

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th.October 2014 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Hodges (Chairman), Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hill, Moon, Ward, Wilmshurst, Wortham, CCC Cllr Cook and KCC Cllr Northey.
- 55/14-15** **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence.
- 56/14-15** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 57/14-15** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th.September 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 58/14-15** **Matters arising;** It was confirmed that the old sandbag store had been installed by Canterbury City Council
- 59/14-15** **Talk by Ryan Truelove, Area Team Leader, Community First Responders;**
- 60/14-15** **Report by CCC Cllr Simon Cook ;** The City Council was undertaking its budget process and in view of the elections next May it was unlikely that there would be any significant decisions made. One litterbin in the recycling lay by had been removed and a review of litterbins in the lay by was being undertaken before it was replaced. The paper recycling bin would be removed shortly as the Aylesford company were ceasing collections. The bottle banks were likely to be removed after consultation with the parish council because of an 80% reduction in usage throughout the district since the new doorstep glass collection system started.
- 61/14-15** **Report by KCC Cllr Northey;** KCC were faced with budget cuts of £65million this year making very difficult choices in service cuts inevitable. The new lighting policy would result in £1million in energy saving costs. The grass would be cut on the Dover Road footpath to Canterbury, which had become overgrown. The burnt out van had been removed from the A2 slip road junction and the barriers would be replaced. There was no possibility of extending the 40mph limit from Higham Lane to the junction of Bridge Hill and the valley road at the moment as it was not supported by Kent Highways.
- 62/14-15** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a **Recreation Ground** – The fence between the recreation ground and the health centre needed repairing. This was the responsibility of the surgery. The Play Inspection report had been considered in detail and it had been decided that at present none of the items listed were in need of action. But as usual they would be monitored closely. Cllr Ward was willing to continue to hold the inspection folder. Cllr Hodges reported that children from the school had planted wild flower plug plants and would plant bulbs the following week. The contractor had mowed an area of primroses in error. An attempt would be made to transplant some on 18th October at the working party. There was the possibility of a butterfly survey next year.
The youth shelter seat had been replaced and Cllr Hodges thanked Cllrs Moon and Wilmshurst for this. The old seat would be disposed of for scrap. The sandbag store would be emptied of loose sand in due course
Action; Cllr Moon
- b. **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Neighbourhood Plan Committee had met twice in October and would meet again on 17th. October. A meeting had also taken

place with representatives of Cantley Ltd, the major local landowner .A draft Plan was almost ready for distribution round the village for residents to comment on. It would be sent to Planning Aid for their assessment. There would be a consultation event in the village hall on 1st November. Parish Councillors were asked to volunteer to help with the distribution of the Plan.

- c. **Nailbourne** – Footings for the floodgates were being installed at the ford in Brewery Lane and road patching was being undertaken in Brewery Lane and Bridgeford Way. It was planned to install a bund and floodgates across the back of Bridge Place Country Club. The result of a bid for £100,000 to allow modelling at the top of the Nailbourne was awaited as no engineering work could be undertaken without this. October was predicted to be wet but flooding was not anticipated this year. Measures to reduce sewage problems by Southern Water had been agreed by the Environment Agency and the parish council would be informed. It was hoped that Bridge would have a dependable sewage system within the next 3-5 years.
- d. **First Aid Courses** – It was agreed to pursue the option of recruiting Community First Responders for Bridge initially and then review the situation concerning possible first aid courses for others and the purchase of a defibrillator. The Finance Committee would look at options for the budget later in the month.
- e. **Patixbourne churchyard extension grant** – Cllr Hill reported that the Parochial Church Council had decided not to accept the offer of land to extend the graveyard from Cantley Ltd because of an infestation of Japanese knot weed on the land. They would therefore return the £450 donation made to them by the Parish Council as a contribution towards legal costs.

