

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th July 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

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

27/08-9. Apologies for absence; There were apologies for absence from KCC Cllr Northey and CCC Cllr Anderson

28/08-9. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items. There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.

29/08-9. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th. June 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

30/08-9 Disposal of business from the last meeting

- a. **Recreation ground** – It was agreed that when Cllr Beesty, who currently holds the Recreation ground folder, was unable to carry out weekly inspections Cllr Beinder would carry them out in his place. **Action; Cllrs Beesty & Beinder**
The annual RoSPA playground safety inspection would take place on 11th. July and Cllr Esdale would accompany the inspector. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
Cllr Gulvin reported that the goal posts had been removed to allow the grass in the re-seeded goal areas time to re-grow.
Cllr Esdale reported that he had replaced the damaged swing seat. There were problems in changing the slide platform because the bolts are very difficult to remove. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
Cllr Beinder reported that an area of planting had again been mown by the grass cutters, despite a map of planted areas to avoid having been given to Kent Landscape Services several weeks ago.
- b. **Affordable Housing** – A progress report from Southern Housing Group had been circulated to councillors. Work was continuing to ensure the scheme met the technical, financial and compliance performance standards before planning permission was sought.
- c. **Bridge Place Licencing Application** – Cllr Esdale reported that the Licencing Authority had granted a licence to Bridge Place with reduced hours on Fridays and Saturdays of up to 2.00am with last drinks at 1.30am and last entry at 11.30pm. Additional conditions had been imposed, including the need for two security staff on the front gate at all times and no entrance or exit for clientele via Brewery Lane. The owner must consult with Kent Highways regarding signage.
- d. **Bridge Parish Council v Canterbury City Council judgement-** Bridge Parish Council's claim against Canterbury City Council had been allowed and the parish council had been granted unconditional permission to bring its claim for a judicial review before the High Court in the matter of the city council's decision to grant planning permission for a garage and dwelling in the grounds of 24 High St, Bridge. In view of the judge's ruling, the city council had decided not to defend the claim. It had therefore signed a Consent Order agreeing to submit to judgement. The grant of planning permission had been quashed. The city council had also agreed to pay the full costs of the parish council's action. Payment was still awaited.
Cllr Lewis agreed to complete a questionnaire submitted by Kent Law Clinic and the council decided to consider whether to make a donation to the Clinic at its September meeting. **Action; Cllr Lewis**
- e. **Allotments-** Following the parish council's request for further land to be granted to the Allotment Association, Savills had suggested that the northern block of former allotments could be brought back into use. It was agreed to await a response from the Allotment Association and defer this matter to the September parish council meeting. Cllr Gulvin would draft a response. It was also reported that an estate visit by the land-owners would take place in October. There had been no comment from Savills on the long outstanding matter of the lease. **Action; Cllr Gulvin & Clerk**

31/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Reports on the following were received;
Canterbury & District Rural Forum, 16th. June – Cllr Edmonds
Canterbury Branch of KALC, 9th. July – Cllr Hill
Training for Key Holders of Emergency Rest Centres – Cllr Esdale

32/08-9 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

The Byre, Renville Farm Rd, Bridge

Remove broken branch of horse chestnut, which is blocking drive

24 High Street, Bridge

Remove 3 horse chestnuts between the existing studio office and lime tree and crown lift the yews to a height of 2.5 m. Reduce the height of the highest yew by approx one third.

Clear branches of horse chestnut overhanging the carriageway to meet statutory clearance

Hazel coppice – re-coppice as required

Cut back 5 semi mature yews to form a high hedge.

Action; Clerk

33/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Skateboard Area** –It was agreed to consider the possibility of putting a skateboard area onto the recreation ground. Councillors would meet at the recreation ground on 12th. July to measure a potential site and bring recommendations to the September parish council meeting.
- b. **Unsuitable routes for Lorries in Bridge-** It was agreed to ask Kent Highway Services to include Station Rd, Bridge to Whitehill Rd, Lower Hardres and Patribourne Rd on the list of roads unsuitable for HGVs so that KHS can request Sat Nav. Companies to identify them on their databases and KHS can produce a map of preferred lorry routes to be given to freight transport agencies.
Action; Clerk
- c. **Mill Centre-** The parish council supported the Mill Centre's proposal to ask CCC to sell the centre to the parish council for a nominal sum. The centre would then be leased to the Mill Centre Committee on a 25 year rolling lease for community use and managed by the committee. Should the centre no longer be required, it would be a condition of the sale that the city council would have the first option to buy back the centre for the same nominal amount as the original purchase price. This proposal would be put to the city council at a meeting on 16th. July.
A second option would be to ask the city council for a 25 year rolling lease at a peppercorn rent.
Action; Cllr Esdale
- d. **New Bus shelter for Post Office** – It was agreed to investigate the possibility of erecting a bus shelter at the stop near the post office. The clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways and Stagecoach about this. Hole had been dug for the post stop posts near the butchers and the post office in the High St. but no posts had been erected. This was a potential hazard for pedestrians.
Action; Clerk

34/08-9 Correspondence - Noted

35/08-9 The following receipts were noted;

Bridge Village Hall Management Committee - £44.00
Christobel Seath (Clerk) - £2.82

36/08-9.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT*	£72.38	Telephone account March – June 08 £61.60 + £10.78 vat
Christobel N Seath	£621.68	Clerk's Salary and office allowance –June 2008
Bridge Parochial Church Council	£100.00	Donation to 'On the Nail'
Wicksteed Leisure	£42.89	Replacement swing seat £36.50 + £6.39 vat

* Paid by direct debit

37/08-9. Any other business:

- a. Cllr Esdale reported that a resident of Windmill Close had had two solar lights stolen from the garden. The theft had been reported to the police.
- b. Canterbury City Football Club was expecting CCC to make an announcement about the site of their new permanent ground soon. They had asked Bridge councillors and residents to support them and confirm that they had been good tenants. Cllr Esdale would circulate the email he had received. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- c. It was agreed that councillors would accept the invitation to visit the New Close. The Clerk would contact Matthew Wood to arrange a suitable time. **Action; Clerk**
- d. Cllr Edmonds drew councillor's attention to the Kent Downs AONB Countryside Day at Lenham on 25th. July.
- e. Cllr Lewis asked if any further information had been received about Southern Water's plan to pump water into the Nailbourne at Elham. Cllr Gulvin thought this had not gone ahead.

The meeting closed at 9.35p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 11th. September 2008 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.