

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>.September 2011 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Atkinson, Corfield, Edmonds, Hodges, and Wilmshurst

**43/11-12**      **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Cook, Oakey and Ward

**44/11-12.**      **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items

**45/11/-12**      The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup>. July and 16<sup>th</sup>. August 2011 were confirmed as true records and signed by the Chairman.

**46/11-12**      **Report on Mill Centre –** Cllr Cook had reported by email that Cllr John Gilbey, Leader of Canterbury City Council had indicated that the city council would be unwilling to sell the Mill Centre to the parish council. However Cllr Gilbey had suggested that the city council would be willing to lease the Centre on a 99-year lease at a rent to be agreed but possibly a ‘peppercorn’ rent. This would have to be agreed with the Executive and full Council. Mark Esdale, Treasurer of the Mill Centre, thanked the parish council for their support and said that the Mill Centre Committee would prefer the lease to be between CCC and the parish council but responsibility for the Centre would be devolved to the Mill Centre Management Committee. Mr Esdale circulated copies of the Centre’s August accounts to councillors.

**47/11-12**      **Report from KCC Cllr Northey –** Cllr Northey reported that the road from Patricbourne roundabout to the junction of Town Hill and Station Road is likely to have 40 mph limit. This would be achieved using Cllr Northey’s Members’ Fund allocation, following representations from Bekesbourne with Patricbourne Parish Council. There would be a consultation process but the new speed limit was likely to be applied in the New Year. A company called Enterprise had taken over Kent Highways maintenance from Ringway from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Under the new contract terms the company would be paid by job and only if the standard of work was good enough.

**48/11-12**      **Disposal of Business from last Meeting**

- a. **Recreation ground-** Cllr Corfield holds the inspection folder. There had been a problem with keys to the access gates and new keys had been cut. The trees next to the sandbag store needed to be removed. The city council would be asked for permission to do this.      **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Affordable Housing –** Good progress was being made and the completion date of February looked likely to be achieved. It was agreed to change the date of the parish council visit to the site because several councillors were not now able to attend on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.      **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations-** Cllr Atkinson had circulated suggestions for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The site of Star Hill was agreed for the beacon/bonfire on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. June 2012. A commemorative item would be given to village children. Other suggestions of a street party on the recreation ground and ‘race meeting’ were discussed. Councillors agreed that Cllr Atkinson should approach village groups to enlist their support and take forward the plans. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Atkinson for his work on this event.      **Action; Cllr Atkinson**

**49/11-12**      **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**  
There were no reports from representatives to outside bodies

50/11-12

**Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposals were noted;

The White Horse Public House, 53 High Street, Bridge

Extensive tree work to 21 trees as shown on schedule.

Trees, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Re-pollard yews adjoining Bridge Hill & Higham Lane

67 High Street, Bridge

Fell one dying silver birch, reduce two others by 30%

Remove crab apple tree from lawn

98 High Street, Bridge

Fell apple tree in middle of lawn & prune apple tree also in middle of lawn.

The Byre, Renville, Bridge

Remove on tree in poor condition in front lawn, replant another tree

51/11-12.

**Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Consultation on Local Planning Regulations and the Draft National Planning Policy** – Councillors expressed concern about certain aspects of the proposed new National Planning Policy. The lack of reference to priority for building on brown field sites, the emphasis on planning decisions being economy led and the need for local people to hold referendums and achieve high rates of support to influence planning decisions or adopt local plans were regarded as particularly worrying. It seemed to councillors that developers were being given too much freedom and that important safeguards for the countryside were being lost. It was likely that a large number of executive type housing would have to be agreed in order to get any affordable housing in future. It was agreed to write to the Department for Communities and Local Government setting out these views. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Methodist Chapel** – A meeting had taken place between Rev G Boxer and two Circuit Stewards of the Methodist Church and Cllrs Hill and Edmonds, with the Clerk, to discuss future plans for the Methodist Chapel. A professional valuation had been obtained for the premises, which Charity Commission Law dictated would be the guide price for any sale. This sum was more than the parish council could afford. The Methodist church had no room for manoeuvre on this. A rental figure had also been fixed as an alternative to sale. It was proposed by Rev Boxer that a 3-year lease might be offered. Following discussion it was agreed by a majority of five votes to one that the parish council would enter into discussions with the Methodists with the aim of renting the building for community use. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **Bridge Primary School Liaison Report**- Cllr Hodges presented her report on a meeting with the Head Teacher of Bridge Primary School. Among other proposals, it had been agreed that children from the school would plant bulbs along the riverside by the recreation ground play area on 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was suggested that the school children might use the parish council website for their magazine. Councillors were encouraged by the school's wish to become more involved with the village. **Action; Cllr Hodges**
- d. **Recreation Ground Inspection Report** – The Recreation Ground Committee had considered the safety inspection report from Digley Associates. There had been no high risk factors identified. The medium risk factors had been examined but none had required action at present. It was reported that the knee press cushion was cracking and that the wet pour needed attention. As both these items were still under guarantee it was agreed to report them to the suppliers for attention. **Action; Clerk**

