

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>.November 2011 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Atkinson, Cook, Corfield, Edmonds, Oakey, Ward and Wilmshurst

- 73/11-12**      **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Hodges
- 74/11-12.**      **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items
- 75/11/-12**      The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup>. October 2011 confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 76/11-12**      **Report from KCC Cllr Northey** – Cllr Northey explained that the proposals for Bekesbourne Rd were an attempt to alleviate traffic problems. The solution would not please everybody and there would be extensive consultations. The cost would be £8,743, to be met from his Members' Highway Fund. Additional policing would not be an option and any re-signing decision could not be implemented until August next year. If agreed, a request for the funding would go to the Joint Transportation Board and then following public consultation back to the JTB and finally to the Member for Highways.
- 77/11-12**      **Report from Cllr Cook** –Cllr Cook reported that it had been recommended by the city council that the Concurrent Function Funding bids be met at least up to 98%. There had been some discussion as to what constituted a village hall and what was a Community Centre. The city council was about to commence its budget setting process but there would be little money available.
- 78/11-12**      **Disposal of Business from last Meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground-** Cllr Corfield agreed to retain the inspection folder for another month. All repairs to the play equipment had been completed and the wire had been removed from the top of the dividing fence between the recreation ground and Riverside Close. Cllr Corfield would remove the brackets from the top of the fence.      **Action; Cllr Corfield**  
It was reported that the ground inside the youth shelter was wearing away and the possibility of paving it was discussed. The shelter was peeling badly. It was agreed to ask the supplier for advice. **Action; Clerk**
  - b. **Affordable Housing** – Past and present parish councillors had visited the site at Brickfields the previous Friday. They were impressed with the standard of the building and the size and layout of the accommodation. Jenners, the builders, and Southern Housing Group had been thanked for arranging the visit and for their hospitality. (See also AOB a. below)
  - c. **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations-** Cllr Atkinson circulated a further paper and an indicative budget. There was discussion about the provision of commemorative mugs to children to mark the event. Several councillors thought that these should be presented to children up to the age of 18 living in Bridge parish rather than to all the children attending the school and youth groups in the village. It was agreed that a committee should be formed to carry forward the planning. Cllr Oakey volunteered to serve with Cllr Atkinson on the committee. Other Bridge residents would be co-opted.      **Action; Cllrs Atkinson & Oakey**
  - d. **Mill Centre** – Cllr Cook reported that negotiations for the long-term future of the Centre for Bridge youth groups were continuing. The earlier valuation of £500,000 for the site had been challenged and withdrawn. A more detailed valuation would now be carried out. A suggestion by the

Head of Community Development that the primary school could provide alternative space was awaiting a response from the Head teacher. A decision on the future of the Mill Centre was likely to be taken at the meeting of the council's Executive on 15<sup>th</sup>. December. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Cook for his continued efforts to secure the future of the Mill Centre for Bridge.

- e. Methodist Chapel – There had been no further news about the timing of the sale of the building or about possible national listing by English Heritage. (The chapel building has been locally listed.)
- f. Bus shelter seat – Cllr Wilmshurst had consulted Mervyn Gulvin, who would report back but there was a potential problem with the bar across the back of the shelter being too high for tip up seats.

79/11-12

#### **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

CPRE AGM Canterbury Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Cllr Hill

Cllr Hill reported that the CPRE had described the government proposals to change planning regulations as a 'Developers' Charter'. The CPRE had also complained about the floodlighting lighting of the Marlowe Theatre, which detracted from the sight of the floodlit cathedral at night.

Rural Area Member Panel 7<sup>th</sup>. November – Cllr Cook

Allotment Association 1<sup>st</sup> November – Cllr Ward

Cllr Ward reported that there were vacant plots at the allotments and no Bridge residents currently on the waiting list so the Association would consider offering plots to residents of neighbouring villages.

80/11-12

#### **Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposal was noted;

9 Conyngham Lane

Remove one dead sycamore

Coppice one large hazel behind dead sycamore

Remove large larch tree close to house

81/11-12.

