

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. October 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges, (Chairman), Atkinson, Burns-Stark, Corfield, Edmonds, Hill Moon, Ward and CCC Cllr Cook
- 56/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Wilmshurst.
- 57/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying or written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 58/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup>. September 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 59/13-14** **Matters arising;** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
- 60/13-14** **Nackington Solar Farm** – Arthur Bell of Green Energy gave a presentation of the plans for a solar panel installation in Nackington around the edges of the Kent Downs AONB. The project was being promoted by a local farmer and Carillion plc and would generate 39 megawatts of electricity. He subsequently answered questions from parish councillors. The application would be submitted to Canterbury City Council and Bridge Planning Committee would have an opportunity to comment on it.
- 61/13-14** **Report from CCC Cllr Simon Cook;** Cllr Cook said that following the decision to reduce the number of City Councillors, consultation was under way regarding the new constituency boundaries. This would continue until the end of November and he urged residents to put their views to the City Council.
- 62/13-14** **Report from KCC Cllr Michael Northey;** Cllr Northey reported that the Children's Centre at Littlebourne would continue to provide services although it had not yet been decided what shape those services would take. He also reported that Kent schools had had their best GCSE results ever with 65% of children attaining Grades A to C passes, above the national average. Over 90% of children entering secondary school this year would get a place at a school of their choice.
- 63/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground** – It was agreed that a working party comprising the Recreation Ground Committee would examine the recommendations made in the recent play ground inspection report and take steps to make good any deficiencies to the play equipment. **Action; Cllr Ward**  
Cllr Burns- Stark held the inspection folder.
  - b. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Prof Connor reported that Planning Aid would be conducting a training session on 'Objectives' for members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee the following day. He also reported that the South Canterbury Residents Association had now become incorporated into a much larger body comprising residents associations from other areas of Canterbury and was now called 'The Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations.' It was agreed that Prof Connor and Cllr Hill should represent Bridge on this new body.
  - c. **Mill Centre**-. There had been no response from Martin Bovingdon regarding the City Council's long-promised valuation of the Mill Centre site. A meeting of current Centre users had taken place to enable them to respond to the redevelopment plans. Members of the public would have an opportunity to comment on the proposals at a later date.

- d. **Nailbourne Pollution** – Cllr Atkinson reported that a public meeting had taken place in the village hall the previous month. Work was about to commence to seal the sewers in several areas in the village. It was hoped to give adequate advance notice of the work, which would inevitably cause some disruption. There would be an event on the following Saturday (12<sup>th</sup>. October) in the village hall at which fat funnels would be distributed. They would also be distributed at the Farmers' Markets. It was hoped that Southern Water would donate a substantial sum of money for the youth groups as a result of their involvement in distributing fat funnels. Another meeting was scheduled with Southern Water in early November.
- e. **Village Sign** – Cllr Hill reported that the new post for the village sign was being prepared and would be ready in approx. 6 weeks. It was noted that the Bridge sign at the chicane had been replaced following the repair of the gate.

**64/13-14**      **Reports from Representatives to outside bodies**  
 Canterbury Branch of KALC – 9<sup>th</sup> October Cllr Hodges – Report circulated

**65/13-14**      **Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**  
 The following proposals were noted;  
5 Bridgeford Way, Bridge  
 Reduce weeping willow on stream bank to previous pruning points & reshape  
The Cottage, Bridge Hill, Bridge  
 Lift spread by 5m & cut back crown by 3m of hornbeam & oak on bank overhanging front garden

