

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. November 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman), Atkinson, Burns-Stark, Edmonds, Hill (at item 7d) Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst, CCC Cllr Cook & KCC Cllr Northey
- 71/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Corfield.
- 72/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying or written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 73/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup>. October 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 74/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
- 75/13-14** **Report from CCC Cllr Simon Cook;** Cllr Cook said that the Rural Area Member Panel had suggested that Concurrent Function Funding should be capped at last year's award less 14%. The Executive would consider this proposal. Parishes were encouraged to claim the maximum next year, as it was likely that CFF would be severely capped again. The City Council's budget was out for consultation and Cllr Cook encouraged people to respond either directly to CCC or to him, particularly with any ideas that would save money. Cllr Cook had some food parcels from the Lady Mayoress' Christmas Appeal which he was able to distribute to needy households in Bridge. He asked people to get in touch if they were aware of people in need.
- 76/13-14** **Report from KCC Cllr Michael Northey;** Cllr Northey said that KCC were not in favour of the move of Barton Court Grammar School to Herne Bay. However the school was an academy and the County Council had no direct jurisdiction in this matter, although they would not fund the move. He had had an overwhelming number of comments from people against the move. Cllr Northey also pointed out that many good local schools were receiving grading that appeared less favourable following school inspections. This was because of the new guidelines for Ofsted grading and not necessarily because the performance of the school had deteriorated.
- 77/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a.** **Recreation Ground** – Cllr Ward reported that members of the Recreation Ground Committee had carried out an inspection of all the items mentioned in the Safety Inspection Report received in October. None were of high priority for action. It was agreed that replacement parts would be obtained for the bouncy chicken. **(Action; Clerk)**  
The adult exercise equipment would be inspected by Cllr Wilmshurst and he would report back. **(Action; Cllr Wilmshurst)**  
The seats in the youth shelter would be replaced in the spring.  
Cllr Hodges reported that Year 3 children from Bridge School had planted bulbs on the riverbank on 18<sup>th</sup> October. On 19<sup>th</sup> October a working party of volunteers had taken place on the recreation ground. Cllr Hodges thanked all those involved. Two recently planted holly trees had been taken from the area near the sand bag store.
- b.** **Neighbourhood Plan –** The Neighbourhood Plan Committee was drafting policies, which would be put to Bridge residents for approval. The first quarterly report had been submitted to the Community Development Foundation who were partly funding the Plan.

- c. **Mill Centre**-Representatives of the Mill Centre Management Committee and the Parish Council would meet Martin Bovingdon, CCC's Property Services Manager, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at his request.
- d. **Nailbourne Pollution** – Cllr Atkinson would attend the next meeting of the Group at the end of November. Work had started on re-lining the main sewer and it should soon be possible to get an idea of how the ground aquifers were filling. Cllr Atkinson would report again in December.
- d. **Village Sign** – Cllr Hill reported that the post was now ready but there were problems over delivery to the site because of its weight. **(Action; Cllr Hill)**

**78/13-14** **Reports from Representatives to outside bodies**  
 ACRK AGM, Brabourne Lees, 17<sup>th</sup> October – Cllr Hodges – Report circulated  
 Road Safety/Speedwatch Seminar, Ashford 16<sup>th</sup>.October – Cllr Ward – Report circulated  
 Electoral Review Meeting, Canterbury 21<sup>st</sup> October – Cllrs Corfield & Edwards – Minutes circulated

**79/13-14** **Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**  
 The following proposals were noted;  
The Close, Union Road, Bridge CT4 5NJ  
 Reduce lime tree in communal parking area by 50%  
11 Dering Rd, Bridge CT4 5NA  
 Remove apple tree from front garden, remove 3 limbs of a hazel at side of house & 2 limbs of a hazel overhanging garage. Remove 3 limbs of a hazel growing towards front window.  
St Peter's Church, Bridge  
 Remove sycamore, ashes, hollies & elders along boundary wall. Lift canopy of yew between church & newer churchyard. Remove yew growing round ash, remove ivy from tree stump & from holly.  
51 High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA  
 Remove hollow lime from pavement to front. Pollard willow in rear garden  
Wych Elm, 13 High Street, Bridge CT4 5JY  
 Remove lilac on front left corner of front garden which is damaging dividing wall.  
Bridge Place Country Club, Bridge CT4 5LF  
 Various including removal of one sycamore., pollard 3 willows, remove 4 elders and large conifer. (Authorised by Jon Lambourne)  
Great Pett Farm, Pett Hill, Bridge  
 Extensive work to 18 sycamore trees, removal of 11 and reduction of others to give more light and space. Remove one bird cherry, remove ivy from elm, remove 2 conifer trees to allow light into garden, remove lower branches of Norway maple to create space and light, reduce holly and reshape.  
12 Dering Road, Bridge  
 Remove laburnum tree located in the front garden

**80;13-14** **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Budget for 2014-15 and Precept requirement;** Acceptance of the precept and budget requirements for 2014-15 was proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Wilmshurst and passed unanimously. **(Action; Clerk)**
- b. **Ward boundaries** – Cllr Cook explained that communities should inform the Boundaries Commission of their preferences for new ward boundaries, following the decision to reduce the number of city councillors to 38. It was up to parishes to indicate which communities had an affinity. Councillors agreed unanimously that they did not want Bridge to be included in any South Canterbury Ward. Mark Esdale had agreed to draw up a proposal, which would be put to councillors for their comment before the deadline for submissions in early December. **(Action; Clerk)**