#### **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Parish Council's Budget & precept requirement for 2012/13** – There were discussions regarding the draft budget presented by the Finance Committee. Cllr Atkinson questioned the reduction in the allocation of funding for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The budget was passed without alteration. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Amendment to Financial Regulations-** The proposed amendment to the Financial Regulations to increase the amount that could be spent by the Clerk in emergency repairs from £200 to £300 was passed unanimously. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Proposals for new traffic restrictions at Bekesbourne Lane-** After listening to representations for and against the measure by members of the public, the council voted against the proposal to introduce measures to prevent traffic from turning right into Bekesbourne Rd and to divert all traffic to the junction of Town Hill with Station Road. A motion proposed by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Oakey to agree to trial the proposed closure for a limited period, if possible, to assess the impact it would have on traffic safety in the area was passed.
- d. **Government Consultations on Neighbourhood Planning Regulations & National Infrastructure Levy** – It was agreed to form a committee of the Chairman, Cllr Hill and Cllrs Edmonds and Wilmshurst from the Planning Committee with the Clerk to formulate a response to these two Government Consultations. **Action; Cllrs Hill, Edmonds, Wilmshurst & Clerk**
- e. **Contract for Recreation Ground maintenance** – After studying the tenders it was agreed to award the contract for recreation grounds maintenance for 2012/13 to the present contractor, AJL Garden Services. **Action; Clerk**

- f. **Time capsule for affordable housing site** – It was agreed to ask pupils from Bridge Primary School to suggest items for a time capsule to be buried in the car park of the affordable housing site. **Action; Cllr Hill**
- g. **Use of pavilion for private parties** – The parish council agreed to allow BVST to hire out the sports pavilion for private parties. The Chairman of BVST was asked to submit an estimate of the cost of essential pavilion repairs to the parish council for consideration.
- h. **'Walkers are Welcome' scheme**- Cllr Edmonds agreed to investigate the scheme further and report back with recommendations to the January Parish Council meeting. **Action; Cllr Edmonds**
- i. **Request for new litter bin at pharmacy bus stop** – It was agreed that the possibility of installing a litter bin would be investigated. **Action; Clerk**
- j. **Report on the Wild Flower project** – Councillors had received a report from Cllr Hodges. Cllr Hill thanked all the volunteers who had helped with clearing and planting the area round the pavilion on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- k. **Report on School liaison** – The report from Cllr Hodges was noted.

**82/11-12** **Correspondence List** – Noted

**83/11-12** **Bank Transfers**  
The transfer of £1,000 between Parish Council accounts was noted

**84/11-12** **Receipts**  
The following receipts were noted;  
Compensation payment from Lloyds TSB - £250.00  
Bridge Football Club subscription for 2011/12 season - £250.00  
HMRC -Reimbursement of VAT £646.61

**85/11-12** The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
KALC*	£10.00	Lunch for AGM delegate £8.34 + £1.66 vat)
Canterbury City Council	£894.94	Fees for conduct of contested Parish Council election
AJL Garden Services	£129.30	Recreation ground maintenance October 2011
A. Walder	£17.03	Fuel, oil and cutter line for brush cutter
Christobel Seath - Clerk	£701.37	Clerk's salary and allowances for October 2011
Post Office Ltd.	£32.34	Employer PAYE & NI Contributions for October 2011
Christobel Seath	£18.90	Travel to Lenham, Finance Conference 42 miles @ 45p per mile
Kevin Funnell	£60.00	Interim audit of parish accounts 20.10.11
Terry Wilmshurst	£50.00	Reimbursement to D Pilcher Gardening Services for tree work Rec. Ground
D Possee	£50.00	Supplying plants. Compost & maintaining planters Summer 2011
Serco	£25.50	Bulbs for wild flower project (£21.25 + £4.25 vat)

\* Authorised between council meetings

**86/11-12** **Any other business**

- a. **Affordable Housing** – Southern Housing Group had informed Cllr Oakey that there were currently 56 applicants for the affordable housing at Bridge.

- b. **Gazette** Correspondent – It was noted that there had been no Village Notes from Bridge in the Kentish Gazette that week. It was suggested that the village correspondent might be invited to a future parish council meeting. **Action; Cllr Hill**
- c. **Annual Parish Meeting** – The date of the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting would be fixed at the December parish council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>.December 2011 at **7.00 pm** in Bridge Village Hall.