

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

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

- 102. Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence.
- 103. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying made.
- 104.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th. January 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 105.** City Councillor John Anderson reported on a recent meeting at the City Council to brief candidates on election procedures. Ballots for the city council election will be counted from 9am on the day following the election. Parish Council votes will be counted after the city council votes. Cllr Anderson undertook to represent the views of the parish council to the city council on any matter.
- 106. Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. Recreation ground –**
The recreation ground inspection folder was passed to Cllr Gulvin.
Several golf balls had been found on the recreation ground. It was agreed to remind parishioners via the website that the recreation ground should not be used for golf practise. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
The damaged springy cat had been removed from the children's play area. A quote of £4,500 had been received from Wicksteed Leisure for a replacement roundabout. A further quote was awaited from SMP products. **Action; Clerk/ Cllr Esdale.**
- b. The Mill Centre-** Deferred to next meeting as the city council official concerned was away on leave.
- c. Bollards for Western Avenue –** Kent Highways Dept had reported they were unable to proceed with the installation of bollards because they had found BT fibre optic cable had been laid close to the kerb edge and too near the surface to enable bollards to be concreted in. It was agreed to ask BT to either remove their cable to a site nearer the wall or to re lay it at greater depth to enable the bollards to be erected. Failing that, consideration would be given to collapsible posts or a length of railing round the most dangerous part of the corner. **Action; Clerk**
- d. Bifrons Light. -** Canterbury City Council had asked Serco to cut back the trees overhanging from the White Horse garden and obscuring the light because the landlord had not responded to the parish council's request to take action.
- 107. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**
Little Stour & Nailbourne Flood Management Group.
Cllr Gulvin reported on the proposal by 'Newater plc' to discharge 50,000 cubic metres of water into the Nailbourne each day at Broomfield Bank near Dover. This was in fact a complex re-cycling scheme as it was also planned to extract an equal volume of water at some unspecified point along the river. The plan could mean that the Nailbourne would flow continuously. More information was expected and Cllr Gulvin would report back to the next meeting.
- 108. Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**
The council had no objection to the following proposal;
Beechwood, Higham Lane, Bridge
Reduce height of silver birch by up to one third

Action; Clerk

109. Matters for Discussion and Action

- a) **Financial reporting** – It was agreed to change from a system of income and expenditure to payments and receipts financial reporting with effect from the April 2007 audit. **Action; Clerk**
- b) **Review of Financial Standing Orders** – Financial Standing Orders were reviewed and revised where necessary.
- c) **Traffic on Bridge Hill** The council had received a letter from a resident expressing concern about the excessive speed of traffic leaving Bridge via Bridge Hill. The council agreed this was especially of concern because of the proposed 'Walking Bus' to the primary school, which will assemble at the Higham Park roundabout. The scheme will begin next month. It was agreed to write to Kent Highways Department asking for an early morning site meeting to review the situation and discuss various proposals to slow down traffic and make the area safer for school children crossing the hill to the bus shelter. It was also agreed to ask Kent Highways what progress had been made on the parish council's request for permission to install a flashing 30mph speed indicator at the Bridge Hill end of the village. **Action; Clerk**
- d) **Proposal to reduce speed limit on village roads to 20.mph.** It was agreed to write to Cllr Anderson asking for the entire centre of the village to be designated a 20mph area, from the Town Hill chicane to the bus shelter on Bridge Hill. **Action; Clerk**
- e) **Higham Lane pot holes** It was agreed to ask Kent Highways to fill these in. It was also agreed to thank Kent Highways for salting the pavements promptly after the snow fall earlier in the week. **Action; Clerk**
- f) **Annual Parish Meeting** It was decided that this year, instead of having one main speaker, a few representatives from the village would be asked to give short presentations to the meeting about their organisations or societies. **Action; Clerk**
- g) **Kent Village of the Year competition 2007** It was agreed to enter this year's competition. Cllr Esdale will be in charge of Bridge's entry. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- h) **'The Big Quiz'** It was decided not to enter a parish council team this year.
- i) **'Circus Starr'** It was agreed to refuse the request from Circus Starr to use the recreation ground for a performance in May.
- j) **KAPC Meeting** Cllr Beinder agreed to represent the parish council at the next branch meeting of the KAPC on 11th April. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
- k) **KAPC Planning Information Day** Cllr Lewis agreed to attend this information day if possible. **Action; Cllr Lewis**
- l) **Affordable Housing Committee** The Affordable Housing Committee will meet on 20th February at 3.00pm to agree criteria for the allocation of affordable housing under the proposed new scheme. The criteria will be put to the parish council for agreement on 8th March.

110. Correspondence – Noted. It was also noted that Cllrs Edmonds, Beinder, Esdale & Gulvin will visit Higham Park on Sunday 11th. February, in response to an invitation from Jane de Blik.

111. Letter of authorisation to transfer £1,500 between the two accounts held by Bridge Parish Council was agreed. It was agreed that in future the parish council would be informed of transfers between accounts but would not authorise them specifically – **Action; Clerk**

112. The following receipts were noted;

EDF Energy	-£3.45
Christmas tree donations	- £20.00
VAT repayment	- £632.57

113. 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 –

		January 2007
Bridge Village Hall Man Committee	£16.50	Parish Council meetings Jan, Feb, Mar 2007 - Hire of hall
Bridge Village Hall Man Committee	£66.00	Street Runner 9 Jan to 27 Mar (6 sessions) - Hire of hall
Wicksteed Leisure	£352.50	Removal of cat & make good wet pour £300.00 + £52.50 vat
Central Books	£24.00	1 Copy of Planning Simplified for Parish Councils £20.00 + £4.00 p&p
M Gulvin	£88.05	Photocopying from Jan 06 to Jan 07 - £74.94 + £13.11 vat
Softation – M Esdale	£47.00	Domain hosting & web site maintenance costs from 1.4.06 to 31.3.07 £40.00 + £7.00 vat

114. Any other business

- a. One estimate for the repair of the bus shelter ceiling had been received.
- b. BVST had had an initial approach from a Bridge School parents' cricket team that might want to use the recreation ground pitch. Canterbury City senior football team had expressed an interest in using the football pitch. Their representatives would be invited to attend a meeting of the BVST on 6th, March.
- c. The next parish council newsletter would be produced ahead of the closing date for nominations for the parish council on 5th. April. The draft newsletter will be completed by 8th March. **Action; Cllr Corfield**
- d. The council considered a complaint about the new siting of the dog bin on Mill Terrace, but it was agreed not to ask Serco to re-site it. This was because in its present position it could be used by dog walkers from Mill Lane and Union Rd as well as those coming from the fields.
- e. It was agreed not to raise the issue of the new disclosure requirements for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators at the next police forum meeting as it had now been explained that these would only affect the very few volunteers who had access to police station offices.
- f. It was reported that the Friends of Bridge Wildflower Meadow Project would be applying for a grant from 'Awards for All'.
- g. After Cllr Esdale had produced a proto type for a street sign incorporating the old street name, it was agreed that the parish council logo would not be used on any new street signs.
- h. A request from Canterbury Archaeological Trust for information about twentieth century defences in the area would be passed to Bridge History Society. **Action; Clerk**
- i. It was reported that Tina Burchell, former clerk to the parish council, had married in August 2006. The parish council recorded their congratulations to Tina and Andrew.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 8th. March 2007 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.