

Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council
Thursday 8 October 2015 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30p.m.

64/15-16

Prior to the formal meeting 2 villagers (out of a total of approximately 30 parishioners who attended the meeting) addressed Councillors about their concerns with regards to the Cantley proposals for the village. Discussion of this matter emerged as per the agenda and is recorded at 73/15-16 (a) below.

65/15-16

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Moon.

66/15-16

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

67/15-16

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 10 September 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

68/15-16

Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7.

The Clerk informed the meeting that

- the villager concerned about the use of the layby on Bridge Hill is now in touch with the relevant authority-Bekesbourne Parish Council.
- A fire extinguisher is still needed in the Pavilion. **ACTION: BVST**
- Bridge Down weed spraying has not yet happened and is being chased up by the Clerk. **ACTION:CLERK**
- The Kent Highways steward is on leave until mid October-that is when the letter of thanks to Kent Highways and a reminder about Bridge Down steps will be sent (minute 63/15-16). **ACTION:CLERK**

69/15-16

Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)

Cllr Cook updated the meeting on the transfer of the Mill Centre to the Parish Council on a 30-year lease at a peppercorn rent. He outlined the forthcoming RAMP meetings to discuss parish council funding and planning procedures, and encouraged villagers to inform him of any problems with waste collections by Serco. He referred to the main outcome of the planning inspector's scrutiny of the Canterbury District Local Plan, namely the requirement to find more potential housing sites in the District. Consequently, 8-10 houses may be added to the Brickfield Rd site in the near future. A series of meetings is to be held on 15 and 16 October in Canterbury by property developers Corinthian, who have responsibility for housing developments in South Canterbury. These will be followed by public exhibitions by Corinthian on 6/7 November 2015. Cllr Cook concluded by asking for suggestions for beneficiaries of the Lord Mayor's Gift Fund for Christmas 2015.

70/15-16

Report from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey

Cllr Northey encouraged villagers to take part in the Kent County Council (KCC) consultation on street lighting in Kent, which closes on 29 November. Responses can be made on the KCC website or by post to KCC. He outlined the extra costs and burdens being placed on KCC by the influx of refugee minors. He thanked Kent residents for the help and compassion they have shown.

71/15-16

Disposal of business from the last meeting

a. **Recreation Ground (including proposed fireworks event 7 Nov)**

The annual firework display to be organised by Bridge School PTA, will take place on the Recreation Ground on 7 November. Cllr Hodges listed improvements which she proposed should be enacted. The Clerk was asked to investigate the costs and practicalities of improving 2 paths, repairing guttering and fencing and graffiti removal. It was agreed to install security fencing around the children's play area based upon one of three quotes received (at a cost of approx. £6,400) and to improve the ladies toilet in the pavilion at a cost of approximately £810. Council also agreed to organise a logo competition for children of the school so that replacement signs to be placed on the Recreation Ground can carry the new logo. Other minor jobs were decided upon involving the wild flower area and small-scale tree pruning. Two maple trees adjacent to the tennis courts will be pollarded (pending the approval of Canterbury City Council planners) with costs to be shared with the Tennis Club. Council also decided to prune the hedge adjacent to the Health Centre and to trim a willow tree on Patribourne Lane in line with tenders received.

ACTION:CLERK

b. Neighbourhood Plan

Joe Connor reported that he had received advice from DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) that Canterbury City Council should advise the Parish Council on the way forward for its draft Neighbourhood Plan. No reply has yet been received. It was agreed to revisit the survey results recorded after the initial consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

72/15-16

Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

- 1) **Social Media and Website training** (23 Sept). The Clerk's notes were circulated prior to the meeting.
- 2) **Chairman's' Workshop and Training** (22 Sept) This had focussed mainly on managing public meetings. The city flood management group met on 7 October. So far this year, rainfall has been well above average. We are likely to know the full consequences of the recent rainfall in November 2015.

73/15-16

Matters for discussion and action.