63/14-15

Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Kent Downs AONB Countryside Day – 3rd October – Cllr Hodges
(Report circulated)

64/14-15

Notice of Proposed Tree Work in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted:

42 High Street, Bridge

Severely cut back or possibly remove plum tree

Lynton House, 83 High Street, Bridge

Fell four lime trees and one holly tree on edge of property

65/14-15

Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Community First responder for Bridge-** Following a talk and demonstration by Ryan Truelove and questions from councillors, it was agreed to encourage residents to volunteer as Community First Responders for Bridge. There was a need for these volunteers because ambulance response times are longer in rural areas. It was hoped to recruit up to 6 volunteers who would undertake to commit to 4-6 hours per week on duty to respond to 999 calls and offer first aid until the arrival of the ambulance service. Volunteers would be selected for training by the Ambulance Service. The Parish Council would make publicity material available in Bridge and consider supporting volunteers by assisting with their equipment costs
- b. **Defibrillator-** In view of the possibility of recruiting Community First Responders whose equipment would include defibrillators, it was decided not to buy a defibrillator via the KALC bulk purchase in January.
- c. **Sports pavilion renovations-** Cllr Wilmshurst reported that some work had been started on improving the pavilion. He had replaced 90% of the guttering and had obtained quotations for new floor covering and new showers. One wire-covered window needed replacement and he would obtain a quotation for that. It was agreed that councillors would look at what work was required and make decisions before the start of the recreation ground working party on 18th October. **Action; Cllr Wilmshurst**
- d. **Bridge Emergency Plan** – Cllr Wortham introduced the new Emergency Plan for Bridge, which had been based on the Kent Resilience Plan. Its aim

was to provide local support until the emergency services were available. It was a 'living document' subject to continuous revision. Residents who needed support should be aware it was possible to ask for inclusion on the register. Confidential information would be password protected and securely retained by the Committee members and Parish Clerk. Cllr Hodges thanked the Committee for their hard work in preparing an excellent Plan.

- e. **Sand bag storage-** It was agreed to approach the Area Manager of Shepherd Neame to ask for permission to site sandbags storage boxes in the car park of the Plough and Harrow - **Action; Cllr Hodges**
- f. **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 6th December and be taken down on Saturday 3rd. January. It was hoped that many volunteers would be available to help on both these days.
- g. **Emergency Plan expenditure-** It was agreed that 5 USB sticks would be purchased for the storage of password protected confidential material by the Emergency Plan Committee and Parish Clerk **Action; Cllr Wortham**
- h. **Weeding of Planning Files-** It was agreed that planning documents over five years old would be weeded from parish council files and removed by a commercial paper removal company to free filing cabinet space. **Action ; Clerk**
- i. **Snow clearance-** Mark Esdale had taken charge of snow clearance with Cllr Moon assisting. Mr Esdale had a list of volunteers but would welcome more to enable snow clearance to be carried out on the side streets as well as the High Street.
- j. **KALC Canterbury branch meeting-** Cllr Wilmshurst & Hill were unable to attend this meeting. Cllr Hodges agreed to go. **Action; Cllr Hodges**

66/14-15 Correspondence – Noted

67/14-15 Receipts

The following receipts were noted;
HMRC VAT reimbursement - £190.30

68/14-15. Bank Transfers

The transfer of £ 2,000 between parish accounts was noted

69/14–15 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT*	£84.19	Telephone account + Sept Dec line rental £71.50 +£12.69 vat
AJL Garden Services	£219.55	Recreation ground maintenance for August
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£663.89	Clerk's salary and office allowance for September 2014
Post Office Ltd	£145.56	PAYE & Employer NI Contribution September 2014
Cllr Hodges	£27.90	Travel to Lenham for Ecology Conference 6/9/14 and Guildhall 4/9/14 Code of Conduct Training + Parking 54 miles @ 0.45p + £3.60
The Play Inspection Company	£71.94	Safety inspection of the recreation ground £59.95 + £11.99 vat
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£45.98	Printer cartridges £38.32 + £7.66 vat
Ann Edmonds	£40.95	Bridge in Bloom prizes & engraving

70/14-15 Any Other Business

- a. Cllr Moon reported that the landlord of the Red Lion and others had completed a 750 mile sponsored cycle ride round France to raise money for Aid projects in Africa. Donations would be welcome.
- b. Cllr Corfield reminded councillors that Art in Bridge would be holding their exhibition that weekend.
- c. Cllr Hodges announced that the Finance Committee would meet on Monday 20th October to set the budget and precept for 2015-16
- d. KALC were seeking nominations for the 2015 awards to councillors for significant contributions to parishes. It was agreed to nominate Cllr Atkinson for his work on Nailbourne issues. **Action; Cllr Hodges.**
- e. The working party on the recreation ground would take place on 18th October. Councillors were asked to arrive at 9.15am to discuss the work needed on the pavilion before the working party.

The meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 13th. November 2014 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.