

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th. November 2009 in Bridge Village Hall

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

61/09-10 **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Beinder, Corfield, and Lewis

62/09-10. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on agenda items.

63/09-10. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th. October 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

64/09-10 **Disposal of business from the last meeting**

- a. Recreation Ground – Cllr Edmonds thanked those residents who turned out to help with planting and weeding the recreation ground on a very wet Saturday morning.
- b. Affordable Housing – The plans for the affordable housing scheme had been unanimously approved by the city council's Development Control Committee. City councillors had congratulated the parish council for their tenacity in promoting the scheme in the face of persistent 'nimbyism'. Several councillors and the clerk had subsequently been approached by residents wishing to be considered for housing at the new site.
- c. Allotment lease- Deferred to December meeting – **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- d. Speedwatch – Lower Hardres PC had agreed to hire their Speedwatch equipment to Bridge at a cost of £30 per week. Bridge would hope to use the equipment one week per month. It was agreed that the parish council would add the equipment to its insurance policy. The Speedwatch Campaign would start in the New Year. Volunteers to assist would be very welcome. **Action; Cllr Esdale & Clerk**
- e. Pavilion repairs- An estimate for repairs to the pavilion had been received. It was agreed to obtain two further estimates before deciding on what repairs should be carried out. Some reserves were available in the parish accounts for this purpose. The city council's valuation department had requested copies of the BVST's accounts in order to assess the rate relief that would be applicable after 2010. This was part of a District wide exercise. Currently BVST qualified for 100% relief. It was agreed to send Bridge Tennis Club a copy of the rateable valuation, which the parish council had received for the tennis club. **Action; Cllr Gulvin & Clerk**
- f. Re-siting of High Street bench.-The parish council had received objections from the residents of 56-64 High Street to plans to re-site the bench by the wall in front of their terrace. In view of the need to provide seating in this part of the High Street, the council would investigate the purchase of a new single seat, which could be placed at the site of the planters in the High Street. **Action; Clerk**
- g. Bridge Environment Group – A steering committee had met on 5th November and would hold a second meeting later in November. There would be an announcement about a village event later in the year.
- h. Provision of a dog bin for Conyngham Lane – There was currently no funding from the city council for the purchase of dog bins. The city council had offered to put stickers on litter bins advising dog owners that they could be used to deposit dog mess. It was agreed to put an item in the next Newsletter on this topic. The parish council had received a complaint from Bekesbourne Parish Council about dog owners, allegedly from Bridge, who allowed their dogs to foul the paths in Bishopsbourne. **Action Cllr Corfield & Clerk**

65/09-10 **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

KALC Canterbury Branch, 14th. October 2009 – Cllr Wilmshurst – Minutes circulated

Rural Housing Conference – 3rd. November 2009 – Cllr Hill & Clerk – Report circulated

66/09-10 Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;

15 Union Rd

Remove one cordyline on front boundary

The Close, Union Rd

Remove two dead cherry trees close to the boundary with Union Rd

9 Windmill Close

Remove one sycamore tree on rear boundary to enable erection of fence.

Copse End, Conyngham Lane

Reduce two cherry trees and one laburnum by 30%

24 Conyngham Lane.

Prune a decorative willow in front garden, reducing it to close to the main branches.

Reduce two silver birches in the back garden by up to one third

67/09-10 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. Application to Register the Water Meadows & Brickfields as a Village Green – The parish council unanimously opposed this application, which it recognised as a device to attempt to thwart the progress of the affordable housing scheme in Brickfields. It noted that the land in question had been held as an agricultural tenancy since before 1936 and the water meadows were currently owned by Cantley Estates and farmed by a local farmer. The public rights of way that crossed the water meadows gave local residents access to the fields but only along the paths. They did not give people the right to use the fields for other activities without permission. There were no public rights of way across Brickfields and unless specific permission was granted for access to this field, those entering it were trespassing. It was pointed out that Bridge had a large recreation ground for the use of residents. It was agreed to write to KCC objecting strongly to this application. **Action; Clerk**
- b. Financial Regulations – The financial regulations were reviewed and it was decided not to make any changes to the current regulations.
- c. Interim Audit – The half-yearly report of the Internal Auditor was noted. There were no matters arising which required action.
- d. Canterbury City Council's Proposed Budget Cut Options – The parish council agreed to support Option 1 of the budget cuts being proposed for the 2010/11 budget; 'To fund core functions at 100% with the balance of £3,038 enabling a pro-rata contribution of 31.79% to desirable items.' **Action; Clerk**
- e. Parish Capital Grant Scheme- Two suggestions for funding bids were made under this Scheme. The first was for the purchase of adult exercise equipment for the recreation ground, the second was for solar panels for the village hall roof. Councillors were asked to bring other ideas to the December meeting.
- f. Refurbishment of bridge into the recreation ground – It was agreed that Cllr Gulvin would obtain two more quotations for this work. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**
- g. Wet pour repair/renewal for the children's play area – It was agreed to accept the quotation from Monster Play Systems for the repair of the wet pour on the children's play area. This work would carry a five year guarantee. **Action; Clerk**
- h. Sand bag store – New keys had been cut and distributed for the sand bag store. Residents needing keys should contact any councillor or the Clerk. It was agreed to contact our PCSO to discuss the possibility of young offenders being used to re-fill the sand bags if the city council would provide the parish council with empty sacks. **Action; Clerk**
- i. BTCV Kent Heritage Tree Project – It was agreed to participate in this project. Cllr Beinder would be asked to complete the questionnaire. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
- j. Correspondent for Bridge News – Parish councillors agreed to try to find a new correspondent for this column in the Kentish Gazette.
- k. John Purchase Memorial Tree – It was agreed to allow the Liberal Democrats to purchase a Robinia Pseudocacia Casque Rouge for the recreation ground. **Action; Cllr Lewis**

68/09-10 Correspondence – Noted

69/09-10 Sealing of Documents

Agreement between Bridge Football Club and Bridge Parish Council
Agreement between Canterbury City FC and Bridge Parish Council
Agreement between Bridge Junior FC and Bridge Parish Council

70/09-10 Bank transfers:

The council noted the transfer of £1,000 between Parish Council accounts

71/09-10. The following receipts were noted;

VAT reimbursement - £389.99

72/09-10 The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Kevin Funnell	£35.00	Audit of 2009-10 records
Post Office Ltd	£200.00	Arrears of Employer contributions for National Insurance April – Nov 2009 @ £25 per month
Christobel Seath	£665.47	Salary & office allowance for October 2009
Christobel Seath	£45.15	Petty cash
D Possee	£50.00	Plants, compost and maintenance of High Street planters
Wicksteed Leisure	£12.13	Parts for swings £10.55 + £1.58 vat
Cllr Hill	£5.70	Travel expenses to city council meetings & parking fee
Cllr Esdale	£6.60	Keys for sandbag store

73/09-10 Any Other Business

- a. Cllr Esdale asked that the city council be requested to remove the graffiti placed by them some months ago at the corner of the High Street. It had not faded within three to four weeks as they had predicted. **Action; Clerk**
- b. Cllr Esdale reminded councillors that the Christmas trees would be put up in the High Street on Saturday 5th. December from 9.30 am onwards. All volunteers would be very welcome.

The meeting closed at 9.33 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council be on Thursday 10th. December 2009 at 7.15 pm in Bridge Village Hall.