

**Draft Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

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

17/08-9. Apologies for absence; There were apologies for absence from Cllr Corfield

18/08-9. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items. There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.

19/08-9. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th. May 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20/08-9. Matthew Wood, Assistant Manager, New Close, briefly advised the council of an application for funding from the Mental Health Foundation to create a 1920s style themed tea-room at the New Close and invited councillors to visit the residential home, which cared for those suffering from dementia and Alzheimers. The aim of the project was to enhance the quality of life of the residents and work in partnership with the wider community.

21/08-9 Sue Radcliffe, PCSO and Dave Garland, PCSO Supervisor, attended part of the council meeting. PCSO Radcliffe intended to hold monthly surgeries in Bridge and would like to use the village hall for this purpose. She would liaise with Cllr Esdale regarding a suitable time. It was reported that there had been problems with youths causing late night disturbance on Western Ave. Residents were urged to report any incidents to the PCSO so that patrols could be arranged at the relevant times. The PCSO also advised that there had been a spate of lawnmower thefts locally. Any vehicles seen late at night carrying mowers should be reported to the police.

Action ; Cllr Esdale

22/08-9 Disposal of business from the last meeting

- a. **Recreation ground** – It was reported that litter was being removed from litter bins and scattered on the ground. One of the litter bins had been re-sited from Patricbourne Rd to the Youth Shelter at the request of the parish council. The council agreed to discuss the possible siting of a skate board ramp and a bid for funding for it at the July parish council meeting. The possibility of erecting a tennis wall was also discussed, following a suggestion from a resident. It was decided to take no action on this for the moment as questionnaires submitted for the Parish Plan had indicated a preference for a skate board ramp. A quotation for filling in the dip in front of the practice goal had been received from Kent Landscape Services. As submission of this had been delayed, it was agreed to carry out the work in September after the school holidays, so that the re-seeded area would have time to grow. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Affordable Housing** – Southern Housing Group had been asked to provide the council with a copy of the draft S106 agreement that was being submitted to CCC. It was now estimated that work would begin on the site in early 2009. Councillors were asked to let SHG have details of any comments they had received from residents at the Information Day held last year. SHG had agreed to send the council monthly updates on progress in future.
- c. **Methodist Chapel** – It was noted that the chapel would close on Sunday 22nd June. Cllr Edmonds would attend the final service. **Action; Cllr Edmonds**
- d. **Higham Lane** –Cllr Edmonds was pleased to report that under Section 228 of the 1980 Highways Act, Higham Lane had been adopted by Kent County Council.
- e. **Bridge Place Licencing Application** – It was agreed that Cllr Esdale would represent the parish council at the Licencing hearing on Monday 23rd June at the Guildhall.

