

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th October 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

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

- 51/08-9. Apologies for absence**; There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Corfield & Wilmshurst,
- 52/08-9. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items**. Cllr Beinder ; Item 6a as property owner. Cllr Gulvin; Item 7d as Treasurer of Bridge Village Hall, Cllr Esdale; Item 7d as Treasurer of the Mill Centre
- 53/08-9.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th. September 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

54/08-9 Disposal of business from the last meeting

- a. **Recreation ground** – Cllr Beinder holds the Recreation Ground Inspection Folder. She raised several issues;
- There was graffiti on the Patrixbourne noticeboard ; **Action ; Cllr Esdale**
It was agreed to ask the Environment Agency to remove the roller from the river bed
Action ; Clerk
- The roundabout needed to be included on the equipment check list-
Action; Cllr Gulvin
- A limb of one of the evergreen trees by the tennis court needed to be trimmed back.
Clerk to approach the tennis club. **Action; Clerk**
- There were holes at the base of the fence by the youth shelter. Cllr Beesty would inspect it. **Action; Cllr Beesty**
- There was a problem with removing the bolts from the small slide platform to install a new platform. Cllr Esdale would try to resolve this. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- It was agreed that councillors would inspect the area behind the pavilion, which was untidy and remedial action would be discussed at the next parish council meeting.
A letter of complaint had been received about dog mess on the recreation ground.
This was a continuing problem as irresponsible owners ignored notices banning dogs and did not clear up after them.
Cracks were appearing in the play area safety surface. This was a seasonal phenomenon. The area is due to be re-surfaced in 2010.
- b. **Affordable Housing** – Southern Housing Group were now hoping to apply for planning permission for the development at the end of October. SHG had carried out wild life surveys. Transport and drainage surveys were being undertaken to comply with CCC's requirements.
- c. **Water meadow bridges** – Action was required to replace the netting on the water meadow bridges. Also nettles needed to be cut back. It was agreed to have a working party on 18th October at 9.30am to undertake this. **Action; councillors**
- d. **September Newsletter**- Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllrs Corfield and Esdale for compiling and arranging the distribution of the September Newsletter.
- e. **Bus shelter** – Cllr Gulvin had drawn up designs for the shelter and the owner of the wall had agreed that the shelter could be erected against it. Cllr Gulvin would approach local firms and national suppliers for quotations. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- f. **Vision splay in Conyngham Lane** – It was agreed to write to the owner of the wall adjacent to the driveway to ask for the wooden panels to be removed to allow a better view for pedestrians crossing the drive and drivers leaving the site. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **New trees for the Recreation Ground** – Bridge Women's Institute had indicated they would donate a tree to the recreation ground as part of the W I 90 year celebrations. Cllr Lewis was pursuing the possibility of the gift of an ash tree from Mrs Ann Shirley, also for the recreation ground. **Action; Cllr Lewis**

55/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Rural Area Members' Panel Meeting 29.9.08 – written report by Cllr Esdale
Parish Forum Meeting – Cllr Edmonds (Minutes circulated)

56/08-9 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

17 High St., Bridge

Reduce crown of sycamore in front garden by approx 1/3rd and shape crown, reduce outer canopy of tree and remove dead wood.

Bridge Telephone Exchange High St, Bridge

Lift canopies of 3 silver birch and reduce overhanging from 3 cherry trees to rear of building

