

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th October 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

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

54/07-8. **Apologies for absence;** There were apologies for absence from Cllr Beesty.

55/07-8. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items.** There were declarations of interest on Agenda item 4d Cllr Beinder (school governor); Item 6 Cllr Corfield(neighbour of tree work applicant).

56/07-8. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

57/07-8. Disposal of business from the last meeting

a. **Recreation ground –** The recreation ground inspection folder was taken over by Cllr Corfield. The path near Mansfield Court was becoming overgrown. It was agreed that cleared vegetation should be moved to the fence on the far side of the ground to rot down. Cllr Esdale could lend a flat bed trolley for this. **Action; Cllrs Lewis & Esdale**

It was agreed that the remains of the vandalised picnic table could be burnt on the village bonfire. The remaining table, which had been moved by Bridge Football Club, would be returned to its original site. Mr Fawke kindly offered to arrange this.

The rubbers on the swing may need renewing. Cllr Esdale agreed to inspect them. The paint on spider had been damaged by graffiti. It was agreed to bear this in mind for next year's budget. **Action; Cllr Esdale**

Following complaints from residents, it was agreed to insert a clause in the new lease for Bridge Football Club and to point out to them in a letter that they were obligated to clear up rubbish after each session and to return any furniture that they move to its original location. **Action; Clerk**

Cllr Lewis reported that there had been no problems at Canterbury City Football Club's last home game.

Cllr Beinder asked for help with planting the wild flower area, which would take place on 1st November. Volunteers were needed at the recreation ground any time after 9.00am. **Action; Cllr Beinder**

b. **Cycle Path –** Following the Joint Transportation Board meeting, KCC Highways Dept were investigating three possible routes. The parish council had received a letter from the solicitors of S W Mount, the local landowners, asking for further information about the proposals. It was agreed to send the solicitors a copy of the agenda of the Joint Transportation Committee and point out that while the parish council supports the cycle route, it has no power to proceed until KCC have consulted the relevant local landowners. It was agreed to send a copy of the solicitor's letter to Ruth Goudie of KCC. **Action; Cllr Hill, Clerk**

c. **Mill Centre –** Following the expiry of the current lease, Canterbury City Council had re-assessed the rent. This was formerly £250 p.a. It was now proposing a rent of around £15,000 pa. If the parish council took over the lease with the help of a grant, it would need assurances that the grant would cover the full period of the lease. The parish council needed to resolve the situation with CCC and, if possible, secure the lease soon as the future of uniformed organisations in the village could be threatened. There was also uncertainty over the future of the oil depot following a take-over. The legal advisers of the Girl Guides Association (former lease holders) had offered assistance in negotiating with CCC. It was envisaged that the lease would be held by the Mill Centre Committee and neither it nor individual parish councillors would personally be liable for the rent should any grant be terminated.

d. **Local Schools Admissions policy –** Cllr Edmonds had met representatives of Kent County Council, the Diocese and Bridge Primary School to discuss the parish council's proposal that proximity to the school should be given higher

precedence than denominational preference when allocating places. The school was constrained by the government's policy on parental choice. KCC had explained that ticking the denominational preference box was now regarded as an acknowledgement that the school provided a Christian ethos. A majority of school governors supported the present system. It was agreed that the parish council consider a proposal to ask Cllr Northey to lobby KCC for change to the admissions priorities at the next meeting. This had to be done by the end of the November to effect any change in 2009 admissions policy. **Action; Clerk**

58/07-8 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Rural Area members Panel Meeting – Cllr Hill
KAPC Canterbury Branch 9th Oct - Cllrs Hill & Wilmshurst

59/07-8 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

Muntok (Formerly Lodescroft) Patribourne Rd, Bridge
Fell a line of 5 small apple trees and a number of young self seeded sycamore immediately behind them. Trees at top of adjacent to rear garden at top of woodland. Cut back a small plum tree and lower branches of neighbours ash tree from over border. **Action; Clerk**

