

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th December 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Esdale, Hill, Lewis and Wilmshurst.
County Cllr M Northey & City Cllr J Anderson

- 80/07-8. Apologies for absence**; There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Corfield and Gulvin
- 81/07-8. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items**. There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.
- 82/07-8.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 83/07/08** Cllr Northey told the Council that Kent County Council had increased the number of men clearing gullies in the county from 8 to 11. They were also mapping them as no information currently existed as to the location of gullies in Kent.
He said that in his opinion the primary schools admission policy would not be changed. However he thought that all local children would probably be admitted to their local primary school on appeal.
- 84/07-8. Disposal of business from the last meeting**
a. Recreation ground – A Osborn would carry out the tree work requested in the New Year. He had carried out the urgent work to the goat willow by the play area. Cllr Esdale had taken delivery of the new slide platform, which would be fitted next year.
The Council expressed its thanks to the scouts and guides who had helped to spread the mulch on the new hedge area of the recreation ground earlier in the month. It was agreed to write and thank those organisations. **Action; Clerk**
b. Litter collection project – Cllr Lewis was pleased to report that the amount of litter being collected by volunteers was decreasing. He was planning to ask the City Council/Serco to provide a cart to put the collecting bags in as they became too heavy to carry to the agreed collection points. If the City Council was unable to supply suitable carts, the Parish Council agreed that Cllr Lewis should purchase suitable small wheelie bins at a cost of approx £31 each. **Action ; Cllr Lewis**
c. Higham Park – A letter of acknowledgement had been received from the Planning Inspectorate and the Parish Council would have an opportunity to put its objections to the development at the forthcoming Planning Enquiry. It was agreed that Cllr Hill should ask Dr Wendy Le-Las to represent the Parish Council at that enquiry. **Action; Cllr Hill**
d 24 High Street – The Judicial Review proceedings had been issued in the High Court and a Certificate of Service had also been filed with the High Court. The Parish Council agreed to instruct Richard Honey to make an application for a Pre-Emptive Costs Order (PECO). It was also agreed to seek the advice of our solicitor as to whether to ask for a meeting with the City Council solicitors and officials to assess the present position given the possibility that 24 High Street was to be re-sold. **Action; Clerk**
- 85/07-8 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**
Cllr Hill reported on the Rural Area Members Panel Meeting on 19th November
- 86/07-8 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The following proposal was noted;
Bournes House, Bekesbourne Rd, Bridge

Remove top & branches leaning towards the garage of a beech tree situated at the apex of garden in the triangle between Bekesbourne Rd and Town Hill. **Action; Clerk**

87/07-8 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Village Hall Insurance** – A grant of £968.51 was approved to cover the cost of insurance from June 2007 to June 2008 .
- b. **Internal Audit System** – Councillors approved the current system of internal audit and noted the Auditor’s Mid-Year Report
- c. **Crime and Disorder Compliance** – The Council noted its continuing obligation to take account of any crime and disorder implications while carrying out its functions. It was agreed to write to Kent Police requesting that the six monthly Police Forum meetings should continue as the police had taken the decision to end the meetings against the wishes of parish councils and without consultation. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 15th. May. Councillors were asked to think about a suitable speaker for the event. **Action; Clerk**
- e. **Mill Centre Lease** – The Parish Council agreed to take over the negotiations with the City Council for the Mill Centre purchase/ lease from the Mill Centre Management Committee.
- f. **Skate Board Area** – This item was deferred until the February Parish Council.
- g. **‘Speedwatch’ Presentation** - There was some discussion as to the effectiveness of the ‘Speedwatch’ initiative in reducing speeding vehicles and prosecuting offending drivers. It was agreed that Cllrs Esdale and Lewis would represent the Parish Council at the ‘Speedwatch’ presentation on 24th. January. **Action; Cllrs Esdale & Lewis**
- h. **High Street Bus Stop** – A report had been received from Kent Highways advising the Parish Council of the findings of an examination of the bus shelter’s structure which had taken place two years previously. It was agreed to pass the report to Cllr Gulvin for his assessment and recommendations. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**

88/07-8 Sealing of Documents

The signing of the agreement between Bridge Junior Football Club and Bridge Parish Council for 2007/8 Season was deferred to the next meeting.

