

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th.December 2009 in Bridge Village Hall

Present; Cllrs Hill (Chairman), Beesty, Beinder, Corfield, Esdale, Gulvin, Lewis, Wilmshurst and KCC Cllr Northey

74/09-10 Apologies for absence; There were apologies for absence from Cllr Edmonds

75/09-10. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items. There were declarations of interest on agenda item 7c from Cllrs Gulvin and Esdale, both BEST Committee members.

76/09-10. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th. November 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

77/09-10 Cllr Northey confirmed that he had agreed to fund the proposed build outs at the pharmacy zebra crossing using his 'Members' Highway Fund' allowance. KCC was expecting cuts in government funding and were proposing cuts of £200 million over the next three years. The aim was to preserve frontline services and make efficiency savings. It was hoped that government would take on more of the costs of asylum seeker children arriving in the UK, currently borne by KCC.

78/09-10 Disposal of business from the last meeting

- a. Recreation Ground – The wet pour surface of the children's play area had been repaired. The inspection folder was passed to Cllr Corfield. It was pointed out that the recreation ground should be inspected weekly to comply with insurance company guidelines.
- b. Affordable Housing – Nothing further to report
- c. Bids for Capital Grant Scheme – It was agreed to apply for a grant to fund three items of adult outdoor exercise equipment for the recreation ground. Fresh Air Fitness could supply and install these for approx. £3,500. The parish council agreed to contribute 25% of the cost. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- c. Allotment lease- Deferred to January meeting
- d. Fly Tipping – Bekesbourne with Patribourne Parish Council had agreed to attend the site meeting to be arranged with CCC at the re-cycling point to discuss fly tipping problems. They had also agreed to help with a litter pick of the area at the top of the A2 slip road in to Bridge. It was agreed to add this to the February Parish Council agenda to confirm arrangements. **Action; Clerk**
- e. Sandbag Store – Cllr Gulvin reported that a group of young offenders had cleared out the sandbag store, re-bagged split sand bags and re-stacked the bags, under the Community Payback scheme.
- f. Pavilion repairs- BVST had obtained three quotations for the repair of guttering and roof tiles at the pavilion. The contract would be awarded to Green Construction Ltd. The parish council agreed to fund the repairs jointly with BVST. The contractors would be asked to do other small maintenance jobs when they were on site, which would be funded by BVST. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**

79/09-10 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Canterbury CPRE AGM 13th November 2009 – Cllr Hill (Report circulated)
Rural Area Members Panel 16th. Nov – Cllr Esdale & Clerk (Minutes circulated)
Cllr Esdale confirmed that Option 1 of CCC's proposed budget cut options, which the parish council had supported, had now been adopted by CCC.
Kent Highways Parish Seminar 24th. November – Cllr Esdale & Clerk (Report circulated)
BVST Meeting 10.12.09- Written report circulated by Cllr Gulvin

80/09-10 Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

26 Conyngham Lane, Bridge

Remove one large dying cherry tree from back garden

The Close, Union Road, Bridge

Remove re-growth from large silver birch at front of 12 The Close

Reduce crown of large cherry in main lawn by 20% and reduce crown of mature malus crab apple to previous cutting points

Lift low growth of 3 sorbus trees and lift low growth of large lime tree overhanging pavement & bin storage

Remove 2 dead cherry trees at entrance to parking area

81/09-10 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Street Light for Union Rd** –Councillors considered a request for an additional street light to be located at the top of Union Road, but were unable to support this. It was pointed out that there was already a streetlight at the junction of Mill Lane and Union Road.
Action; Clerk
- b. **Salt bins** – Kent Highway Services had informed the council that they would supply a grit bin the council had requested for Conyngham Lane but they had refused the request for a bin in Higham Lane, because this did not fulfil the criteria recently adopted by KHS. Under the new policy, grit bins purchased by parish councils would no longer be serviced by KHS.
- c. **BEST** – It was agreed to fund the energy saving event to be run by the newly formed Bridge Energy Saving Team on 12th. December up to a maximum of £100.00
- d. **Play group parking** – A complaint had been received that parents parking their vehicles outside the Playgroup partly on the pavement in Union Road were blocking the access to Dering Road for larger vehicles and potentially for emergency vehicles. It was agreed to write to the playgroup organisers to advise them that the police were likely to take action against illegal parking on the pavement, which was causing an obstruction.
Action; Clerk

82/09-10 Correspondence – Noted**83/09-10 Bank transfers:**

The council noted the transfer of £2,200 between Parish Council accounts

84/09-10. The following receipts were noted;

Christmas trees - £615.00

Bridge Football Club - £250.00

85/09–10 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	£713.73	Salary & allowances for November + arrears of pay from April 2009 (£42.28)
Mrs E Oakey	£19.99	Bulbs for Town Hill chicane
Bounty Pest Control	£299.00	Annual charge 1.12.09 – 30.11.10 £260 + £39.00 vat
Kent County Council (KCS)	£1,106.86	Second half year invoice for grounds maintenance 2009 £962.49 + £144.37 vat
John Hill	£16.80	Mileage claim to Lenham for CPRE meeting 13 th . Nov = 42 miles
BVHMC	£18.00	Hire of hall for BEST meeting 12 th . December 2009
Ewart J Clough	£402.25	Christmas trees £350.00+ £52.25 vat
Mark Esdale	£349.68	Christmas lights and clips £304.07 + £45.61 vat

86/09-10 Any Other Business

- a. **Christmas trees** – Cllr Hill thanked those who had helped to put up the Christmas trees this year and in particular Cllr Esdale who organised it again. He asked for volunteers to take down the trees on the morning of Saturday 2nd January.
- b. **Retirement of Barry Whiting** - Cllr Hill expressed the councils' gratitude to Barry Whiting who had organised the Poppy Day collection for Bridge for many years and raised a considerable sum for the British Legion. It was agreed to write to Mr Whiting to express the council's gratitude. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **CCC's Budget Proposals Questionnaire** - Cllr Hill reminded councillors that the consultation period was drawing to a close and urged those who had not already done so to complete the questionnaire.
- d. **Potholes at the zebra crossing** - It was confirmed that these had been reported to KHS, most recently on 17th. November 2009.
- e. **New Entrance to Bridge Primary School** – Cllr Beinder reported that work on building a new entrance and reception area at the school would begin shortly and last about 12 weeks.
- f. **Hedging material** – It was agreed to consider how best to use surplus hedging material which had been offered to the parish council by the Allotment Association. Ideas would be discussed at the January parish council meeting. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Canterbury City Football Club** – A letter had been received from the club complaining about the state of the pavilion. It was pointed out that the club had failed to send a representative to the BVST meetings where such issues were discussed. It was also pointed out that the club was in default of payment of their fees for the use of the ground in the current season and had not returned the contract. The Clerk and Cllr Gulvin would agree a reply to the letter and the matter of the club's continued use of the recreation ground could be discussed at the January parish council meeting, depending on the club's response to that letter. **Action; Cllr Gulvin & Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 14th. January 2010 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.