

Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council
Thursday 12 November 2015 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30p.m.

78/15-16

Two villagers addressed the meeting on matters relating to item 87/15-16 (a) and another villager addressed matters relating to 87/15-16 (g)

79/15-16

No apologies for absence were received.

80/15-16

Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. There were none.

81/15-16

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8 October 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

82/15-16

Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 9 of the agenda.

The Clerk informed the meeting that:

- A fire extinguisher is still needed in the Pavilion. (ACTION:BVST)
- Bridge Down weed spraying has yet to take place. (ACTION: Clerk)
- New fencing had been erected on the recreation ground in conjunction with a local farmer.
- The renovation of the ladies toilet in the pavilion is now almost completed.
- The Health Centre hedge will be trimmed on 13 November.
- The willow trees on Patricbourne Rd will be pruned (as previously decided) when the contractor has recovered from recent illness
- The Conyngham Lane parking meeting has yet to take place. (ACTION: Clerk and Chair)
- Thorough cleaning of the drains opposite the butcher's shop took place on 26 October.
- There appears to be no reason to go out to tender for the management of the Mill Centre (according to the council's own financial regulations).
- The bus stop has now been moved on the pavement opposite no 5 High St
- The skateboarding event will need to set a new date (ACTION: Cllrs Sole and Brooks)
- A new lease for the BVST needs to be drawn up. (ACTION: Clerk)
- The Highways consultation response will be collated and despatched before 29 November. (ACTION: Clerk)

There were no other matters arising.

83/15-16

Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)

Cllr Cook clarified a comment made at the previous parish council meeting on 8 October 2015. He stated that a Neighbourhood Plan does not have to wait until a local district plan is adopted, though it is common practice. He said he was supportive of a Canterbury-wide policy on the allocation of some affordable housing to local residents, though a balance must be struck between local needs and the needs of those seeking housing in the wider district and beyond. Canterbury City Council is currently seeking to ensure that the right protection is in place within the various conservation areas in the district. A thorough review of the conservation areas will be undertaken over

the next 2-3 years starting with the urban areas. He encouraged Bridge residents to be fully involved in the consultation which will form part of this review. The next meeting of the Rural Area Advisory Committee to discuss planning issues for the Parish Council and the City Council will take place on 30 November at the Guildhall in Canterbury. He concluded by noting that the water table appears to be about 4 metres lower than the equivalent time last year. If this turns out to be normal year (regarding rainfall), there is reason to hope that there will be no flooding this winter.

84/15-16

Report from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey.

Cllr Northey updated the meeting on the latest work being carried out by Kent Highways to alleviate the ponding of water after heavy rainfall opposite numbers 66-70 High St. He also urged villagers to consider the role of foster parents. There is a great shortage at present in Kent and those interested should attend a meeting to be held at the Thanington Resource Centre on Tuesday 1 December at 7.00 p.m. See the Kent County Council website for further information.

85/15-16

Disposal of business from the last meeting

a. Recreation Ground

It was decided to delay final decision making on the new signage until the next meeting as the school logo competition closes on 1 December 2015. "No Riding " will be removed from the final version of any signs to be displayed. More estimates are required for the replacement of uneven paving. Tree suckers will be pruned within the next week and work on the children's play area will start shortly. The meeting agreed to pay 50% of the contractors invoice in advance of the works being completed as the materials are relatively expensive.

Cllr Hodges agreed to forward a list of incomplete jobs previously distributed in September 2015. She also thanked the volunteers who came to the Working Party 17th October and the children from Bridge and Patixbourne Primary School who planted the Narcissi bulbs along the banks of the Nailbourne on 19th October. The Clerk will investigate cost of repairs to those items in the playground area which are now considered to be a moderate risk.

(ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Hodges)

b. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk was asked to establish the links between the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Planning group and to report back to the next meeting. The council were informed that the Neighbourhood Plan in its current form cannot be submitted to the Parish Council as it is in "mid-edit". (ACTION: Clerk)

86/15-16

Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

A Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) meeting on 20 October was attended by Cllr Hodges, though no minutes are yet available, Cllr Hodges reported on the main items discussed and urged Councillors to attend the forthcoming KALC AGM on 21 November if possible.

Mill Centre management committee. Minutes of a meeting held on 14 October had been circulated prior to the meeting.

87/15-16

Matters for discussion and action.

a. To review responses received to the Cantley development proposals, to plan for further consultation and next steps. (Cllr Atkinson)

The Clerk pointed out that there had been 66 emails from 27 individuals and a further 8 formal letters from a total of 8 individuals. These are being collated for the benefit of both the Parish Council and Cantley Estates Ltd.

