Minutes of

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Edmonds (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin, Hill and Lewis also County Cllr Northey

75/08-9. **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Wilmshurst and City Cllr Anderson

76/08-9. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items**. There were declarations of interest on agenda items by Cllr Esdale (Item 7i Treasurer of Mill Centre) and Cllr Beesty (Item 7i Chairman of Mill Centre Committee.)

77/08-9. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th. November 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

78/08-9 Cllr Northey drew the council's attention to Health Watch, a new scheme with one telephone number to access information and advice on Health and Social matters. He reported that there would be additional funding for Highways and that County Councillors would have some money to allocate to local highways projects in their areas from April 2009.

79/08-9 Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllr Esdale, other members of the council, Craig Dobson, Marion McNeill, John Purnell and the Scouts for their help in putting up the Christmas trees in the High Street.

80/08-9 Disposal of business from the last meeting

a. **Recreation ground –** Cllr Gulvin holds the Recreation Ground Inspection folder. It had been decided to delay filling in the depression under the practise goal posts until the spring. Cllr Edmonds thanked Cllrs Wilmshurst and Esdale for clearing up the recreation ground after a recent incident of vandalism. The Health Centre had agreed not to leave their rubbish bags out overnight if they had not been collected during the day..
b. **Affordable Housing –**. Southern Housing Group had informed the parish council that the S106 agreement had not yet been agreed between themselves and Canterbury City Council, as was incorrectly reported at the last parish council meeting. The council agreed to defer discussion on the local connections section of the S106 agreement to a later date. It was confirmed that SHG would be building the houses to Level 3 standard as current buildings regulations required.
c. **Bus shelter –** No further action to report.
d. **Restoration of old Street Names -** It was agreed to accept the quote from Green Brothers for providing two street signs at a cost of £257 delivered. **Action; Clerk**

81/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Canterbury District Parish Forum – 15th. November 08 – Cllr Edmonds
(Minutes circulated)
BVST – Cllr Gulvin
Licencing Seminar 21st November – Cllr Gulvin
It was noted that Parish Council cannot be represented at Licencing Hearings but can co-ordinate the action of residents, who may speak on their own behalf.
Mill Centre AGM – Cllr Beesty
(Written minutes circulated)
Rural Forum 17th. November – Cllr Hill
Rural Members Panel 17th, November – Cllr Hill
CCC Executive Meeting 4th. December – Cllr Hill
Bridge Parish Council had argued for !00% concurrent function funding at this meeting. This had been rejected and 95.26% funding agreed.
Expenditure on items under £5,000 would no longer require three quotes to be obtained by parish councils.

82/08-9 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

Bridgeford House, Brewery Lane, Bridge

Reduce cobnut tree by 40 % in front garden & remove young stem growth
Reduce crown of maple tree in front garden by 1/3rd and remove rear stem
Remove stems of willow adjacent to brook overhanging stream and lift growth to approx 18 – 20 feet

The Cottage, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Reduce silver birch by 20% & crown balance where necessary
Remove ash & sycamore trees from rear garden, both have a large cavity due to loss of limbs –Exempt and replace

Coppice, Bridge Hill, Bridge

Clean out yew & cut back to approx 4ft.
Cut back branched of beech overhanging drive
Remove branches of yew overhanging entrance & reshape
Remove low bough of oak tree overhanging road. Reduce beech tree in bank of Bridge Hill to same height as adjacent yew

Action; Clerk

83/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action

a. **Freedom of Information Act –** Bridge Parish Council adopted the Freedom of Information Act Model Publications Scheme as policy. This was required of all councils by the Office of the Commissioner for Information.
b. **Local Policing Priorities –** The council agreed the following policing priorities 1.Anti-social behaviour 2. Speeding 3. Parking on zig zag lines. The council also commented that it would like to see more visible policing in Bridge. **Action; Clerk**
c. **Invitation to Kate Harrison to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.** It was agreed to confirm her invitation. The Clerk would continue to try to find sources of funding to contribute to her expenses of £250. **Action; Clerk**
d. **George Pratt Memorial Bench –** It was agreed to accept the estimate of £310 for the refurbishment of this bench. **Action; Clerk**
e. **Effectiveness of new build –outs on Bridge Hill** – It was agreed to defer discussion of this until the new speed sign had been installed.
f. **Purchase of Village Hall Chairs** – This was agreed in principle but a decision to when to purchase the chairs was deferred to March when the reserves would be reviewed.
g. **Repair to Village Hall Guttering** – This was noted. Payment would be drawn from Concurrent Function Funding
h. **Litter Collection –** Cllr Lewis reported that the village needed more volunteer litter collectors. If there were areas which needed special attention he would organise a litter picking day. Residents were asked to suggest areas which required attention. Cllr Lewis suggested Pett Bottom Rd, Station Rd leading to Whitehill Woods and Renville to Whitehill Woods. It was agreed to discuss this again in February with a view to holding a community event in March.
i. **Urgent repairs to the Mill Centre –** The expenditure of £630 on urgent repairs was noted and would be met from Concurrent Function Funding.
j. **Code of Conduct Discussion Document –** The parish council decided not to comment on this document which had been received from the Ministry of Communities & Local Government.

84/08-9 Correspondence – Noted

85/08-9 Sealing of Documents

The signing of the Agreement between Bridge Junior Football Club and Bridge Parish Council for 2008-9 was deferred until January. It was agreed to write to the club to ask for the return of the signed lease and for their fees for 2008/9, which were overdue. **Action; Cllr Beesty & Clerk**

86/08-9 T<u>he following receipts were noted;</u>

Christmas Tree Donations - £500.00

87/08-09 <u>Bank transfers;</u>

The council noted the transfer of £1,500 between Parish Council accounts

88/08-9. 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 (Clerk)	£33.98	Replacement paper shredder & computer paper £28.92 + £5.06 vat
Bounty Pest Control	£299.00	Annual contract charge 01/12/08 to 30/11/09 £260 + £39.00 vat
Christobel N Seath	£635.33	Clerk's salary and office allowance for November 2008
Ewart Clough	£552.00	Supply of Christmas trees £480.00 + £72 vat
Mervyn Gulvin	£75.70	Photocopying Services 7/5/08 to 30/11/08 £64.43 + £11.27 vat
Gillett & Johnston Ltd	£141.00	Servicing village hall clock 1.12.08-30.11.09 £120 + £18.00 vat

89/08-9<u>. Any other business;</u>

a. **<u>School Art Exhibition –</u>** Cllr Beinder informed the council that Bridge Primary School had held an exhibition based on The Fighting Temeraire. A representative of the Royal Academy would be visiting the school to decide whether to include some of the children's work in an exhibit to be held at the Royal Academy next year.
b. **<u>Church Clock –</u>** It was reported that an estimate had been received by the parish church for the repair of Bridge church clock.
c. **<u>Christmas trees</u>**. The Christmas trees would be taken down on the morning of Saturday 3rd January. All offers of help would be very welcome.

The meeting closed at 8.29 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 8th. January 2009 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.