

DRAFT
Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2005 in Bridge Village Hall

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

41. Apologies for absence: There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Corfield and Edmonds.

42. There were no declarations of interest or lobbying

43. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The following amendments to the agenda were noted;

Item 9. Transfer £3,000 not £2,000 between the two bank accounts

Item 11. Purchase of plants and bulbs cost £55.43 not £53.43.

44. Disposal of Business from the last Meeting

- a. **Party Wall Notice 80 High Street** – The Award document had been completed, received and placed on file.
- b. **Recreation Ground**
 - i. Maintenance ; KCC Landscape Services had sent a verbal report to the clerk of the work carried out in July and August.
 - ii. It was noted that both the picnic benches on the recreation ground, which had been fixed to the ground by councillors in July, had been uprooted. It was agreed to take no further action to secure them. It was reported that the table surfaces had been damaged by carving.
 - iii. It was agreed to repair the bench by the willow tree which had become unstable and to contact Mrs T Turner, in whose father's memory the bench had been purchased, to inform her of this. **Action ; Clerk**
 - iv. The litter bin by the pavilion had been replaced and an additional bin provided by the City Council.
 - v. RoSPA had carried out its annual playground inspection and issued a report which had been circulated to the Recreation Ground Committee
 - vi. It was agreed to attempt to repair the surfaces of the play area with wet pour; **Action ; Cllr Beesty**
 - vii. Increased activity by moles was noted. It was confirmed that contractors make regular visits to alleviate this on-going problem.
 - viii. There had been a litter problem at the top end of the field, possibly caused by football supporters. The problem would be mentioned to the football clubs. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- c. **Affordable Housing /Housing Needs Survey** – The draft report of the Housing Needs Survey had been received and was discussed. Disappointment was expressed at its lack of robustness. It was felt that the conclusions drawn were not backed up by the statistics provided. Concern was also expressed at the large number of houses proposed by the report, which did not seem to accord with the formula given for calculating housing need. It was agreed to write to Jennifer Shaw of ACRK and outline the councils concerns, while reaffirming the council's commitment to affordable housing provision in the village. **Action; Cllr Hill & Clerk**
- d. **Flood Map** The flood map of the village, which had been supplied by the Environmental Agency, is not specific enough and does not differentiate accurately between those properties at risk and those which are not. This has implications for the cost of insurance cover for residents. It was agreed to write to the Environment Agency and point this out. **Action; Cllr Gulvin & Clerk**
- e. **Cricket nets** The council's insurers had advised that the parish council's current insurance policy would not cover the use of cricket nets on the recreation ground.

The Exiles Cricket Club had not responded to an invitation to send a representative to address the parish council.

f. Speeding Survey in Bridge Constable Bull had reported that only three motorists had been cautioned for travelling at speeds between 30 and 35 mph on Bridge Hill in a recent speed survey and none was found to be travelling above this speed. He believed this was because of the high visibility of the police checkpoint.

g. County Lengthsman Scheme It was agreed that parishioners who wished to report problems relating to the highways should do so direct to Cllr Lewis who is the parish council's coordinator for the scheme. This would be publicised on the village website. **Action; Cllr Esdale.**

h. Street Runner It was agreed that Cllr Esdale would represent the parish council on the Street Runner Committee. The parish council decided to opt to pay Canterbury City Council to provide a youth worker for the Street Runner programme in the absence of volunteers from the village to help with supervising the club. Contributions from participants would be used to pay for this and the council would allocate funding for this purpose when the precept for 2006/7 was set.

45. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Speed Watch – Kent Police – A report was given by Cllr Lewis.

It was agreed to find out the cost of a Speed Indicator . **Action ; Cllr Esdale**

46. Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area

12 High St Bridge – No Objection

Coppice, Bridge Hill, Bridge – No Objection

Action; Clerk

47. Matters for Discussion and Action

a. Parish Council Environmental Policy – Discussion deferred to next meeting.

b. Recreation Ground leases –The Conyngham Estate had not replied to letters regarding the extension of the present lease for the recreation ground or the lease for the allotments. The clerk would write to them again.

Broomfield Football Club had paid their rent for the 2005/6 season and the lease agreement was signed and would be sent to the club for countersignature.

Action; Clerk

c. Bus services – It was agreed to put the bus timetable onto the village website. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

d. 'Bridge in Bloom' –A written report on this successful competition was received from Cllr Edmonds.

e. Restoration of old names and signs – It was agreed to encourage residents to keep the old house names. The History Society would be asked to carry out research into old street and house names in Bridge with a view to restoring some of them to use. This might be a topic for discussion at the Parish Meeting next year. **Action; Clerk**

f. Christmas Trees- It was agreed that Christmas trees would be bought again this year to decorate the High Street. Serco would be informed so that insurance cover could be arranged. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

g. Preparation of Parish Accounts – On the advice of the internal auditor it was agreed to continue to employ the services of RBS Accounting Solutions to prepare the annual parish accounts.

h. Resignation of Cllr Dobson – The council noted with great regret the resignation of Cllr Dobson over the holiday period. Appreciation of her outstanding contribution to the work of the council was recorded. It was agreed to convene a meeting of the parish council to fill the vacancy once it was apparent whether an election would be called and to contact any prospective candidates to arrange a convenient date. **Action; Cllr Hill, Clerk**

48. Correspondence -Noted.

49. Letter of authority to transfer funds of £3,000 between the two bank accounts held by Bridge Parish Council - Agreed
50. Receipt of a VAT repayment for the period 1/4/05 to 30/6/05 of £198.92 was noted.
51. The following items were authorised for payment (2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel Seath	£380.31	July salary & office expenses
Christobel Seath	£26.40	Travel expenses to KAPC Training days at Lenham 22 miles X 3 = 66 miles @ 40p per mile
John Hill	£17.78	Cement for picnic table installation
British Telecom	£112.67	Clerk's telephone installation & account
RBS Accounting Solutions	£158.62	Year end accounts preparation £135.00 + vat
Christobel Seath	£380.31	August salary & office expenses
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£35.00	Membership to March 2006
Playground Management Ltd	£79.90	Play area safety inspection + report
Ann Edmonds	£55.43	Purchase of plants & bulbs for traffic chicane £43.73 + vat
Kent County Council Landscape Services	£1,130.00	£961.70 + vat Half yearly invoice for grounds maintenance 2005
BVHMC	£80.00	Street Runner hire 13 th & 27 th September & 11 th & 25 th October @ £5 per hour
BVHMC	£20.00	Parish Council hire of hall Sept, Oct Nov & Dec 2005
Complete Hygiene	£2,251.70	Complete refurbishment of village hall floor

52. **Any Other Business**
- Complaints about obtrusive yellow lines that had been painted outside the school had been received
 - The parish council support an application for funding for the Parish Plan
 - Mr J Connor, who had represented Bridge Parish Council at the Kent Village of the Year meeting at Harrietsham, returned to report on the meeting. Bridge had won the 'Older People' category and with it a cheque for £250.00. In addition Bridge had been awarded Highly Commended in the 'Services for Young People', 'Support for Business' and 'IT' categories. The Kent Men of the Trees had awarded Bridge a cheque for £15 for the purchase of a tree. It was agreed to consult the tree wardens about the purchase and siting of the tree. It was also agreed that the plaque awarded to Bridge would be placed outside the village hall. The clerk would write to thank the ACRK who organised the event. **Action; Cllr Beesty, Cllr Esdale, Clerk.**

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 13th October 2005 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.03 pm.

