

**Minutes of a meeting of Bridge Parish Council held on Thursday 10 September 2015 in Bridge Village Hall at 7.30p.m.**

**49/15-16**

Prior to the formal meeting, David Plumstead of the Elham Valley Action group spoke about opposition to the proposed caravan park at Wingmore, near Elham upstream of Bridge.

Mr Tunbridge spoke of his concern at lorries driving through the village during the night, often in search of parking laybys. He asked for the layby on Bridge Hill to be sealed off even though it is the domain of Bekesbourne parish. The Clerk was asked to pursue this issue with Bekesbourne parish. **(Clerk)**

**50/15-16**

**Apologies for absence** were received from PCSO Williams

**51/15-16**

**Declaration of Interest & Lobbying and written Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

Cllr Moon declared an interest for item 7 (a) as a member of the PTA of Bridge School.

**52/15-16**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 9 July 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**53/15-16**

**Matters arising from the minutes not covered under item 7.**

The Clerk informed the meeting that:

- the bus stop opposite the chemist shop will be relocated in two weeks to prevent motorists driving on the pavement;
- a meeting has been set up with Kent County Council Highways to discuss drainage problems in the village;
- a fire extinguisher is still needed in the Pavilion;
- estimates are being received, and permissions requested, for tree surgery and hedge trimming on the Recreation Ground;
- Speedwatch equipment has been ordered;
- Councillors' allowances will be paid annually;
- Bridge Down weed spraying has not yet taken place;
- no applications were received for the post of Local Warden.

Cllr Atkinson stated the riverbed will be cleared before the end of the year.

**54/15-16**

**Report from Canterbury City Councillor (Simon Cook)**

Forthcoming Rural Area Panel Meetings on 28 September, 2 and 30 November will discuss issues of pertinence to villages such as Bridge. He felt the village should be represented. The subjects for discussion include rural parking enforcement (28 Sept) Concurrent Function funding bids (2 Nov) and rural planning -to include Neighbourhood Planning. (30 Nov)

The future of the Mill Centre will be decided by Canterbury City Council by the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Any problems with SERCO rubbish collections should be reported to Cllr Cook.

#### **55/15-16 Report from Kent County Councillor Michael Northey**

**Operation Stack.** The Manston lorry park and route option, encouraged by the Prime Minister, has not been used yet, and should not impact on the A2. Highways England have yet to work out a system of two way flow of traffic in both directions and have been instructed to look into a large long-term lorry park. Kent County Council (KCC) is looking into this, as well as a number of smaller parks.

**Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children** are KCC's legal responsibility. There are now 740 in Kent-well beyond KCC resources-causing a deficit of £7 million with promises of a full reimbursement from HM government. There is not enough accommodation: girls are always placed in foster care and overall numbers show no sign of dropping with many children telling harrowing stories. Public attitudes are softening in Kent with offers of accommodation, football coaching, English tuition and clothing.

**LED lighting** which saves energy and is more environmentally friendly than conventional lighting was introduced in rural areas from January 2015 and will take many months to roll out fully. There will be a public consultation from 21 September for ten weeks. After eight years introduction costs will be paid and then there will be a saving of £5 million per year.

#### **56/15-16 Report from PCSO Williams-circulated prior to the meeting.**

#### **57/15-16**

##### **Disposal of business from the last meeting**

##### **a. Recreation Ground**

In response to request from the PTA of Bridge School to run the fireworks display on the recreation ground on Saturday 7 November councillors voted unanimously in favour, on the basis of a number of conditions and guarantees being met. These will be forwarded to the organisers as soon as possible. **(Clerk)**

Cllr Hodges read through a previously circulated list of outstanding maintenance and planning items for the Recreation Group to consider at their meeting on Wednesday 16 September. She also thanked the anonymous gardener who had helped to clear garden waste on the recreation ground. **(Recreation Ground Group)**

##### **Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr Hodges reported that at the meeting held on 2 September 2015 the Chair resolved to write to a number of local and national bodies for advice on the impact of the stalling of the Canterbury Local Plan on the village's Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **58/15-16**

##### **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

- a) KALC AGM 21 July 2015. Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) Canterbury Local Plan hearings (July-August 2015). Cllr Hodges reminded councillors that she had attended the hearings for 6 days. She thanked Christobel Seath, Professor Church and Joe Connor for their support. She felt Bridge issues had been given a good airing. Councillors

thanked Cllr Hodges for her dedication in following the Local Plan hearings and developments.

**59/15-16**

**Matters for discussion and action.**

**a. To discuss and agree a traffic rules enforcement policy with Canterbury City Council (Cllr A Atkinson)**

Cllr Atkinson explained that he (and Cllrs Corfield and Fawke) had met Ms Lacy Dixon, "Enforcement Manager- Community Safety, Licensing, Street Scene and Parking Enforcement" and her colleague Ms. Osborne on 4 September.