- e. **Parish Audit 2010-11-** Councillors noted that the Audit Commission had completed the audit of the parish accounts without qualification. Cllr Hill thanked the Clerk for her work on the parish finances.
- f. **Possible Meeting with Head of Environmental Services CCC** – It was agreed to consider inviting Ms Larissa Laing to speak to the Annual Parish Meeting but that there was no particular need for her to address the parish council at present. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Dayspring Football Club-** It was agreed to charge Dayspring FC the same amount as Greenhill FC because they would be using the pitch for the same number of matches i.e. £600 + £100 refundable bond for good behaviour. The team was trying to ensure that only one match took place each Saturday by liaising with Greenhill FC over fixtures. **Action- Clerk**
- h. **BVST** – Cllr Simon Cook was the parish council's representative on the BVST. It was agreed to write to BVST pointing out that Bridge FC had ignored the terms of their contract and asking for strong action to ensure good behaviour from teams using the recreation ground. **Action; Clerk**
- i. **AGM of ACRK** – No councillor was available to attend this meeting, which would be held on the same evening as the October parish council.
- j. **Emergency Planning Committee** – Cllr Atkinson spoke about the preliminary report of this Committee, which had re-started under the chairmanship of Cllr Oakey. Further meetings were scheduled.
- k. **Purchase of CCTV camera for the recreation ground** – It was agreed that the Recreation Ground Committee should look at the technical literature about this camera and make a recommendation to the parish council about its purchase. **Action- Recreation Ground Committee**
- l. **Parish Forum Sat 8<sup>th</sup> October** – No councillor was able to attend this meeting with the Clerk

**52/11-12** **Correspondence List** – Noted

**53/11-12** **Sealing of Documents**

The contract between Greenhill Football Club and Bridge Parish Council was signed.

To sign the agreement between Bridge Football Club and Bridge Parish Council was signed.

**54/11-12** **Bank Transfers**

The transfers of £3,000 between Parish Council accounts in August and £2,000 between accounts in September 2011 were noted

**55/11-12** **Receipts**

HMRC Vat Reimbursement £198.21 was noted

**56/11-12**

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
*Paul Loveday	£125.00	Refurbishment of two village notice boards (White Horse & Bridge Down)
*AJL Garden Services	£258.60	Recreation ground maintenance July 2011
*Christobel Seath – Clerk	£633.57	Clerk's salary and allowances for July 2011
*Post Office Ltd	£100.14	Employer PAYE & NI Contribution for July
*Bowman Services	£42.00	Treatment of wasps nest, recreation ground £35.00 + £7.00 vat
Aon Limited	£16.40	Additional insurance premium for new springers
Audit Commission	£480.00	Audit fee 2010/11 £400.00 + £80.00 vat
Christobel Seath - Clerk	£633.57	Clerk's salary and allowances for August 2011
Post Office Ltd.	£100.14	Employer PAYE & NI Contributions for August 2011
Savills Client Account	£250.00	Recreation ground rental 25.3.11-28.9.11
Terry Wilmshurst	£30.00	Reimbursement of payment to G S Horn Engineering for replacement of goal posts
Ann Edmonds	£26.73	Reimbursement of engraving costs 'Bridge in Bloom' trophies
AJL Garden Services	£129.30	Recreation ground maintenance August 2011

\*Paid during August

#### **57/11-12      Any other business**

**a. Newsletter** –It was agreed that a Newsletter would be produced and distributed in November. Councillors were asked to give their suggestions for items to Cllr Corfield and the Newsletter would be finalised at the October parish council meeting. **Action- Councillors**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>.October 2011 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.