write to the authority before the deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> May, copying their letters to the parish council.

**Action ; Clerk**

- c. **Reserves for 2008-9** Cllr Esdale explained the proposed reserves for 2008-9 and they were agreed by the parish council.
- d. **Allotments** – Cllr Gulvin explained that there was now a fairly static number of allotment holders but a waiting list of 5 local residents and 3 others from outside the village. It was therefore agreed to write to Charlie Gooch to ask Cantley Estates to consider extending the allotment area on the south side to provide 4 further full sized plots. Cllr Gulvin would supply a plan of the proposed extension. The long standing matter of the lease for the allotments would also be raised again. **Action; Clerk**
- e. **Planning Portal Questionnaire** – It was agreed that the clerk would complete the planning portal questionnaire on line using the comments made by Cllrs Gulvin and Edmonds **Action ; Clerk**
- f. **Insurance arrangements for 2008-9** The clerk had requested quotations for the parish insurance from Zurich and NFU but no reply had been received from either . It was therefore agreed to continue to use Allianz as the parish insurers and to negotiate a 10% discount for a five year contract. It was also agreed that the bank reconciliation would be checked by a councillor every three months rather than six monthly, to comply with the underwriters conditions for an increased fidelity guarantee. Cllr Hill volunteered to take on this duty. **Action; Cllr Hill & Clerk**
- g. **Annual Parish Meeting** – The agenda and arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting were approved.
- h. **Bridge Village Fete** – It was agreed to allow the upper part of the recreation ground to be used for car parking for the village fete on 14<sup>th</sup>. June, provided that the weather was fine. **Action; Clerk**

**12/08-9 Correspondence** - Noted

**13/08-9 Transfer** – The transfer of £3,500 between Parish Council accounts was noted

**14/08-9 The following receipts were noted:**

Canterbury City Council – Concurrent Funding	£ 8,723.00
Precept 08/09	£24,533.34
BVST	£10.00
Bridge Tennis Club fees for 2008/9	£125.00

**15/08-9.**The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
+HMCS	£180.00	Fee for Judicial Enquiry into 24 High Street Procedures
Christobel N Seath	£621.68	Clerk's Salary and office allowance –April 2008
Kent County Playing Fields Association	£15.00	Annual Subscription 2008-9
Patixbourne PCC	£400.00	Contributions for the upkeep of the churchyard 2007-8 and 2008-9
Society of Local Council Clerks	£102.00	Membership renewal 2008-9
Canterbury City Council	£758.00	Delivering youth services 8/1/08 to 25/3/08 £645.12 + £112.90 vat
Mill Centre Management Committee	£794.22	Contribution to Mill Centre insurance costs.
Kevin Funnell	£35.00	Audit of 2007-8 records
D Possee	£30.00	Supply of compost & plants & maintaining planters in High Street

+ Authorised earlier because of time limit

**16/08-9. Any other business;**

- a. **Affordable Housing** –It was agreed that in future this should be an agenda item every month so that progress could be monitored. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Mill Centre** – Cllr Esdale reported that the city council had promised to report back on the future of the lease shortly. He reported there had been a clear up of the Centre recently and potential improvements had been identified.
- c. **Cycle Path** – It was reported that Spokes now had funds for the Bridge to Canterbury cycle path. Discussions were continuing to agree a route.
- d. **Girl Guides** – The parish council noted with concern that the Guides were having difficulty in finding a replacement Guide Leader for Bridge.
- e. **Bridge in Bloom** – It was agreed that the Bridge in Bloom competition would take place in June. Cllr Esdale would publicise it on the website and Cllr Edmonds would organise the competition. Judging would take place in late July/early August. **Action; Cllrs Edmonds & Esdale**
- f. **Thanks** – The parish council expressed its thanks to Janet Horsley for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. June 2008 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.