60/07-8 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Affordable Housing** – Southern Housing Group had failed to produce a Section 106 agreement agreed between themselves and Canterbury City Council for the parish council's approval. The council were therefore unable to formally approve the scheme. It was agreed that two of the single units would be for shared ownership, the remaining 6 units would be for rent. **Action; Clerk**
- b. **Parish Council Capital Grant Scheme** – It was agreed to submit an application for approx £10,000 for the renovation of the back of the village hall. **Action; Cllrs Esdale & Gulvin**
- c. **Traffic signs.** – It was decided not to purchase any moveable traffic signs at present but to review the situation in six months. **Action Clerk**
- d. **Children's slide** – It was agreed to replace the deck of the small slide in the children's play area at a cost of about £200.00 **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- e. **Mansfield Court Gardener** – Following discussion it was decided not to allow the gardener at Mansfield Court to have access to Bridge Recreation Ground and to inform Orbit Housing Association of this decision. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Post Office Campaign** – It was agreed to write to the relevant authorities condemning the decision to close three post offices in Canterbury. It was pointed out that the closure of St Dunstan's post office would result in long journeys into Canterbury for local residents, particularly when the central post office was moved to WH Smiths.
- g. **24 High Street** – Following Canterbury City Council's approval of the application for garages and a residential unit to be built in the garden of this Grade II listed building, a resident had sought the advice of a barrister specialising in planning. He had agreed to act in the case. Kent Law Clinic had also agreed to represent local residents and a pre-action protocol letter had been sent to CCC advising of impending future legal action. The city council had been asked either to revoke the planning permission or submit to the authority of the court. The deadline for a response had been set as 17th. October. A meeting with the barrister was planned for 18th October and it was agreed that Cllrs Lewis & Hill would represent the parish council at the meeting, when the response of the city council would be discussed with the legal team and local residents. **Action; Cllrs Lewis & Hill**
It was noted that City Councillor John Anderson had failed to support the parish council and had voted for the development. It was therefore agreed to write to Cllr Anderson expressing the council's disappointment at his action and reminding him that at the February 2007 parish council meeting he had promised to support the council and represent its views to the city council. It was also agreed to write to the leader of the Conservative group on the city council to complain about our councillor's lack of support. **Action; Clerk**

- h. **Development Control Meeting** – It was agreed that Cllr Hill would represent the parish council at this meeting on 16th. October and press the case for parish council representatives to speak last and for five minutes at Development Control Committee Meetings in future. **Action; Cllr Hill**
- i. **Christmas Trees** – It was agreed to erect Christmas trees in the High Street again this year. Cllr Esdale would also investigate the possibility of putting up a large Christmas tree in the churchyard in place of the felled holly tree. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- j. **Dog control area** – It was decided to ask Canterbury City Council to designate Bridge Recreation Ground a dog control area, apart from the public footpath, and to stipulate that dogs on that path must be kept on leads. **Action; Clerk**
- l. **Recreation Ground Notices** – The parish council approved the purchase of two notice boards indicating that dogs, cycles and golf was forbidden on the ground, at a cost of £287.00 **Action ; Cllr Gulvin**
- m. **Street Cleaning** – Cllr Lewis reported that, following the appeal in the Autumn newsletter, only three residents had offered to help with keeping the village clean and tidy. It was agreed to buy four litter pickers and latex gloves. **Action; Cllrs Lewis & Esdale**
- n. Agenda Item 7n was discussed in camera in the public interest in view of the possible commercial implications of the subject under consideration.

61/07-8 Correspondence – Noted.

62/07-8.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
BT	£70.08	Telephone account (paid by DD) £70.08 (£59.64 + £10.44 vat)
Christobel N Seath	£585.28	Clerk's Salary and office allowance – September 2007
Ann Edmonds	£10.00	2 picture frames @ £5 for 'Kent Village of the Year' Commended certificates
Anthony Glew	£258.50	Repair of bus shelter £220.00+£38.50 vat
BVHMC	£44.00	Hire of hall for 4 Street Runner sessions 11 th . Sept to 23 rd Oct @ £11.00
BVHMC	£22.00	Hire of hall for Parish Council meetings Sept – Dec 07- 4 sessions @ £5.50
Christobel Seath	£19.99	Paper shredder £17.01 + £2.98 vat

63/07-8. Any other business:

- a. Cllr Beinder reported that an area of Union Rd was dark and streetlight might be needed. This was now a city council matter.
- b. It had been reported that the kingpost on the village hall ceiling might be unsafe. Cllr Esdale agreed to investigate. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
- c. Cllr Beinder would ask the supplier when the new street signs would be ready. It was over a year since they had been agreed. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
- d. Cllr Corfield was congratulated on the excellent Art In Bridge Exhibition. Combining the event with the Church Flower Festival had been particularly successful.
- e. Cllr Edmonds reported that at the previous Street Runner Session the youth workers had arrived late with no equipment. It was agreed to write and complain to Alison Small of CCC as the council was being paid £112.90 per session. **Action; Clerk**
- f. Parish Councillors had been invited to a meeting of PACE on 8th November to discuss climate change. Unfortunately this clashed with the parish council meeting.
- g. Following another accident on the A2 sliproad, it was agreed to write to Kent Highways and Kent Police again requesting rumble strips. **Action; Clerk**
- h. It was agreed to write thanking Maurice Smith for his help in delivering the Autumn Newsletter. **Action; Clerk**

The meeting closed at 10.14 p.m.

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