- a) **To review responses already received to the housing proposals from Cantley Ltd, to agree on a consultation exercise and next steps. (Cllr Atkinson)**

Cllr Atkinson stated that

- the village is in a difficult situation. The recreation ground lease with Cantley Estates will expire in 2023. The recreation space and all of the buildings and tennis courts on it, including the children's play area, could disappear.
- there is great pressure for housing development in all of Canterbury district-with a requirement now imposed on Canterbury City Council to find land for many more houses than those proposed in the Canterbury Local Plan of 2014.
- Bridge would do well to manage this process by agreement with potential developers rather than by allowing less controlled development to take place without any village benefits.

Cllr Atkinson invited councillors and members of the public to share their views. Members of the public at the meeting raised questions

about the legal status of the recreation ground and its lease, the environmental impact of the proposed development and its location. Questions were asked as to whether the recreation ground lease renewal could be detached from the housing proposals and about the potential location of a new village hall. Further questions were raised about the potential purchase of the recreation ground by the Parish Council, the legal status of the 2015 Canterbury Local District Plan and the various categories of land nominated within it, including the proposed site for new housing. The status and content of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan were also raised. (Cllr Cook added that the Canterbury District Local Plan is unlikely to be adopted before 2017 and the Neighbourhood Plan, once finally adopted after a village referendum, must, ultimately, be aligned with it).

- Cllr Cook mentioned that Canterbury City Council does not currently have a 5 year supply of land as requested by the planning inspector and that this will make it very difficult for the City Council to turn down planning requests for new housing. He stated this is not a political issue: it is simply a question of planning law.

In the course of discussion, Council agreed to publish all of the formal information received so far from Cantley estates on the village website and to gather villagers' views through a series of open surgery meetings to be held on 13 and 20 October from 7-8 p.m. in the Parish Church, with further dates to be agreed (probably on a Saturday). These meetings will give villagers the chance to learn more about the proposals (such as they are) and to make suggestions as to how the Parish Council should respond, bearing in mind that the ultimate decision about planning permission for all aspects of the Cantley proposals lie with Canterbury City Council. The Council will consider these opinions before formal discussions are held with Cantley about next steps.

b) To receive feedback from KCC on the maintained environment in Green Court (Clerk)

Although a written report has not yet been received, the Clerk said he had spoken with the officer conducting an appraisal of the area. It is unlikely that Kent County Council (KCC) will dig up the existing tarmac, landscape and subsequently maintain the area. A more likely outcome is that KCC will add the area to its annual weedspaying contract, with the suggestion that the parish council find other practical solutions, such as the installation of planters in strategic areas. Consultation with those who live in the area was felt to be the best way forward, on the basis of suggestions to be formulated by Bridge Parish Council.

ACTION:CLERK

c) To convene a meeting to discuss problem parking in the Conyngham lane area. (Cllr Atkinson)

It was agreed that the Chairman would convene a meeting with relevant parties. Invitations will be sent. In the meantime villagers should send photographs of cars illegally parked to the specialist officers in Lacy Dixon's department at Canterbury City Council.

ACTION:ALL

d) To review drainage problems in the High Street following recent heavy rainfall (Cllr Atkinson)

KCC officials have been informed by a number of Parish Councillors and the Clerk of the on-going worries about drainage especially in the area of the

butcher's shop and nos 66-70 High St and adjacent properties. They have promised to look into the problem.

ACTION:CLERK

- e) To discuss next steps regarding the Mill Centre in the light of the decision taken by Canterbury City Council to return the centre to the Parish Council. (Cllr Atkinson)**

Bridge Parish Council will be contacted by the property division of Canterbury City Council to negotiate and formalise a new lease. Once this has been done, the Parish Council will decide how the centre is to be managed henceforth. The Clerk is to look into the necessity or otherwise of tendering for this. The Mill Centre currently has a six month renewed lease due to expire in March 2016. Cllr Cook assured the council that there is no risk to Bridge Parish Council whatsoever with the new arrangements. If funds cannot be raised and the Mill Centre upgraded as required, then the building can be handed back to Canterbury City Council at any time. Once contact is made with Bridge Parish Council over the new lease, all interested parties will need to work together to draw up the new lease.