**66;13-14**      **Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Wreath for War memorial;** Councillors approved a proposal from Cllr Hill that the Parish Council should lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony in November. It would be paid for under the powers conferred by s.137 of the Local Govt Act of 1972 (as amended.) **Action; Cllr Hill**
- b. **List of Councillors' Responsibilities;** The list was reviewed and amended. A revised list would be circulated. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Completion of Parish Audit for 2012-13;** Councillors noted that the Parish Accounts had been approved by the external auditor.
- d. **Parking in Bridge;** There was a continuing problem with illegal and inconsiderate parking in Bridge. This was particularly evident around the school and Bridgeway Stores. Requests to our PCSO for more enforcement visits had had no effect. It was therefore agreed to ask the City Council to send out Parking Enforcement teams to Bridge, particularly at school times, to enforce the existing parking prohibitions. **Action; Clerk**
- e. **Storage of Gardening Tools;** Councillors agreed to purchase a lockable container for the garden tools, which were currently stored in the sand bag store. A decision would be taken as to the best place for the container after Councillors had had an opportunity to see whether the pavilion garage was a suitable site.
- f. **Distribution List for Parish Newsletter;** The revised distribution list for the Parish Council Newsletter drawn up by Cllr Corfield was agreed.
- g. **Dog mess;** There had been more complaints about dog mess in Bridge and the problem seemed to be increasing. Dog owners were reminded that it was an offence to let their animals foul the pavements and again asked to behave responsibly and clear up after their dogs. There were several bins in the village that could be used for bagged dog mess.
- h. **Planter for the corner of Conyngham Lane & High Street;** It was agreed to buy a planter for the corner of Conyngham Lane and the High Street. It would be paid for under the powers conferred by s.137 of the Local Govt Act of 1972 (as amended.) In addition there was a possibility that Bridge would be given one of the planters previously used for the Westgate Towers diversion should it be decided that they would no longer be needed for traffic calming. **Action; Cllr Ward**

- i. **Christmas trees:** Councillors agreed that Christmas trees should again be put up in the High Street. Mr Esdale proposed that the trees should go up on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November and be taken down on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. January. It was hoped that many volunteers would be available to help on both these days.

**67/13-14 Correspondence – Noted**

**68/13-14 Bank transfers**

The Council noted the transfer of £3,000 between Parish Council accounts

**69/13–14** The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*BT	£74.42	Telephone account June/Sept £61.90 + £12.37 vat
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Clerk's salary & allowance for September 2013
Post Office Ltd	£126.30	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for September 2013
BVHMC	£17.50	Hire of hall by LSNRMC on 12 <sup>th</sup> . October 2013
PKF Littlejohn	£240.00	External Audit fees for 2012/13 £200.00 + £40.00 vat
Mickle Print	£101.00	Printing 800 copies of the PC Newsletter
Christobel Seath - Clerk	£43.19	Purchase of 2 ink refills for printer £35.99 + £7.20 vat
The Play Inspection Company	£102.00	Annual inspection of play equipment £85.00 + £17.00 vat = £102.00
Cllr Sue Hodges	£19.80	Travel expenses Chairmen's Conference, Bridge Down – Lenham return 44 miles at 45p per mile

\* Paid by Direct Debit

**70/13-14 Any Other Business**

- a. **Governance Working Group** – 9<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Corfield had attended this meeting on behalf of Bridge PC as an observer. The purpose of the meeting had been to discuss the basis of the decision to reduce the number of City Councillors to 38. A follow-up meeting would take place in November and there would be a public meeting in February.
- b. **Art In Bridge** – Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Corfield for a very successful Art in Bridge exhibition the previous weekend.
- c. **Missing bins** – Cllr Edmonds reported that two litter bins had gone missing; one at the corner of Riverside Close and Bifrons Path and the other half way up the lay by at the recycling point. The Clerk would ask for replacements. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Christmas drinks** ; It was agreed to postpone the Annual Christmas Drinks from after the December Parish Council meeting to after the January meeting. The January Planning Committee would therefore start at 6.45pm followed by the Parish Council at 7.00pm
- e. **Recreation Ground Working Party;** Cllr Hodges reminded volunteers that the Autumn working party would take place on the recreation ground on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30pm. All volunteers were very welcome and should bring gardening tools. Children from Bridge Primary School would be planting bulbs along the banks of the Nailbourne on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 9.12 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. November 2013 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.