89/07-8 Correspondence - Noted

90/07-8 Transfer – The transfer of £4,000 between Parish Council accounts was noted

91/07-8 The following receipts were noted:

Bridge Football Club 2007/8 season rental -	£150.00
VAT repayment	£1,034.23
Canterbury FC 2007/8 season rental	£350.00
Christmas Trees	£450.00

92/07-8.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*HM Court Services	£50.00	Issue fee for legal action re 24 High St.
*D Possee	£45.00	Maintaining planters in village
* M Gulvin	£287.00	Reimbursement of cost of two signs boards for recreation ground supplied by Traditional Brush Sign writing
Christobel N Seath	£790.16	Clerk’s Salary and office allowance – November 2007 + back pay from 1.4.07 following NALC pay award
Canterbury City Council	£379.01	Delivery of youth sessions 1/7/07 to 30/9/07 @ £107.52 (3 sessions) £322.56 + £56.45 vat
Bridge Village Hall Management Committee	£968.51	Reimbursement of Insurance costs for June 2007 to June 2008

Savills	£900.00	Recreation ground rental 29/9/05 to 28/9/07 @ £450.00pa
Christobel Seath	£48.19	Petty cash
Canterbury City Council	£40.00	Share of cost of Public Notice advertising Code of Conduct adoption
Barbara Beinder	£39.90	Expenses and travel to KAPC AGM, Ditton
Playdale	£141.15	Play equipment parts £120.13 + £21.02 vat
Ann Edmonds	£16.13	Chairman's allowance
Bounty Pest Control	£305.50	£260.00 +£45.50 vat Pest control contract 1/12/07 to 30/11/08
Kevin Funnell	£70.00	Interim Internal Audit fee Nov 2007
Selwyn Lewis	£217.50	High visibility vests (£180.00 + £31.50 vat) & gloves (£4.95 + £1.05 vat) for volunteers
Andrew Osborn	£40.00	Remedial work to damaged goat willow by play area
Ewart Clough	£495.25	Christmas trees £421.50 + £73.75 vat
Mark Esdale	£365.44	Christmas tree expenses £311.02 + £54.42 vat
Gillett & Johnston (Croydon) Ltd	£135.13	Servicing Village Hall clock to 31/11/08 £115.00 +£20.13 vat

* denotes cheque already authorised and issued in November to avoid delay as invoice submitted during clerk's absence.

93/07-8. Any other business:

- a. Cllr Esdale thanked the Councillors and villagers who had helped to put up the Christmas trees in the High Street. The trees would be taken down on Saturday 5th. January and all helpers were asked to assemble at Cllr Gulvin's yard at 10.00am. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Esdale for his work in organising the Christmas trees again and congratulated him on the large tree in the Churchyard.
- b. Cllr Lewis noted that there was a newly laid concrete base at the site of the garages in Dering Road.
- c. Cllr Beesty expressed disappointment at the possible shortfall in funding the Concurrent Function after the City Council had assured parishes it would not happen again. He felt it was frustrating for those parishes such as Bridge, which had been responsible and submitted moderate bids. Cllr Esdale reported that last year Bridge had had a small overspend on its Concurrent Function activities.
- d. Following complaints from a resident, it was agreed to write to Kent Highways to ask that the agreed plans to place 'Ds' at the entrances from side streets to the High Street and in particular at the junction with Aunt Betsy's Hill should be implemented as soon as possible. Cars parked at these junctions currently made it impossible for drivers entering the High Street to have a clear view of the road. **Action; Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 10th. January 2008 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.