

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th. September 2013 in Bridge Village Hall

- Present;** Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Atkinson, Burns-Stark, Corfield, Moon, Wilmshurst and CCC Cllr Cook
- 42/13-14** **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Hodges, Hill and Ward and KCC Cllr Michael Northey.
- 43/13-14** There were no Declarations of Interest & Lobbying or written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on agenda items.
- 44/13-14** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11th. July 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 45/13-14** **Matters arising;** Cllr Atkinson reported that, following the recent consultation , the Boundaries Commission had decided to reduce the number of City Councillors to 38 at the 2015 council elections.
- 46/13-14** **Report from CCC Cllr Simon Cook;** Cllr Cook said that following the decision to reduce the number of City Councillors, the Boundary Commission would re-draw the City Council constituency boundaries. There had been many submissions during the consultation process for the Canterbury Draft Local Plan. It was expected that redrafting would be finished in late autumn before the Plan was submitted to the Inspector. The Executive would decide on a fairer allocation of council housing, which would no longer take account of the applicant's connections with the area in which a house was available. In future the length of time an applicant had been on the waiting list would be a more important criterion. This change would not apply to affordable housing on exception sites.
- 47/13-14** **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation Ground** – Cllr Burns-Stark had the safety inspection folder. Cllr Wilmshurst had repaired damage to the new picnic bench, which may have been due to a manufacturing fault, and had strengthened the other new bench. The guttering on the pavilion had also been repaired by Cllr Wilmshurst. Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllr Wilmshurst. The safety inspection of the play area should take place at the end of the month. Cllr Hodges had ordered £60 of bulbs to be planted along the Nailbourne with the help of children from Bridge Primary School. A video showing the children carrying out project work in the wild flower area earlier in the year was on the village website.
- b. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Prof Connor reported that a timetable of activities had been drawn up to the end of 2014. In future the Committee would meet monthly, probably the day after the parish council meeting. Committee members had had a training session on 'Public Engagement' arranged by Planning Aid. Local businesses and the Primary School would be asked about their future plans. A village consultation event on policies was being organised for October. Cllr Burns-Star asked to see the responses to the previous event. The Committee would take advice on whether these documents should have personal details removed before being circulated to Councillors. The responses to the village questionnaire were freely available on the village website.
- c. **Mill Centre-** Martin Bovingdon of the City Council's Estates Dept. had not yet provided a valuation for the site and was on holiday. The plans to refurbish the Centre had received planning approval from the City Council.

- d. **Nailbourne Pollution** – Cllr Atkinson had circulated a report setting out the current position regarding Southern Water’s plans for the area. Southern Water would be holding a meeting on 18th September in Bridge village hall at 7.00pm to outline their plans. The engineering work scheduled would inevitably cause substantial disruption in Bridge and it was hoped that residents might suggest ways in which the disruption could be reduced. The Little Stour & Nailbourne River Management group would meet again on 25th. September and would then hold a public meeting in Bridge to hear the views of residents. There was some concern that once the ground water had been prevented from entering the repaired pipes, alternative pressure points might arise. It would be an iterative process of repair. Cllr Atkinson reported that the Environment Agency continued to be reluctant to prosecute Southern Water over ground water incidents. Councillors agreed to pay the costs for the hire of the village hall by the LS&NRMG.
- e. **Village Sign** – Cllr Hill reported via email that a new post had been ordered. Cllr Wilmshurst said that arrangements were being made to dig out the remains of the old post once the new post had been delivered. It was estimated that the new post would take six weeks to arrive. It was also reported that Kent Highways had been asked to replace the Bridge sign and gate at the chicanes. The old sign had fallen off the gate because the posts were rotten. It was hoped that a new sign would indicate that Bridge was in the Kent Downs Area of Natural Beauty.

48/13-14

Reports from Representatives to outside bodies

Kent Downs AONB Countryside Day – 23rd July – Cllr Burns – Stark (Report circulated)

Rural Area Member Panel 2nd September – Cllr Hill

49/13-14

Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

4a Brewery Lane, Bridge

Remove a flowering cherry located at front of the house

Mount Charles House, 5 Mount Charles Walk, Union Rd, Bridge

Remove a sliver birch located where new drive to be situated.

The Cottage, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Various work including reduction of a common beech, reduction of common yew, felling of two leylandii to reduce competition for the beech, reduction of hazel to previous cutting points.

5 Bridgeford Way, Bridge

Remove dead acacia tree from bank to Nailbourne (Exempt)

Churchill House, Union Road, Bridge

Remove clump of self sown ash and thorn from back of Churchill House and over garden of 10 Churchill Close

Bridge Place Country Club, Brewery Lane, Bridge

Various tree work including removal of 2 sycamores affecting established beech; Pollard 3 willows on river bank; remove alder and 2 scots pines near river; remove group of elders in same area; remove large conifer near main entrance; raise canopy of sycamores near coach house no more than 20%

50;13-14

Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Conyngham Lane** -. After some discussion it was decided not to erect barriers on the corner of Conyngham Lane and the High Street. The parish council had no objection to flower planters being put on the grass on the corner if a local resident wanted to put them there and maintain them. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Children’s Centres in Kent**- The proposed plans would not affect Bridge and it was decided not to comment on the consultation as a parish council.

