Minutes of

BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th September 2007 in Bridge Village Hall

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

42/07-8. **Apologies for absence;** There were no apologies for absence.

43/07-8. **Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items**. There were declarations of interest on Agenda item 7d Cllr Beinder (school governor); Item 4d Cllr Edmonds (resident of Higham Lane).

44/07-8. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th. July 2007were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

45/07-8. Disposal of business from the last meeting

a. **Recreation ground –** The ROSPA Report was considered. After discussion it was decided not to fence the children's play area. The wet pour would need to be replaced in about 5 years and it was agreed to continue to set aside funding for this. An inspection list for the new roundabout was required. The clerk would approach Wicksteed Leisure to enquire about this. **Action ; Clerk**

The deteriorating state of the bridge into the recreation ground would be raised with Cantley estates. **Action; Clerk**

One of the picnic benches had been destroyed. A decision on replacing this would be taken in the Spring.

There was concern about dogs on the recreation ground, some of which were brought by football supporters. This would be drawn to the attention of the football club. **Action; Clerk**

b. **The Mill Centre-**. A meeting of the Mill Centre Committee would take place on 17th. September. The City Council appear willing to transfer the lease to the Parish Council but the rent would be increased. Details are awaited. There had been no information about the length of the lease. The site is designated for housing by Canterbury City Council in the long term.

c. **Affordable Housing –**.ACRK had received 36 completed application forms for affordable housing which had been passed to Canterbury City Council and the Southern Housing Group for action.

d. **Higham Lane –** The Parish Council had been advised by the Legal Dept of NALC that it did not have any powers in relation to the maintenance /improvement of Higham Lane and that it did not owe the residents/users of the access road a duty to ensure that the road is improved or maintained. It was reported that local residents were discussing the maintenance of the road with Kent Highways.

e. **Youth Shelter-** Three quotations had been received from suppliers. A member of the Youth Group would be applying for a grant to buy and install the shelter from the KCC Youth Opportunities Fund.

f. **Cycle Path –** The cycle path between Bridge and Canterbury had been agreed in principle at the Joint Transportation Committee and three possible routes were being investigated.

46/07-8 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Money Talks ' Workshop 23rd.July 2007 –Cllr Edmonds
BVST Meeting 15th August 2007 – Cllr Gulvin
Joint Transportation Committee Meeting 4th. Sept 2007 – Cllr Hill

47/07-8 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposals were noted;
Jonette, Patrixbourne Rd, Bridge
Fell pine tree in rear of garden
Netherbury, Meadow Close, Bridge
Cut back mixed group of trees on rear boundary & reduce by 30%
Whitegates, Bekesbourne Rd. Bridge
Fell one elm tree in front hedge with die-back crown
Fell one very old cherry tree in front garden with decay in most branches
11 High St, Bridge
Reduce walnut tree between 2nd new property & vicarage by 25%, lift canopy & reshape. Remove any dead wood & tidy broken branch
18 High St, Bridge
Crown lift copper beech in rear garden to remove limbs over adjacent property & balance crown all round
Bridge Churchyard
Remove holly tree near gate
15 Union Rd, Bridge
Remove 4 leylandii at back of property and one small yew tree to front to prevent damage to retaining wall
Pilgrim Cottage, Meadow Close, Bridge
Fell one silver birch close to house causing drain damage and root congestion to soakaway
New Close Residential Home, Conyngham Lane Bridge
Fell wellingtonia at entrance to home
(Parish Council has objected to this application)
It was agree that the City Council would be asked what decision had been reached on this application. **Action; Clerk**

48/07-8 Matters for Discussion and Action

a. **Police Road Safety Project** – PCSO Sue Radcliff and a colleague presented proposals for cooperation with parish councils on road safety. It was agreed to consider possible locations for mobile speed limiting signs and to make a decision at the next parish council meeting about the possible purchase of two signs. The PCSOs also reported that they would be providing transport for traffic wardens from Canterbury to visit the villages more regularly, particularly at periods of congestion such as the end of school times, to enforce existing parking restrictions.
b. **Community Paths Project** – It was agreed not to participate in this.
c. **Replacement bench** – It was agreed to purchase a replacement bench for the one which was stolen from the recreation ground. **Action; Clerk**
d. **Bridge School's Admissions Policy –** Replies from Kent County Council and Julian Brazier MP were considered. It was decided to ask KCC to consult parish councils as well as schools when the Admissions Forum considered the policy of giving priority to denominational preference at its forthcoming meeting. **Action; Clerk**
e. **Littering of fields by seasonal workers.** – No reply had been received to the parish council's letter to Mansfield farms in April asking for seasonal workers to refrain from littering local fields and the railway embankment. This problem had continued and it was agreed to write to Mansfield farms again. It was pointed out that most seasonal workers would leave the area this month. However, the council wish to ensure the company act responsibly in this matter next year. **Action; Clerk**
f. **Golf practice on the recreation ground –** Individuals were still using the recreation ground for golf practice. The parish council agreed to ban this dangerous activity. It was also agreed to obtain quotations for the purchase of a wooden notice board to be placed at the entrance to the recreation ground advising that dogs, cycles and golf were prohibited on the ground. **Action; Cllr Gulvin**