20/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

There were no reports from representatives to outside bodies

21/08-9 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

100 High Street, Bridge

Fell a fir tree in front right hand corner of garden

Nailford House, Brewery Lane

Fell dying willow tree on left hand side of front garden

Action; Clerk

22/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Canterbury City FC** – Some of the complaints received from local residents were discussed but it was agreed that the club had made a positive impact on the village and the council were happy with the first year of the club's tenure. It was noted that the club intended to advertise future games at the pavilion and it was also agreed that the council would be given as much notice as possible of fixtures. The club would arrange with Serco for the goal posts to be dismantled for the summer if possible, to facilitate grass cutting on the recreation ground. It was suggested that these could be stored in the pavilion.
- b. **Pavilion Extension** – Cllr Gulvin explained that, although representatives of Canterbury City Football Club had expressed some scepticism about plans for the pavilion extension at the Annual Parish Meeting, there was a need for the work to be carried out. FA inspectors had confirmed that the changing rooms were too small and there was a requirement for separate showers for the teams. If, as seemed likely, the first team progressed into higher leagues over the next two years, it was intended that they would play at a different, more suitable venue. However, in that case it was planned to use the ground for either the second team or the ladies team. It was pointed out that Bridge Juniors would also benefit from the pavilion's extension.
- c. **Fly Tipping** – There had been an increase in fly tipping in Bridge, particularly at the re-cycling point. It was the city council's policy to prosecute any person found fly tipping and residents were urged to report any incidents they witnessed to the council. Councillors praised Serco for their prompt action to remove any fly tipping reported to them.
- d. **Littering in the fields near the disused railway line** – This annual problem was again causing concern. Previous complaints to Mansfield Farms about the behaviour of their seasonal workers had been ignored. It would be difficult for the council to erect signs as the land was privately owned. It was agreed to draw the problem to the attention to Kent Public Rights of Way and possibly arrange a clean up at the end of the season.
Action; Clerk
- e. **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting next year would be held on Thursday 21st May 2009 and that subsequently the date for the next APM would be fixed at the end of each annual meeting.
- f. **Mill Centre** – Advice had been received from NALC regarding the lease of the Mill Centre. It confirmed that the city council were empowered to re-set the rent levels and that the parish council was correct to pay rent at the old rate while revaluation was carried out. NALC pointed out that while the city council was required to obtain a commercial value for properties, the Secretary of State had the power to make an exception on several grounds, including social or environmental well being. It would therefore be possible for the city council to sell the premises at below commercial value. Cllr Esdale would continue to pursue this with CCC. **Action Cllr Esdale**
- g. **Insurance for Volunteers** – Allianz had confirmed that volunteers working with the parish council and using equipment supplied by the council would be insured under employers' liability cover. It was agreed to re-confirm that volunteers helping with the Christmas trees would continue to be covered under Serco's insurance policy.
Action; Cllr Esdale
- h. **Drainage problems on Pett Hill** – Cllr Lewis outlined the problems of poor drainage being experienced on Pett Hill and Station Rd. It was agreed to write to Kent Highways setting out the problem. **Action; Cllr Lewis & Clerk**
- l **45 High Street** - Cllr Lewis noted that work was being carried out at 45 High Street and that its appearance had improved.

- j. **Speedwatch** – Cllr Esdale reported that several local parishes had adopted the Speedwatch system. It might be possible for Bridge to hire the equipment from other parishes. Lower Hardres had invited Bridge councillors to see their system in operation. Cllr Esdale would contact Lower Hardres council to arrange a demonstration.
Action; Cllr Esdale
- k. **Contract for Play Equipment Safety Inspection**- After considering a quotation for safety inspections submitted by Kent Landscape Services it was decided to continue to use RoSPA for play equipment inspections. It was agreed to arrange for a parish councillor to be present at the July inspection. Cllr Esdale volunteered to do this.
Action ; Cllr Esdale & Clerk

22/08-9 Correspondence - Noted

23/08-9 Transfer – The transfer of £2,000 between Parish Council accounts was noted

24/08-9 The following receipts were noted:

VAT reimbursement - £1,425.30

25/08-9.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*Allianz	£1,348.69	Parish Insurance renewal 2008-9
Christobel N Seath	£621.68	Clerk's Salary and office allowance –May/ 2008
Barbara Beinder	£167.79	Supply of wild flowers & postal costs for wildflower project £143.39 + £24.40 vat
Ordnance Survey	£64.33	Map Copying Licence renewal £54.75 + £9.58 vat
John Hill	£47.52	APM refreshments expenses
KALC	£70.50	Chairmanship Training Day 17 th . July - £60.00 + £10.50 vat)
Janet Horsley	£20.00	Catering for meeting with legal team
BHVMC	£11.00	Hire of hall for Annual Parish Meeting & 10 th July PC meeting

* Cheque previously authorised to meet insurance renewal date 1.6.08

26/08-9. Any other business;

- Bridleway CP304** –Cllr Lewis reported that he had asked PROW to clear this.
- Hedge Survey Course** –Cllr Lewis informed the council that he would be attending this course, the first of its kind in the county.
- Standards Committee Agenda** – Cllr Hill pointed out that this agenda had been sent out very late by the city council. There had been no mention of the role of parish councils on site visits.
- Meeting with Kim Bennett and Ludek Majer** – It was agreed that this would take place on 20th June at 12.00 noon in the city council offices. Cllrs Edmonds, Hill, Gulvin and Esdale would attend together with the Parish Clerk.
- Parking outside Western Ave shops** – A complaint had been received that employees were parking their cars for long periods outside the shops. It was agreed that the council would write to the shop owners pointing out the shortage of parking spaces in the village and asking their employees not to park in the lay by. The council would also try to ascertain what had happened to the proposal put to CCC to time limit parking in the lay by.
Action ; Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.58 p.m.

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