- c. **Recreation Ground Working Party**- There would be a working party on the recreation ground on Saturday 19th October at 9.30am. All residents would be very welcome. **Action; Cllr Hodges**
- d. **Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2014 –2019**- It was decided not to comment on the Plan on behalf of the parish council. However, individual councillors would be free to make their own comments on a personal basis.
- e. **Bridge Hill bus shelter**- Councillors did not agree with the suggestion from a resident that the bus shelter on Bridge Hill should be moved closer to Higham Lane. It was considered that this would make the cross roads more dangerous. Similarly a suggestion that the bus shelter should have a transparent side was not supported. **Action; Cllr Hodges**
- f. **Bridge in Bloom**- Cllr Edmonds announced that the presentation of the trophies for Bridge in Bloom would take place on Monday 16th. September at 2.45pm in Mansfield Court's residents lounge. All Councillors were very welcome to attend.
- g. **Bridge Emergency Plan**- The members of the Emergency Plan Committee; Cllrs Atkinson, Burns-Stark and Moon would meet to review the current Emergency Plan for Bridge . **Action; Cllrs Atkinson, Burns-Stark & Moon**
- h. **Dog attacks on PROW CB 300** – Cllr Atkinson reminded councillors of the events which had led to a Bridge resident being injured by dogs while she was walking with her dog on PROW CB300. In view of the danger these dogs still posed to Bridge residents walking along this public footpath, it was agreed to ask the Superintendent of Canterbury Police to address the next parish council meeting to advise on what protection the law provided in these circumstances. **Action; Clerk**
- i. **Recreation Ground Tree Survey** Cllr Hodges together with Cllr & Mrs Corfield, Cllr Ward and Cllr Burns –Stark had undertaken a tree survey of the recreation ground. Mervyn Gulvin had created a new tree map using the survey data. Cllr Hodges thanked all concerned for their help.
- j. **Autumn Newsletter**- Copies of the Newsletter were given to Councillors for distribution. It was agreed to consider any anomalies in the distribution list at the next Parish Council meeting.
- k. **Welcome Pack**- Cllr Edmonds asked that Councillors let her know of any new arrivals in Bridge so that they could be given a Welcome Pack. It was also agreed to up–date the letter in the Pack and review its contents. **Action Cllrs Hodges & Edmonds & Clerk**
- l. **Parish Clerks' Pay Award**- The national pay award of 1% back- dated to April 2013 for Parish Clerks was noted.
- m. **Phone/Fax machine**- It was agreed that the working fax/phone/answering machine should be advertised and given to any Bridge resident who wanted it. It was also agreed to write off the portable photocopier, which no longer worked. **Action; Clerk**

51/13-14 Correspondence – Noted

52/13-14 Bank transfers

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

53/13-14. The following receipts were noted;

Community Development Foundation - £5,976.00 for Neighbourhood Plan (First tranche)

Lloyds Bank - £110 compensation for delays.

Lloyds Bank - £75.00 – compensation for further delays.

54/13–14 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*Christobel Seath – Clerk	£780.69	Clerk's salary & allowance for July 2013 + arrears of pay following pay award back dated to 1.4.13 = £20.49
*Post Office Ltd	£47.20	PAYE and Employer NI contribution for July 2013
*AJL Garden Services	£141.80	Recreation Ground maintenance July 2013
Bridge & Patricbourne Parochial Church Council	£200.00	Annual grant towards upkeep of St Mary's churchyard
Kent County Playing Fields Association	£20.00	Annual subscription for 2013
Cllr Corfield	£66.98	Reimbursement of cost of scanner and phone for parish council office.
Christobel Seath – Clerk	£643.00	Clerk's salary and allowance for August 2013
Post Office Ltd	£143.89	PAYE and NI Contributions for August 2013
Savills Client Account	£275.00	Ground rent for recreation ground 25/3/13 – 28/9/13
Mervyn Gulvin	£1,800.00	Research & preparation of Village Design Statement, survey of village built environment, materials, preparation of consultation docs etc £1,500.00 + £300.00 vat
AJL Garden Services	£141.80	Recreation ground maintenance August 2013
Cllr Ann Edmonds	£22.95	'Bridge in Bloom' expenses, engraving & prize
Lower Hardres Parish Council	£270.00	Hire of Speedwatch equipment May 2012/March 2013
KALC	£72.00	Fee for Chairmanship Conference 2 nd October
H.S.Jackson & Son (Fencing) Ltd	£122.16	Supply of non-standard post for village sign £101.80 + £20.36 vat

* Paid in August

55/13-14 Any Other Business

- a. **Parking** – Councillors noted that illegal/inconsiderate parking was increasing in the village. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Parish Council meeting.
- b. **Solar Farm proposal** – The Parish Council had received details of a proposal for a solar farm covering 152 acres to the North West of the village the previous day. It was agreed to ask the promoters of the scheme to hold a public information event in Bridge and to leaflet each household giving more details about the proposal.
Action; Clerk
- c. **Weed clearance** - The Parish Council thanked several public spirited residents of Bridge who had cleared the weeds from the pavements following weed spraying by KCC.

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 10th. October 2013 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.