

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th. May 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges (Chairman), Atkinson, Corfield, Hill, Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst, CCC Cllr Cook and KCC Cllr Northey
- 1/13-14** **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman** – Cllr Hodges was nominated as Chairman by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Ward and elected unanimously
Cllr Hill was nominated as Vice Chairman by Cllr Wilmshurst, seconded by Cllr Corfield and elected unanimously
- 2/13-14** **Areas of Responsibility to Committees and Outside Bodies**
Councillors' new responsibilities were agreed, see attached list.
- 3/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Edmonds
- 4/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 5/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11th. April 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 6/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
- 7/13-14** **Report from CCC Cllr Simon Cook;**
The draft District Development Plan had been published. A development of 4,000 homes and other associated building was proposed for South Canterbury. Cllr Cook said that the number of houses to be built in the District was dictated by the Government although the City Council decided where the new homes were to be built. Cllr Cook would be holding surgeries in Bridge Village Hall on 22nd June and 6th July and urged residents to come and make their views about the Plan known to him. Residents could also write or email the City Council direct with their opinions. The consultation process would last for 8 weeks over the summer. Parish councillors complained that it had been very difficult to access the Plan on the City Council's website. The Rural Area Member Panel was changing and in future there would only be 4 meetings a year, 2 of which would be Rural Forums that would be open to parish councillors and the public.
- 8/13-14** **Report from KCC Cllr Michael Northey;**
Cllr Hodges congratulated Cllr Northey on his re-election as County Councillor.
Cllr Northey said that KCC would be taking an interest in the Canterbury District Plan, as it would affect everyone. Improved roads could be funded by developers. The litter on the A2 would be cleared by Serco on 13th. May. Cllr Northey had spoken to David Brazier, the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways, about the persistent litter problem on carriageways. Cllr Brazier had called a meeting of his officers to try to develop a strategy to deal with this problem. Better education of offenders would be one element in improving the situation.
- 9/13-14**
a. **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
Recreation Ground – Cllr Hodges reported that 28 children from Bridge Primary School had helped to plant snowdrops, sowed wild flower seeds and cleared leaves from the recreation ground the previous week. Moles were a persistent problem. The remains of the last picnic table had been removed from the recreation ground. All the 4 tables had now been destroyed by

vandalism. It was agreed to purchase two more tables as soon as possible at a cost of about £400. Although vandalism could well be a problem again, councillors thought that the picnic tables were enjoyed by many Bridge residents so it was important to provide them. **Action; Cllr Corfield & Clerk**

- b. **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Committee would meet again on 24th. May before holding a Consultation Event in the village hall on 1st June. This would seek the views of residents about the most important issues to be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan. Draft issues would also be available on the website. There would be an opportunity for residents to give feed back at the event, on line and by paper response forms. The City Council's website did not yet show the required information about Bridge's Neighbourhood Plan.
- c. **Mill Centre**- Cllr Hill and Mervyn Gulvin had met David Kemp and Martin Bovingdon of the City Council to discuss the possible purchase of the Mill Centre. The officers had undertaken to consult with city councillors and advise on a price for the site.
- d. **Nailbourne Pollution** – Cllr Atkinson reported on the latest situation. Southern Water was now putting cameras through the sewers to assess the situation. The river level was falling but tankering would continue after the Nailbourne had stopped flowing. The key was to persuade the Environment Agency to redefine an emergency. It would then cost Southern Water more to undertake temporary measures and would be financially advantageous for them to carry out the necessary repair work to the sewers.

10/13-14 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Audited Accounts for 2012-13** The internal auditor's report was noted and the Parish Accounts for 2012-13 were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **Future Management of Bridge Village Sports Trust** – A proposal was put forward that all fees from sports clubs should be channelled to BVST rather than being shared between the parish council and BVST. BVST would then be responsible for running the pavilion on the same lines as the Village Hall Committee. The care of the pitches would still be mainly the responsibility of the parish council because of Concurrent Function Funding grants, although this might be negotiable. The difficulty was to find suitable officers to take over responsibility for BVST once the current officials resigned later this year. The AGM would be held on 3rd June at 8.00pm in the Plough and Harrow and parish councillors were encouraged to attend.
- c. **Neighbourhood Plan Funding**- It was agreed to submit a request for funding on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to the Department of Communities and Local Government
- d. **Bridge Village Fete** – Councillors agreed to a request from Bridge School to use the recreation ground for parking at the village fete on 15th June. If the weather was wet, Cllr Ward or Cllr Corfield were to decide on whether the recreation ground would be damaged by the car parking. **Action; Clerk**
- e. **Tree Work at the Allotments**- It was decided that the Allotment Association should themselves approach the power company and Cantley Ltd, their landlord, about the tree branches which were encroaching on the power lines. Similarly the problem of trees overhanging from a neighbouring garden was a matter for the Allotment Association to deal with. **Action; Cllr Ward**
- f. **Skateboard Ramp**- Following comments from a resident at the Annual Parish Meeting, councillors again discussed the possible provision of a skateboard ramp. It was decided not to go ahead with this. The initial cost was prohibitive and routine maintenance costs would also be high. At present there was insufficient time left on the recreation ground lease to have any prospect of fund raising. It was agreed that available funds should be directed to the purchase and refurbishment of the Mill Centre, which would be of benefit to all the young people in Bridge.

12/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

13/13-14 Bank transfers:

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

14/13-14. The following receipts were noted;

Canterbury City Council - Parish Precept - £28,707.00
 Canterbury City Council Concurrent Function Funding - £1,332.67
 HMRC – Vat reimbursement - £5,728.71

15/13–14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Kent Association of Local Councils	£522.67	Annual Subscription up to 31 st March 2014 £435.56 + £87.11 vat
AON Insurance	£1,943.12	Annual insurance premium (including Insurance premium tax 6%)
Kevin Funnell	£40.00	Independent end of year Internal Audit 2012-13
Cllr John Hill	£95.34	5 litter-pickers = £24.95 and wine & juice for the Annual Parish Meeting = £70.39 (Chairman's allowance)
BVHMC	£60.00	Hire of hall for parish council meetings April – July + APM = 5 sessions @ £12
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£611.37	Clerk's salary and allowances for April 2013
Post Office Ltd	£151.00	PAYE & Employer NI Contribution April 2013
Parochial Church Council	£220.00	Donation to On the Nail for 2012/13 & 2013/14

16/13-14 Any Other Business

a. Horses in Mill Lane – Cllr Moon reported that horses were escaping from the field at Brickfields on a regular basis and could cause a serious accident. It was agreed to contact the City Council, as the landlord of the field, and ask them to take action to ensure that their tenants made the field secure.

Action; Clerk

b. Antisocial behaviour – Cllr Atkinson said that he had heard nothing further from the Police.

c. Illegal Parking on Conyngham Lane -Councillors had received an email from a resident complaining about this. It was agreed to explain that this was something over which the parish council had no control. Complaints should be addressed to Cllr Cook and Larissa Reed at the City Council. Parking enforcement was the responsibility of the City Council. **Action; Clerk**

d. Parish Council vacancy – As no election had been called, the vacancy would be filled by co-option. Notices asking candidates to come forward would be posted on the parish council notice boards. The deadline for applications would be 31st May with interviews to be held, if possible, on 7th June. Cllrs Hodges, Hill and Wilmshurst would conduct the interviews.

Action; Clerk

e. Draft Local Development Plan –Cllr Hodges had successfully down loaded the draft Local Plan into a format that could be emailed to councillors if they wanted a copy.

The meeting closed at 9.34p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 13th. June 2013 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.