Members were reminded by Cllrs Sole and Corfield that the Parish Council's role was to consult with the village on the whole suite of the Cantley proposals and not to focus just on the proposed housing development on Conyngham Lane. The council agreed unanimously to set up a working group consisting of Cllrs Corfield, Fawke, A Atkinson and R Atkinson to consider how to canvass opinion of the whole of the Parish in respect of the Cantley Proposals as currently phrased. The group will report back to the full council at its next meeting. The last scheduled public consultation event in the current series is to be held on 28 November in the village hall from 9.30-11.00 a.m.

b. To note the proposed housing development on the Brickfield Site and the proposed relocation of the Post Office. (Clerk)

Cllr Atkinson reported on Canterbury City Council's Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 11 November. He said he was unable to make the amendments he had been seeking to the proposals. Cllr Atkinson's ideas had been outlined in written comments he had forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Cook spoke about the importance of the ownership of the land by Canterbury City Council. Canterbury would therefore control the scope and scale of the development. It would be of an appropriate size for a village such as Bridge and would take into account comments made by villagers once the formal 8 week consultation opens on November 25 2015. Cllr Cook did not know as yet whether Housing Association properties on the site would be put up for sale as per proposed government legislation. Consultation responses will be collated and forwarded to Inspector Moore, who is effectively in charge of the Canterbury Local Development Plan as it currently stands. Bridge Parish Council has yet to decide how it intends to respond to the consultation.

Letters are to be sent to the owners of the Chemist shop and to the Post Office asking for the reasoning behind the impending closure of the Post Office, since no official communication has been received by the Parish Council. (ACTION: Clerk)

c. To review communication with the BVST and to decide on next steps. (Clerk)

Council agreed to forward a previously circulated draft letter to the BVST. A copy is to be forwarded to Cllr Corfield. (ACTION: Clerk)

d. To discuss the future status and management of the Mill Centre. (Cllr Atkinson)

Cllr Atkinson reported on a meeting he and the Clerk had held on 11 November with members of the property department at Canterbury City Council. The broad outlines of the lease to be granted to the Parish Council had been discussed. A further meeting, to be held on 10 December at the Parish Office at 10.00 am., will explore these ideas in more detail. The meeting will include a representative from the Mill Centre Management Committee.

e. To decide on the appointment of a new footpath warden. (Clerk)

This voluntary post will be advertised in the usual places (noticeboards/website/local publications) with applications to be submitted to the Clerk. (ACTION: Clerk)

f. To consider the response from Stagecoach and to decide on next steps. (Cllr Fawke)

The Clerk will draft a response to Stagecoach in liaison with Cllr Fawke in order to understand more why bus fares from Bridge appear to be so high in comparison with other locations. (ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Fawke)

g. To consider the report from KCC and decide on next steps for the Green Court area. (Cllr Atkinson)

After consideration of the comments made by a villager at the start of the meeting and of the recent report submitted by Kent Highways, councillors asked the Clerk to draft a consultation document on possible options for improvement to the area for completion by residents of all of the Western Avenue development. Once completed the result of the consultation will need to return to the Parish Council for decision making. (ACTION: Clerk)

h. Where to locate a donated heritage tree? Should we run a competition for the schoolchildren to decide which species to plant? Who will look after the tree as it grows and develops? (Cllr Fawke)

The location of the new tree, to be planted on 30 November 2015, will be chosen following a site visit to be arranged by Cllr Fawke.

i. Should we promote and use the KALC awards scheme? (Clerk)

The suggested KALC scheme, as previously circulated to councillors was adopted.

j. Budget 2016-2017 and half yearly review of Parish income and expenditure. (Cllr Atkinson)

A draft budget will be circulated in the week commencing 16 November by Cllr Atkinson. All councillors are asked to consider the

document carefully and to feedback suggested changes to Cllr Atkinson by a date he will set which will enable the Parish Council to adopt the 2016-2017 Budget at the next formal meeting of the Parish Council. (ACTION: Cllr Atkinson)

k. Data Protection Act-data controller registration (Clerk)

Councillors agreed to register the Council as a data controller (for an annual fee of £35) and to adapt the policy already published by Womenswold parish council. (ACTION: Clerk)

l. Should we relocate the rubbish bin on Bridgeford Way? (Cllr Moon)

It was agreed to seek quotes for the fixing of the relevant bin to the pavement where it is currently located. (ACTION: Clerk)

88/15-16 The Correspondence list was noted.

89/15-16 The following items for payment were authorised:

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Philip Wicker– Clerk	£676.67	Salary and office allowance October 2015
Canterbury City Council	£65.00	Printing of Autumn newsletter
Tony Walder	£5.01	Fuel for footpath clearing machine
Elite Industrial Supplies	£36.26	6 Hi Vis vests for Speedwatch
The Play Inspection Co	£75.00	October inspection visit and report
Cllr S Hodges	£6.95	Wildflower project expenses
Cllr S Hodges	£6.30	Travel expenses to Canterbury
Cllr R Atkinson	£50.95	Bridge in Bloom expenses
Unipar Services	£2130.60	Speedwatch equipment

91/15-16 Points of information

1. High St Christmas trees will be put up on Saturday December 5 starting at 9.30 am in the village hall. Volunteers are very welcome.
2. Parish council standing orders tell us an annual review of delegation arrangements to committees and sub committees should take place and that the Council should establish a complaints procedure.
3. The PCSO report will be circulated to all Councillors (ACTION: Clerk)
4. Cllr Fawke has been unable to attend meeting of the South Canterbury Association due to other commitments.

The meeting concluded at 9.38 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 10 December 2015 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.