

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2005 in Bridge Village Hall

Present ; Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Beinder, Corfield, Edmonds, Esdale, Gulvin and Lewis

- 70. Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Beesty
- 71. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.**
Cllr Hill declared an interest on Agenda item 7 as President of Bridge Tennis Club
- 72.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2005 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 73. Sue Radcliffe- Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)** visited the meeting and was welcomed by the Parish Council. She explained that her role is to deal with anti-social behaviour and low-level crime. Her area covers Bridge, Littlebourne, Adisham and Rural Canterbury. She may be contacted on 07969584289. It was agreed that the contact number and information about the role of the PCSO would be put on the website. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- 74. Affordable Housing Report** –Jennifer Shaw of ACRK answered questions from the council concerning the draft report on the Housing Needs Survey. A committee to take forward the affordable housing plans was formed consisting of Cllr Hill (Chairman), Cllr Edmonds and Cllr Esdale. After some discussion it was felt that the first issue to be resolved was to find a suitable site. It was therefore agreed that Ms Shaw would arrange a site visit to Bridge with officers of Canterbury City Council's Planning and Estates Departments and the Affordable Housing Committee to identify a possible site. It was also agreed that a maximum of 6 to 8 houses would be considered. **Action; Ms Shaw & Affordable Housing Committee**
- 75. Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. Recreation ground**
 - i. Maintenance; KCC Landscape Services had sent a verbal report to the clerk of work carried out during October
 - ii. In the absence of any further quotes for recreation ground maintenance it was agreed to renew the contract of Kent County Council Landscape Services. **Action; Clerk**
 - b. Flood Map** –Cllr Gulvin had produced a new flood map giving more accurate detail than the Environmental Agency's flood map of houses at risk of flooding in Bridge. It shows properties in danger of flooding and those which are not. The council agreed that a letter would be sent to those property owners who were not in flood danger, despite being included on the Environment Agency's map, so that they could reassure possible house purchasers, insurers etc. that their houses were not susceptible to flooding. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
 - c. Speed Watch** –(See item 78 a.)
 - d. Adoption of Parish Council Environmental Policy** –The policy was adopted by the council and signed by the Chairman.
 - e. Christmas trees** – The Christmas trees will be put up in the High St on 3rd December. Volunteers are asked to assemble in Cllr Gulvin's yard at 9.30a.m. Christmas lights will also decorate the yew tree in the church grounds. Cllr Esdale reported that £180.00 had already been collected in donations towards the cost of the trees. **Action; Councillors**
- 76. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**
Cllr Esdale reported on the Action with Communities in Rural Kent AGM.
A report by Cllr Esdale on the Rural Street Runner Steering group meeting will be circulated.
Action; Clerk
- 77. Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**
- i) White Gates, Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge**
Remove conifer on left hand boundary
Remove deformed conifer on left hand boundary
Remove overhanging bough of greengage tree

Remove tree-like shrub on east side of property – No objection

ii) Portland House, 10 High St, Bridge

Reduce height of conifer tree by approx 4 feet and tidy crown – No Objection

Action; Clerk

iii) Request from tennis club for tree work on the recreation ground.

It was agreed that John Lambourne would be asked to make a site visit but this could not take place until January because of his previous commitments. The City Council Assistant Tree Officer had confirmed that, in general, trees in a conservation area could not be felled unless they were diseased or dangerous. No further action to be taken until John Lambourne has visited the site

78. Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Setting of Budget and Precept** – The budget and precept for 2006/7 was agreed. It would include £2,700 to underwrite the costs of the Street Runner programme for 2006/7 and £2,000 to purchase an electronic speed sign. As the concurrent funding bid is unlikely to be met in full, it was agreed to include a figure in the precept to cover any concurrent funding shortfall. The total precept figure will be ~£19,695.
- b. **Concurrent Funding Function** Cllr Esdale confirmed that the agreed Concurrent Funding bid had been sent to the City Council for action. The City Council will announce the allocation on 8th December.
- c. It was agreed to donate £150 from the Kent Village of the Year competition prize to the Bridge Village Fish Scheme. **Action; Cllr Edmonds**
- d. Bridge Village Festival Committee – Item deferred as no representative of the committee was present.
- e. **Co-option of a new councillor** – It was agreed that the meeting to co-opt a new councillor would be held in the Hunter Room on Monday 21st November at 7.00pm. Possible candidates would be contacted. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 27th April 2006. This later date would enable the previous year's parish accounts to have been finalised. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Recreation ground benches** - It was reported to that it was possible to repair the bench in memory of George Pratt on the recreation ground. It was therefore agreed that the bench purchased to replace it should be placed at an alternative site on the recreation ground. The picnic benches were being repaired and once this had been done they would be stored in the pavilion until the Spring. It was doubtful whether the concrete ended bench near the Health Centre could be repaired. It was agreed that a new bench would be purchased in the next financial year to be positioned on Patricxbourne Rd approx midway between the High Street and the Health Centre. **Action; Cllr Hill & Clerk**
- h. **Parking & traffic calming** – Cllr Esdale suggested that, as the church was now open during the day, it was even more important to press for traffic calming measures on Bridge Hill. It was agreed to ask the City Council what specific actions were being planned to curb speeding on Bridge Hill. **Action; Clerk**
It was also pointed out that no action had been taken to provide angled parking places outside the shops on Western Avenue. The problems of delivery lorries parking on the pavements and on the double yellow lines were also raised. It was agreed that Canterbury City Council would be asked when action would be taken to provide angled parking places. **Action; Clerk**
Cllr Esdale also suggested that the removal of the zebra crossing outside Bridge Pharmacy might make the area safer. Parking & traffic congestion by the zebra crossing made its use dangerous. It was suggested that a 'lollypop' school patrol person at school times might be a safer option. No decision was taken on this.
Cllr Lewis reported that he had complained about the uneven pavement outside Roger's Garage in his capacity as County Lengthsman Co-ordinator for Bridge.
- i. **Police Community Support Officer** – See minute 73.
- j. **Bridge Allotment Association**- It was reported by F P Savill's that the lease for the allotments was not yet ready for submission to the Parish Council. It was also reported that the fence for the allotment area would not be erected until next Spring. The Tree Warden had been consulted about the silver birch trees in the grounds of the telephone exchange but felt no action was necessary. It was, however, reported that the sycamore

tree by the entrance to the allotments and the hedge by the main road needed to be trimmed back. It was agreed that the Allotment Society would be authorised to take the necessary action on this. It was agreed that Cllr Gulvin would represent the Bridge Parish Council on the Allotment Association Committee. **Action; Clerk**

- k. **Tree & Pond project** – Cllr Lewis reported that the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers is currently looking for suitable projects to benefit from grants for environmental activities. These might include tree planting scheme, hedge planting, tree/pond surveys, creating wildflower meadows and pond restoration.
The parish council will process any suggestions from parishioners. **Action; Clerk**
- l. **Kent Highways Parish & Town Council Seminar 25th November** – Noted
- m. **SLCC Kent Branch Training Day 28th November** – Noted
- n. **CPRE AGM 18th November** – Noted
- o. **East Kent Communities Conference 1st December**- Chairman to attend

79. **Correspondence** Noted

80. Letter of authorisation to transfer £2,000 between the two bank accounts held by Bridge Parish Council was agreed. **Action; Clerk**

81. The following receipts were noted;
VAT refund ; £542.27

82. The following items were authorised for payment (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel N Seath	£380.31	Clerk's salary and office expenses – September
Christobel Seath	£66.48	KAPC Financial Inf Day £52.88 + travel expenses 34 miles @ 40p per mile = £13.60
Carol Baker	£200.00	<i>Ex gratia</i> payment for work on parish accounts for 2004-5
Carol Baker	£25.12	Postage & stationery for accounts preparation
Andrew Osborn	£135.00	Tree work on Bridge recreation ground
D R Possee	£45.00	Supply of plants & compost & maintenance of planters Summer 2005

83. **Any other business**

- a) Cllr Lewis agreed to collect the tree awarded to Bridge by Kent Men of the Trees at the Kent Village of the Year competition earlier in the year.
- b) It was agreed that the next village newsletter would be produced in January 2006.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 8th.December 2005 at 7.00 pm in Bridge Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.19pm.