g. **40 mph limit for Bridge Road –** It was agreed to support Lower Hardres & Nackington Parish Council's request to Kent Highways that the whole of Bridge Rd, up the end of Station Rd, be given a 40 mph speed limit. **Action; Clerk**

h. **Annual Parish Audit for 2006/7 –**It was noted that the Audit had been certified by the Audit Commission. A Copy of the audited statement would be made available for inspection at Cllr Gulvin's office. **Action; Clerk**

i. **Canterbury Football Club –**Following the first home match, a complaint about parking had been received by a resident of Riverside Close. Councillors who had attended both recent home matches had found no serious problems. It was agreed to write to Canterbury Football Club asking them to remind their players of the need to drive carefully in the village, requesting they take action to prevent windows of Mansfield Court being hit by footballs, especially during practice sessions and reminding the club that spectators were not permitted to bring dogs onto the recreation ground. **Action; Clerk**

j. **Kent Village of the Year –** Cllr Edmonds reported that Bridge had been awarded 'Commended' in the Business and Environment categories. It was agreed to enter the competition again in two year's time.

k. **Bridge in Bloom –** Cllr Edmonds announced that Mrs Possee of Bridgeway Stores had won the shield for the large retail category. Julie Bennett had again won the trophy for the best individual display. The residents of Mansfield Court had been awarded a special community award for their lovely display.

l. **Paper shredder –**It was agreed to buy a paper shredder for the parish council office. **Action; Clerk**

49/07-8 Correspondence – Noted.

50/07-8. It was noted that the sum of £5,000 had been transferred between the two accounts held by Bridge Parish Council in August.

51/07-08 The following receipts were noted;

Bridge Village Sports Trust –Subscription for 2007 - £10. 00
VAT repayment £238.15

52/07-8. The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
*Christobel N Seath	£585.28	Clerk's Salary and office allowance –July 2007
*ROSPA	£125.73	Inspection Fee £107.00 + £18.73 vat
*Canterbury City Council	£83.29	Uncontested election fees
*Wicksteed Leisure	£4,479.11	Installation & supply of Spiro - whirl roundabout £3,812.00+ £667.11 vat
*Kent Landscape Services	£1,216.30	First half yearly invoice £1,035.15+ £181.15 vat
Christobel N Seath	£585.28	Clerk's Salary and office allowance – August 2007
Mark Esdale	£16.24	Fixings for Patrixbourne Rd bench £13.82+ £2.42 vat
Canterbury City Council	£6.10	Supply of 10 Declaration of Interest Forms @ 61p each
Canterbury City Council	£758.02	Delivering Youth Sessions 1.4.07 to 30.6.07 – 6 sessions @ £107.52 = £645.12 + £112.90 vat

* = Authorised during August

53/07-8. Any other business;

a. The September Newsletter was discussed and its contents were agreed. It was hoped to distribute the newsletter as soon as possible. The clerk would liaise with Cllr Beinder on councillors who were unavailable to deliver the newsletter. **Action; Clerk**

b. The Parish Council had received notice that the City Council was investigating the alleged breach of planning regulations by the erection of a smoking shelter at the Red Lion, High St, Bridge.

c. Notice had been received from Canterbury City Council that Bridge Parish Council's proposals for alterations to Development Control Committee proceedings would be discussed on 16th.October.

d. It was reported that the Fish & Chip van would no longer be visiting the village.

e. Equestrian Elite had received permission for their illuminated sign on appeal.

f. There had been no reply from Roger Casement who had been asked to supply quotations for the restoration of old street names.

g. It was reported by Cllr Lewis that Canterbury City Council were failing to maintain their hedges in Mill Lane. It was agreed to write and ask them to do so. **Action; Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.58 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 11th. October 2007 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.