ACTION:CLERK

- f) To update the Council on High Street traffic issues. (Clerk)**

The kerbside has been raised but contractors still need to relocate the bus stop.

ACTION:CLERK

- g) To review the skateboarding event on 28 October and decide on any further steps required of the Parish Council. (Cllr Sole)**

Cllrs Brooks and Sole undertook to contact Bekesbourne parish council about the publicity surrounding this event. It needs to be promoted on the Bridge village website.

ACTION:Cllrs Brooks and Sole

- h) To receive feedback on proposals made for the future of the BVST on 28 September 2015 and to decide on further action. (Cllr Atkinson)**

It was decided to write to the BVST on behalf of the Parish Council outlining its position regarding the proposed new lease for the pavilion, the current leasing arrangements and the collection of funds from users of the recreation ground. All bookings for the pavilion-whether for social or sporting events-should go through the webmaster Mark Esdale. A new lease needs to be drawn up for the BVST, preferably based on an existing model.

ACTION:CLERK

- i) Where might we plant a "Future heritage Tree?" (Cllr Fawke)**

The tree is likely to be a broad leaf tree on the recreation ground with the final location yet to be decided.

- j) Is the Bridge Down noticeboard large enough and should it be replaced? (Cllr Hodges)**

The noticeboard is not big enough for all notices. The cost of replacement cannot be justified: a message will be placed on the Bridge Down noticeboard explaining that the complete noticeboard is outside the White Horse.

ACTION:CLERK

- k) Kent County Council Consultations on Highways and street lighting. How would the Parish Council wish to respond? (Clerk)**

The Highways response will be collated by the clerk. Parishioners are encouraged to respond to the street lighting questionnaire online (via the KCC website) or by post to KCC.

ACTION:CLERK

l) To discuss setting up a Facebook page for Bridge Village (Cllr Corfield)

It was resolved not to set up a formal Facebook page for the Parish Council. The newly created Village Facebook page does not represent the views of Parish Council. The meeting was reminded that social media count as media and therefore any Bridge Parish Council responses to messages posted on social media should go through the Chairman of the Parish Council as per the existing policy.

m) To decide on a response from Chestfield Parish Council regarding housing policy in Canterbury (Clerk)

The Clerk was instructed to write a letter to Canterbury City Council using the Chestfield template (circulated prior to the meeting) about Canterbury's affordable housing policy.

ACTION:CLERK

74/15-16 The Correspondence list was noted.

75/15-16 Bank transfers: A £3,000 transfer from the 30-day account to main account was noted.

76/15-16 The following items for payment were authorised:

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Philip Wicker– Clerk	£676.67	Salary and office allowance September 2015
KALC-training	£20.00	Social media course
Canterbury City Council Election expenses	£91.46	Parish contribution towards the costs of running all elections in May 2015
Ian Sargent	£160.00	2 cuts and strims
Philip Wicker-Clerk	£9.99	Computer keyboard (Health and Safety)
Philip Wicker-Clerk	£38.98	Printer cartridges
Paul Davies	£90.00	Fuel costs for rolling the recreation ground and tree work on Bridge Hill
Lower Hardres Parish Council	£90.00	Final Speedwatch hire
Philip Wicker-Clerk	£23.80	Travel expenses to Ramsgate
Cllr Atkinson	£16.20	Travel expenses to Folkestone

77/15-16 Points of information

- Assistance is requested for the recreation ground working party on Saturday 17 October at 9.00 am.
- The Bridge in Bloom presentation was held on 27 September 2015.

The meeting concluded at 10.28 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 12 November 2015 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.