- c. **Safety inspection of trees on recreation ground & shrub identification;** It was agreed to ask Tony Hart to carry out a safety inspection of the trees on the recreation ground. **(Action; Clerk)**
- d. **Use of Kentish Stour Countryside Project Volunteers;** Cllr Hodges would meet a representative of KSCPV on 4<sup>th</sup> December to discuss clearing work on the area near the school gate on the recreation ground. Anyone who had suggestions for other work should let Cllr Hodges know. It was agreed to pay the KSCP £220 for the day's work. **(Action; Cllr Hodges)**
- e. **Kent Police;** The Clerk had replied to Inspector Etheridge conveying the parish council's disappointment at his refusal to send a police officer to talk them about dog attacks. There had been no further response and it was decided to complain to the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr Atkinson would attend the Police Conference at Maidstone on 6<sup>th</sup> December if possible and try to raise the matter there. **(Action; Cllr Atkinson & Clerk)**
- f. **Keep Fit Class in the Pavilion-** It was reported that a keep fit class was meeting regularly in the pavilion and that punch bags had been installed on the walls without reference to the parish council. It was agreed to ask the Chairman of BVST to attend the next meeting of the parish council to discuss problems with the BVST and the running of the pavilion. **(Action; Cllr Wilmshurst.)**
- g. **Higham Lane Bus shelter;** Cllr Edmonds reported that the roof of the bus shelter at Higham Lane was leaking. The wooden back of the shelter would also need replacing in the spring. **(Action; Clerk)**
- h. **Bridge Athletic FC fees;** It was agreed exceptionally to allow Bridge Athletic Football Club to pay their fees for hire of the pitch in two instalments of £125, one at the end of November, the second at the end of February. The Clerk would also send the club duplicates of the contract, which had been mislaid. **(Action; Clerk)**
- i. **Trees on corner of Conyngham Lane and Bridge High Street;** Kent Highway Services had told the parish council that the small trees that had been planted by a resident at the corner of Conyngham Lane and the High Street should be removed. They had not yet made a decision on whether a planter could be put on the grass verge. Cllr Ward told the Council that the manhole cover on which it was intended to install the planter was owned by the Water authorities. It was agreed to delay purchase of a planter until various issues had been resolved.
- j. **Community Assets;** It had been discovered that the City Council had produced a policy on Community Assets which required a form to be completed in respect of each proposed asset. It had been confirmed that although the parish council had submitted a list of Assets of Community Value in June 2012, none had been registered by the City Council. It was therefore agreed that Councillors would complete forms in respect of each of the assets. It was also agreed that the Methodist Chapel be removed from the list since it was now in private ownership and in the process of being converted into a dwelling. Councillors agreed to complete the forms and send them to the Clerk for onward transmission to the City Council.

**81/13-14 Correspondence – Noted**

**82/13-14. Sealing of Documents**

The Agreement between Dayspring Football Club and Bridge Parish Council was signed

**83/13-14 The following receipts were noted;**

HMRC VAT reimbursement - £476.84

Dayspring FC – fees for season £300.00

**84/13–14** The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Clerk's salary & allowance for October 2013
Post Office Ltd	£126.20	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for October 2013
AJL Garden Services	£233.60	Recreation ground maintenance September £116.80 & October £116.80
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£44.13	Petty Cash
Kevin Funnell	£40.00	Interim Independent Internal Audit fees
Cllr Sue Hodges	£18.45	Travel expenses Bridge/Tyler Hill 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct =14 miles. Bridge/ Brabourne Lees 17 <sup>th</sup> October = 27 miles = 41 miles @ 0.45p per mile
Cllr Brigitte Ward	£13.50	Travel expenses Bridge /Ashford 16 <sup>th</sup> . October 30 miles @ 0.45p per mile
Cllr John Hill	£20.00	Wreath for Parish Council Remembrance Day Service

**85/13-14 Any Other Business**

- a. **Resignation;** Cllr Burns- Stark said he was resigning from the Parish Council with immediate effect.
- b. **Remembrance Day ;** Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Hodges for laying a wreath at the war memorial the previous Sunday.
- c. **Bench by the old bakery ;** Cllr Hill thanked Mervyn Gulvin for installing a bench in the High Street by the old bakery
- d. **Christmas trees;** Mark Esdale reminded residents that the Christmas trees would be put up in the High Street on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. All volunteers should meet at the Village Hall at 9.30am.
- e. **Snow Clearance;** Cllr Moon would hold a meeting of volunteer snow clearers on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm in the Hunter Room
- f. **Pavilion Garage;** It was suggested that BVST should be asked to clear out the pavilion garage so that it could be used to store gardening tools and snow clearing equipment.  
**(Action; Cllr Wilmshurst)**
- g. **Bridge Down Steps;** Cllr Hodges reported that two steps had been repaired and that KHS had said that the steps would be replaced entirely 'in the near future'.
- h. **Higham Lane;** Kent Highway Services had advised that they would not resurface Higham Lane but would fill in the potholes as they appeared.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. December 2013 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.