Remove dead rowan and two dying rowans from the lawned area

14b Riverside Close, Bridge

Remove a dying cherry located in front garden and replace

57/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Bridge's Carbon Footprint** - Mrs Emily Shirley addressed the council to urge that the Parish Council and residents take action to reduce Bridge's carbon footprint. It was agreed to ask Mrs Tracey Todhunter of Ashton Hayes, the village that is trying to become the UK's first carbon neutral village, to speak on this subject at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May 2009. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **40% increase in Canterbury's house building quota** – It was agreed to lodge an objection to the proposal by the Government of South East of England to increase the house building quota agreed in the draft plan for the Canterbury District by 40%. It was unclear how this figure had been reached and why the inspectors report had apparently been ignored. **Action; Cllr Hill & Clerk**
- c. **System of internal audit**- The council reviewed and amended its Risk Assessment and approved the Statement on Internal Control. **Action; Clerk.**
- d. **Parish Council Budget for 2009-10** The Parish Council budget for 2009-10 was agreed and the Precept and Concurrent Funding Function bids were set. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- e. **Bridge Football Club's Lease** Following complaints about the conduct of Bridge Football Club, it was agreed that they would be asked to pay a bond of £100 in addition to their annual rental this season. On each occasion that the club failed to comply with the terms of its lease, for example, by leaving litter after matches, the club would be fined £10, deducted from the bond. Should the bond be used up it is unlikely the team would be allowed to rent the pitch in future. The clerk would inform the club of this decision. BVST would deal with reports of damage to an internal door in the pavilion. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Christmas trees for the High Street** – The council considered the environmental implications of erecting Christmas trees in the High Street and decided that the damage to the environment would not be significant. Cllr Esdale would explain this to householders in his letter inviting them to display trees. Cllr Gulvin donated two long ladders to the parish council and it was agreed to hire two additional ladders for the erection of the trees at an approximate cost of £45. It was agreed to buy a large tree for the church grounds. Cllr Beesty would arrange additional high visibility jackets. The trees would be put up on Saturday morning 6th December and taken down on Saturday 3rd January. All volunteers to help would be welcome. **Action; Cllrs Esdale & Beesty**
- g. **'Wastenot' Clothing Bank** It was agreed not to take up the offer of a clothing bank from 'Wastenot'. The council had previously had to have clothing and shoe banks removed due to vandalism and dumping of bags of clothes etc. in the recycling area **Action; Clerk**
- h. **CPRE Canterbury Branch AGM 17th.November** Cllr Hill offered to attend this meeting. **Action ; Cllr Hill**

58/08-9 Correspondence - Noted

59/08-09 Bank transfers:

The council noted the transfer of £1,000 between Parish Council accounts

60/08-9.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT*	£65.42	Telephone account 10/6 to 4/9 £55.67 + £9.75 vat
Kent Law Clinic	£250.00	Donation in thanks for their assistance to the parish council
Christobel N Seath	£621.68	Clerk's salary and office allowance for September 2008
BVHMC	£22.00	Hire of hall for Parish Council Sept – Dec 08 @ £5.50 per session

* Paid by direct debit

61/08-9. Any other business:

a. Withdrawal of Bridge's PCSO – It was agreed to write to Canterbury Police deploring the decision to withdraw Bridge's PCSO without warning or consultation. It was felt that Sue Radcliffe had been an effective point of contact and had supported the parish council. The police had indicated earlier that more PCSOs would be appointed but this seems not now to be the case.

Action; Clerk

b. Mill Centre Lease – Bridge's proposal to buy the Mill Centre for a nominal amount had not yet been put to CCC's Executive.

c. Bench for Union Road – There had been a request for a bench for Union Rd. This had been considered in the past but unfortunately there was no suitable site available for one.

d. Trees in a Conservation Area – It was explained that Tree Preservation Orders were not necessary for individual trees in a conservation area although it was possible to have TPOs served on individual trees. This could also be done for trees in parts of the village that lay outside the Conservation Area. Any member of the public could ask for TPOs to be served, not just the owner.

e. Sign at entry to Bridge. – It was reported that the sign at the chicane to the north of the village had been knocked into the hedge. It was agreed to report this to Kent Highways.

Action; Clerk

f. Common Land Registration – Parish Councils had been asked to register any previously unregistered common land in their parishes. It was agreed that there was no land in this category in Bridge.

g. The Dogs' Trust – The Canterbury Branch of this organisation had offered to give talks to any interested groups in Bridge.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 13th. November 2008 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.