Ms Dixon informed the meeting that although Bridge is not a high priority village for parking enforcement, she has instructed her team to survey the trend of illegal parking over the next two weeks, in areas identified by councillors. A report on these trends will be forwarded to the Council. Her team will then Operation Safety Net whereby verbal warnings are followed by a strict enforcement policy. She commented on effective policies pursued elsewhere in Kent, including 'A-Boards' at crossings painted with key messages, asking school children to attend when Speedwatch teams record car speeds; having school children tour the Village noting any irresponsible parking, and discussing how this might be inconsiderate or dangerous to other road users or pedestrians. Bridge school will be invited to attend an information and training day (24 September). Ms Dixon ended by outlining the distinction between obstructing the highway/moving obstructions and parking offences. She asked to be informed of any specific parking problems she had not covered. PCSO Williams needs to be informed of these developments **(Clerk)**

**b. Bridge in Bloom: To confirm prizes and prize giving arrangements (Cllr R Atkinson)**

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was decided to earmark £80 for the proposals laid out in the report. **(Cllrs Atkinson and Brooks to follow up).**

**c. To receive and confirm the Concurrent Function Funding application form for 2016-2017.** The draft CFF application form was received and confirmed. The Clerk will submit the application by the deadline date of 30 September 2015. **(Clerk)**

**d. To discuss housing proposals from Cantley Ltd and agree a Parish Council response. (Cllr Atkinson)**

The Parish Council voted unanimously to record its general support for the draft written proposals (as contained in the email from the Clerk to all Councillors dated September 4 2015). Council also agreed to back public consultation sessions where the proposals from Cantley (once fully fleshed out) can be set out, explained and feedback received. Cllr Atkinson explained that following this period of consultation and when the plans are firmed up, Council will be asked again for its views upon those final proposals. Discussion focussed on the previous history of housing development proposals in the village and on the likely impact on the village of the recent demand made by the government inspector at the Local Plan hearings that Canterbury district should increase its provision of new housing

and seek sites throughout the district. Councillors agreed it was better to be in control of such developments rather than being subjected to “hostile” plans.

- e. **To receive the report from PKF Littlejohn: Annual return audit for 2014-2015.** The report was received and accepted.
- f. **To discuss improvements to the KCC maintained environment in green Court.** The Clerk reported that Mr Paul Woodhatch of KCC Highways will be visiting the site in the next few weeks to offer suggestions for the improvement of this area. A report will be made available to the Parish Council offering a range of options for the improvement of the area.
- g. **To receive feedback on plans for the skateboarding event : 28 October 2015.** It will run from 10 am- 3 pm close to the Pavilion. Publicity will be through the normal channels (On the Nail/Parish Newsletter/Village website/letters to local schools/fliers to be drafted by the Bekesbourne Clerk) and also through Cllr Cook’s presence at other Parish Council meetings in South Canterbury. A budget of £50 was approved to purchase refreshments. Any surplus stock will be granted to the youth club. **(Cllrs Sole and Brooks)**
- h. **To receive feedback on proposals regarding the future of the BVST and to decide on further action**  
Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for upgrading the ladies’ toilet and kitchen in the Pavilion, with the intention of handing over the facility to the BVST to manage from 1 January 2016 under the terms of a new lease to be drawn up in advance. The next BVST meeting is on 28 September-Cllr Brooks will feed back then on these decisions. **(Cllr Brooks)**
- i. **To note flood warning changes.** The changes communicated to the council by the Environment Agency were noted.
- j. **To decide upon the date and content of the next village newsletter.** Final copy is required by Cllr Corfield by 12 September to allow for printing, publication and distribution in the week commencing 14 September. Councillors are asked to check that their responsibilities as listed are accurate. **(Cllr Corfield)**
- k. **To decide on proposals regarding a proposed caravan park made by the Elham Valley Action group**  
Council voted unanimously to support a letter asking Shepway Council to reconsider their approval of the Caravan park scheme. **(Clerk)**
- l. **Where might we plant a “Future heritage Tree?”**  
Councillor Fawke will ensure that an application is made for a heritage tree. The eventual location will be decided at a future date. **(Cllr Fawke)**
- m. **To decide upon a resolution seeking an explanation from Stagecoach for the current pricing policy of transport to Canterbury from Bridge. (**  
Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Stagecoach asking for an explanation of their pricing policy which seems to disfavour residents of Bridge in comparison with other villages located further away from Canterbury town centre. **(Clerk)**

- n. **To receive a financial report on spending in the first quarter of the financial year.** The report was received and noted. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Sole for his assistance.

**60/15-16 The Correspondence list was noted.**

**61/15-16 The following receipts were noted:**  
£268 VAT repayment. Bank interest £3.80. Party fee of £9

**62/15-16**  
**The following items for payment were authorised:**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Philip Wicker– Clerk	£676.67	Salary and office allowance August 2015
KALC-training (6 August 2015)	£100	4 delegates for new councillors course
Savills Client Account	£275	Recreation ground lease
Ian Sargent	£180	2 cuts and strims on recreation ground
Cllr Hodges	£35.10	Travel expenses for Local Plan hearings in July 2015
Canterbury City Council	£65	Printing summer 2015 newsletter
Brooker Farms	£180	Delivery of roller for recreation ground
PKF Littlejohn	£240	Audit of annual return
Paul Davies	£18.46	Flood warden training expenses
Cllr Hodges	£20.91	Wildflower project expenses
Philip Wicker– Clerk*	£676.67	Salary and office allowance July 2015
Philip Wicker– Clerk*	£18.46	Travel expenses for Lenham conference
Philip Wicker– Clerk*	£47.77	2 printer cartridges and paper
Ian Sargent*	£200.00	Cutting and strimming recreation ground

\*Paid in July

**63/15-16 Any other business**

Thanks to be expressed to Kent Highways for their rapid intervention in clearing away a fallen tree on Bridge Hill, recent repainting of road markings and for their forthcoming remedial work on Bridge Down stairs. **(Clerk)**

The meeting concluded at 9.59 p.m.

**The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 8 October 2015 at 7.30pm in Bridge Village Hall.**