

Minutes of  
**BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

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

**114. Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Hill and Lewis.

**115. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** Declarations of interest were made on items 4bi and 7h by Cllr Esdale and item 4bi by Cllr Beesty.

**116.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**117. Disposal of business from the last meeting**

- a. **Recreation ground** – There had been an incident with a gardening contractor gaining access to the recreation ground via the gate by the primary school on a wet day and causing damage to the football pitch when the vehicle got bogged down. It was agreed to write to the primary school pointing out what had happened and requesting that they did not give out the key to allow vehicles onto the ground without the agreement of the parish council. **Action; Clerk**  
The litter problem on the recreation ground had got worse and a hole had appeared near the tennis court, possibly as a result of mole activity.
- b. **The Mill Centre-**
  - i. Carole Mounce addressed the council on behalf of the organisations using the Mill Centre. She explained that the centre was used on four nights a week by four clubs representing around 200 young people. The clubs each contributed £300 per year but a steep increase in insurance costs and a fire safety survey had depleted their funds. It was agreed to make a 'one-off' contribution of £1,000 towards the Mill Centre running costs.
  - ii. **Lease** – The current lease expires in 2008. It was agreed to write to CCC to ask them to agree a 25 year lease to be held by the parish council. This would enable the parish council to apply for funding to improve the facilities. It was also agreed to ask the current leaseholders, the Girl Guides Association, to agree to transfer the current lease to the parish council. **Action; Clerk & Cllr Hill**
- c. **Bollards for Western Avenue** – BT had now marked out the places where bollards could be erected safely. Kent Highways had been informed but the officer dealing with this was on leave until 15<sup>th</sup> March. **Action; Clerk**
- d. **Bifrons Light. -** It was agreed to write to the owners of the White Horse to complain that the current landlord had taken no action to cut back the overhanging branches from his garden that were obscuring the light in Bifrons Path. The council would also raise its concern about bags of rubbish accumulating in the garden and the landlord's failure to keep his dog under control. **Action; Clerk**
- e. **Bus shelter** – Work had begun on re-lining the roof of the bus shelter
- f. **Annual Parish Meeting** – Mr M Raraty, Cllr Beinder and a representative from the school had agreed to speak at the parish meeting. A reply was awaited from the vicar. It was agreed to ask Carole Mounce to speak about the Mill Centre and Cllrs Anderson and Northey to speak as City and County Councillors respectively. **Action; Clerk**
- g. **Higham Park visit-** A report of the visit of councillors from Bridge, Bekesbourne and Bishopsbourne parish councils to Higham Park had been circulated by Dr Peter Smith on behalf of the developers of Higham Park. It was agreed to write to the parish councils concerned to suggest setting up a small working group to coordinate the responses to the development and planning application. CCC Planning Department had advised that the current application would be refused and thought it probable that the developers would withdraw their application and re-submit revised plans. It was agreed to write to Katie Miller of CCC to ask that the parish council be sent copies of any modified designs and were kept informed of any new proposals.

It was agreed to write to Ms de Blik making clear that the parish council was totally opposed the plans and asking for clarification of her comment that the house would be turned into a children's holiday home after ten years.

**Action; Clerk**

**118. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Parish Forum – Cllr Edmonds

Written report circulated

SEERA Regional Housing Board Strategy Review

28<sup>th</sup> February – Cllrs Gulvin

Written report circulated. A letter had been sent to SEERA to complain about the inadequate notice of the Canterbury consultation meeting.

CCC Election Briefing Meeting

8<sup>th</sup>. March– Cllr Esdale

Poling Day for city and parish council elections will be 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Nomination forms must be submitted to the city council elections office between 26<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup>. April. Candidates must be aged 18 and over. Blank nomination forms for parish councillors may be obtained from the parish clerk or direct from the elections office. Parish council votes will be counted on the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup>, May.

BVST AGM

Cllr Gulvin gave a report on the meeting of the Bridge Village Sports Trust. A new cricket team made up of local parents and children from Bridge Primary School would be interested in taking over the lease for the cricket pitch. Canterbury City Football Club had expressed an interest in taking up a three-year lease for the football pitch from next season. The possible impact of an increased number of supporters at matches was discussed.

Little Stour & Nailbourne Flood Management Group

Cllr Gulvin reported that a letter had been sent setting out the group's concerns over the proposals by Nuwater plc to discharge 50,000 cubic metres of water into the Nailbourne at Elham and asking for more details.

**119. Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The council had no objection to the following proposals;

Laleham, Bekesbourne Rd, Bridge

Reduce a twin stemmed sycamore and three multi-stemmed ash trees in rear of garden by up to 20%

Beechwood, Higham Lane

Fell silver birch in rear garden

Gardenways, Bridge Hill

Reduce copper beech by up to 20%

Crown lift yew tree by maximum of 3 metres

Crown lift second yew by max of 3 metres and reduce overall by 20%

**Action; Clerk**

**120. Matters for Discussion and Action**

- a. Affordable Housing – The Parish Council approved the proposed criteria for the allocation of affordable housing that had been drawn up by the Affordable Housing Committee. It was agreed to ask Southern Housing to provide more details about the composition and role of the proposed Trust, including information as to its powers to vary the eligibility criteria. It was also agreed to ask Southern Housing to provide a complete copy of the Trust document and to advise whether a member of the parish council would have a seat on the Trust.

**Action; Clerk**

- b. **Cycle Path** - The council agreed to encourage Dermott Stewart to set up a working party within the village to press for funding for a safe cycle route between Bridge and Canterbury. **Action; Clerk**
- c. **80 High Street** – It was agreed to take no further action on this for the present.
- d. **Newsletter** – The newsletter was approved and arrangements made for its distribution round the village. Cllr Corfield was thanked for his work in compiling the newsletter. **Action; Councillors**
- e. **Pfizer ‘ Reaching Out’ volunteer scheme** – Cllr Beinder agreed to pursue the possibility of applying for volunteers from this scheme to help to create the wild flower meadow. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
- f. **Roundabout for the Recreation Ground** It was agreed to buy a roundabout to replace the cat on the recreation ground at a cost of £3,812. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- g. **Reserves Allocation for 31/3/2007** The reserve allocation for 31/3/07 was approved.
- h. **Capital Grants for the Village Hall and Mill Centre** It was agreed to submit a request for capital grants in 2008/9 for the refurbishment of the village hall and for work on the Mill Centre. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- i. **Donation to BVST** A grant of £300 towards the cost of repairing the sports pavilion was approved.
- j. **Filing cabinet** It was agreed to buy two new four-drawer filing cabinets. **Action; Clerk**
- k. **KAPC membership 2007/8** It was agreed to renew the council’s membership of KAPC for 2007/8. **Action; Clerk**

121. **Correspondence** – Noted.

122. It was noted that the sum of £2,500 would be transferred this month between the two accounts held by Bridge Parish Council. **Action; Clerk**

123. 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 – February 2007
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£35.00	Annual Membership fee for year ending 31 March 2008
Clifford Construction Ltd.	£410.00	Part payment of bus shelter repair £348.94 + £61.06 vat
BVST	£300.00	Pavilion repairs

124. **Any other business**

- a. **Higham Lane** – A letter had been received from Furley Page - Solicitors advising that they had passed the request from the parish council for potholes in Higham Lane to be repaired to their clients, Permitnotice Ltd, the owners of the lane.
- b. **The Friends of Bridge Wildflower Project** – The constitution for this project was adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> February and presented to the parish council by Cllr Beinder.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>. April 2007 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. April at 7.30 in Bridge Village Hall.