

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

**Present;** Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Esdale, Gulvin and Lewis.

125. **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Edmonds, Corfield and City Cllr J Anderson.
126. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest made.
127. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
128. **Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. **Recreation ground** – Cllr Gulvin holds the inspection folder. No more golf balls had been found. One of the picnic tables had been moved and the other table, which is being stored in the pavilion, requires renovation. It was agreed to purchase a new padlock with five keys for the main gate by the school as unauthorised persons have apparently obtained keys for the existing lock. The keys to be distributed as follows; 1 to BVST for distribution to clubs as required, 1 to Bridge Primary School, 1 to Kent Landscape Services, 1 + spare to Clerk.  
**Action - Clerk**
- b. **The Mill Centre-** There had been no reply to the council's letter to Mr D Kemp, Senior Valuer, Canterbury City Council, asking for an extension of the Mill Centre lease for twenty five years or for the parish council to be allowed to buy the freehold. It was agreed that Carole Mounce would write to the Girl Guides Association, which currently holds the lease, to ask for a copy of the lease and broach the possibility of the parish council taking over the lease. It was also agreed that CCC be asked for a response to the council's letter.  
**Action; Clerk**
- c. **Bollards for Western Avenue** – It was noted that the new bollards had at last been erected at the corner of Western Avenue and the High Street.
- d. **Youth Shelter-** Cllr Beesty had drawn up a questionnaire to be distributed to houses situated round the recreation ground, asking for residents' views on the proposed position of the youth shelter. It was agreed to add a diagram to the questionnaire indicating this. The clerk would let Cllr Beesty know how many houses there were in the area. Cllrs Lewis, Gulvin and Esdale offered to help with the distribution and collection of the leaflet. **Action- Cllrs Beesty, Gulvin, Esdale, Lewis & Clerk**
- e. **Bridge Hill Traffic Calming-** Cllr Esdale reported that Ruth Goudie of Kent Highways had advised that two new extended kerbs and a flashing speed sign had been agreed for Bridge Hill and would be installed later in the year. It had also been agreed to move the 'Welcome to Bridge' sign further up the hill and to paint 40 mph speed limit signs on the approach to Bridge from Bridge Hill.
- f. **Affordable Housing-** The Affordable Housing Committee will meet with the Southern Housing Group on 17<sup>th</sup> May prior to the village event on 24<sup>th</sup> May. It was agreed that the Affordable Housing Trust Document would be discussed in detail at the next parish council meeting.  
**Action; Clerk**
- g. **Higham Lane repairs**—A reply had been received from Furley Page, Solicitors for Permitnotice Ltd, the owners of Higham Lane, in reply to the council's request that the owners carry out urgent repairs to the road. As none of the proposals set out in the letter was acceptable to the council, it was agreed that the opinion of the KAPC legal adviser be sought.  
**Action; Clerk**
129. **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**  
Cllr Beinder reported on the meeting of the KAPC at Tyler Hill.

**130. Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The council had no objection to the following proposals;

George's Meadow, Bridge

Remove two dead trees from George's meadow

60 High St, Bridge

Remove laburnum from front garden and replace with non-poisonous tree

**Action; Clerk**

**131. Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. **Litter problems** – Cllr Esdale reported that there had been complaints about the trail of litter being left in the fields on the way from the village to Mansfield farm. Drunken farm workers had also recently caused a nuisance to a party of local children by their behaviour. Bridge Explorer Scouts had recently spent a day clearing up the litter and mess from the fields and had collected 15 sacks of rubbish. It was agreed to write to Dave Barrett to thank the scouts and also to write to Mansfield farm to complain about the problems being caused by their seasonal workers.  
It was also pointed out that the litter problem in the village was increasing and that the High Street in particular was often unsightly. It was agreed to include an item in the next Newsletter encouraging householders to keep the area outside their houses clean. It was also agreed to ask SERCO to empty the road gully outside the bus shelter in the High Street.  
**Action; Clerk**
- b. **Friends of Bridge Wild Flower project** – The constitution for this group was accepted by the parish council.
- c. **NALC Communications Awards** – It was agreed to enter the Bridge Parish Council website and Newsletter for these awards.  
**Action; Cllr Esdale**
- d. **Bridge History Society** – It was pointed out that the parish council had agreed to allow car parking on the recreation ground, provided the weather was dry, for the Kent History Society conference last September.
- e. **KAPC's Clerk's Information Day** – It was agreed that the clerk should attend this day on 16<sup>th</sup> May in Lenham.
- f. **Anonymous letters** - It was agreed that the parish council adopt the policy that all anonymous letters be discarded without consideration. Parishioners should be advised that they might write to the parish council in confidence, but under the Freedom of Information Act such letters could be liable for disclosure unless such information could put the writer in danger. It was agreed to inform residents of this policy in the next village newsletter.  
**Action- Cllr Corfield**
- g. **Canterbury Nomads Cricket Club** – Representatives from the club addressed the parish council in support of their request for a contribution towards the cost of laying an artificial playing surface on the recreation ground. It was agreed that the parish council would contribute up to £1,600 to this, subject to the balance being obtained from other sources. A further proviso was that there would be no objection to the artificial surface by Cantley Estates who own the ground. Should the surface be laid, it would be the responsibility of the Nomads Cricket team to take measures to protect it. The artificial surface would become the property of Bridge Parish Council should the club cease to use the pitch.  
**Action; Clerk**
- h. **Mrs Gladys Flynn** – To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 25<sup>th</sup>. April of Mrs Flynn, a former Bridge resident, the councillors signed a birthday card and agreed Cllr Hill would take flowers to her.  
**Action; Cllr Hill**
- i. **Yellow Lines in the High St.** The council had received a letter from Kent Highways stating that it would not agree to put down yellow lines across the entrance of the allotments or between the chicanes on Town Hill. It proposed, however to put yellow lines on the corner of Conyngham Lane, which had not been requested by the council. It was therefore agreed to write to Kent Highways pointing out that these lines would be likely to lead to more illegal parking on the zebra crossing outside the post office. The council would also ask for single white lines to be laid across the allotment entrance and between the chicanes.  
**Action; Clerk**
- j. **Canterbury City Football Club** – After some discussion concerning the potential local disruption that the football club's tenure of the recreation ground might cause, it was agreed that the parish council would support BVST's offer of a three year lease to the club. It was pointed out that there would be benefits to the village as the club

had agreed to upgrade the pavilion. It was also important for the maintenance of the recreation ground that the football pitches were used regularly. There would be clauses in the lease to ensure that the club organised proper stewarding of spectators and to allow for the termination of the lease should the parish council consider that the club's tenure caused unacceptable disruption to the village. It was noted that the club had recently sent out a leaflet to properties round the recreation ground. The council felt it unfortunate that the club had not informed it of its intention to do this nor had it sent a copy of the leaflet to the council.

**Action; Clerk**

- k. **Bridge Primary School Admissions policy** – Following discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting, the council considered the case of the child living in Union Rd who had been unable to secure a place in the reception class at Bridge Primary School because the parents were unable to confirm that they wished him to attend a church school. The child had been allocated a place at Littlebourne, which was also a church foundation. This would entail a taxi ride to and from school each day. It was agreed to find out whether the situation had been resolved regarding the local child but also to write to Bridge School find out whether the school's admission policy is set locally. If so, the parish council would request that in future the child's home address should carry the most weight when allocating places, ahead of siblings and religious preference. This would ensure that children from the village were educated within their community in what the parish council regard as Bridge village school.

**Action; Clerk**

**132. Correspondence** – Noted.

- 133.** It was noted that the sum of £3,000.00 would be transferred this month between the two accounts held by Bridge Parish Council.

**Action; Clerk**

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

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel N Seath	£577.28	Clerk's Salary and office allowance –March 2007
Kent Association of Parish Councils	£462.66	£369.50 subscription for 07/08 + £64.66.vat + £28.50 publications
The Mill Centre Committee	£1,000.00	Donation towards running costs
Audit Commission	£293.75	Audit fee 2006 - £250.00 + £43.75 vat
Canterbury City Council	£631.68	Street Runner sessions 1/10/06 to 31/12/06 (5) £537.60 + £94.08 vat
British Telecoms	£54.07	Phone Bill £46.01 + £8.06 (Paid by direct debit)
Society of Local Council Clerks	£95.00	Membership renewal for year beginning 1/5/2007
Kent County Playing Field Association	£15.00	Annual subscription
Kent Association of Parish Councils	£58.75	Clerks' Training Day at Lenham on 16.5.07 £50.00 + £8.75 vat

**135. Any other business**

- a. Cllr Esdale reported that local postal collection times had changed but this was not being indicated on the post boxes. The round is currently being adjusted and residents are advised to post their letters by 5.00pm to ensure evening collection until new times have been notified.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. May 2007 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.