

Minutes of
BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th September 2008 in Bridge Village Hall

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

- 38/08-9. Apologies for absence**; There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Edmonds, Hill and Beesty, also PCSO Sue Radcliffe
- 39/08-9. Declaration of Interest & Lobbying on agenda items**. Cllr Gulvin declared an interest on agenda item 7e as a member of the management board of The Close.
- 40/08-9.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th. July 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 41/08-9** Cllr Northey reported that Kent Highway Services had moved their offices from Canterbury to Ashford. There had been several changes of staff at senior level but it was hoped that efficiency would begin to improve. Proposals had been put to government by KCC for a tax on foreign heavy goods vehicles entering Kent to offset the costs of the damage done to local roads.
- 42/08-9 Disposal of business from the last meeting**
- a. Recreation ground** – Cllr Beesty continued to hold the recreation ground folder but Cllr Beinder would take this over shortly. **Action; Cllr Beinder**
The ROSPA inspection report was being circulated. It had found that the newly installed roundabout did not conform to safety regulations concerning the gap between the platform and the ground. Wicksteed Leisure would therefore be asked to remedy this. **Action; Cllr Esdale**
Acts of vandalism had been reported by residents on the night of 30th August. A large amount of broken glass had been left on the play area, goal area and around the youth shelter, where a fire had been lit with the contents of a rubbish sack. A rubbish bag had also been pushed through the open window of house in Mansfield Court. It was agreed to report the incidents to the PCSO. **Action; Clerk**
The signs at the entrance to the recreation ground on Patricbourne Rd needed to be re- fixed to the top of the pole **Action ; Cllr Esdale**
An increase in dog mess particularly on the path to the school had been reported by a resident.
- b. Affordable Housing** – Southern Housing Group expected that the affordable housing project would be put to CCC's Planning Department for approval in December. The section 106 agreement had not yet been finalised with CCC but the parish council would be given a further opportunity to comment on the document after it had been agreed with CCC and before it was presented as part of the planning application.
- c. Allotments**- The Chairman of Bridge Allotment Association would leave his post in January. The Allotment Association had indicated that it was not interested in renovating the northern section of the old allotment area at this time. It was hoped there would be further discussions on expanding the allotment area when the landowners visited Bridge in the autumn.
- d. Skateboard Area**- Councillors had visited various skateboard areas in the district and also held site meetings on the recreation ground. The cost of creating a skateboard area would be high and external funding would be required. There would be further consultations.
- e. Law Clinic Donation**- It was agreed unanimously to give a donation of £250 to Kent Law Clinic in recognition of its assistance in the parish council's successful High Court case against Canterbury City Council's planning decision on 24 High Street and the subsequent award of full costs to the parish council. **Action; Clerk**
- f. Bus shelter** – Kent Highways had confirmed they had no objection to a bus shelter being erected against the wall at the bus stop near the post office. Kent Highways would erect this but the parish council would pay for it and seek part funding from KCC. Cllr Gulvin would consider a suitable design and Cllr Lewis would approach the owner of the wall against which it was proposed to site the shelter.

Action Cllrs Gulvin & Lewis & Clerk

- g. **Bridge Hill Build-outs**- Despite having had site meetings with Kent Highways Authority, the parish council had failed to persuade them to modify the design of the build outs, to re-site the southern build out or to install traffic calming for vehicles leaving the village going south. As Kent Highways had made it clear that any further discussions would lead to the work, which was due to begin in November, being postponed for at least another year, the council reluctantly agreed that the original plan should go ahead. It was hoped that further traffic analysis in future would lead to measures being taken to slow traffic approaching Bridge Down. **Action; Clerk**

43/08-9 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

There were no reports from outside bodies

44/08-9 Notice of proposed work to trees in a Conservation Area

The following proposal was noted;
The Byre, Renville Farm Rd, Bridge
Remove a dead horse chestnut tree

45/08-9 Matters for Discussion and Action

- a. **Youth Shelter** – It was agreed that, despite the isolated incident noted at 42a, above, the youth shelter had proved to be a success. In the three months since its erection it had been well used and it was thought that the incidence of vandalism and damage to the pavilion had been reduced.
- b. **Replacement trees** – It was agreed to purchase a replacement ash tree of approx 2 metres and a replacement rowan tree for the recreation ground. The sum of £200 was authorised from the recreation ground budget to be spent on the new trees and their installation. **Action; Cllr Beinder & Clerk**
- c. **September Newsletter** – Suggestions were made of items for inclusion in the September Parish Council Newsletter. **Action; Cllr Corfield**
- d. **Requests for donations from CAB and Victim Support** – In line with parish council policy, it was decided not to give donations to these organisations, which had recently requested funding. **Action; Clerk**
- e. **Upkeep of Laurie's Way** – As this was a private road, its up keep did not fall within the responsibility of Kent Highways. The parish council decided not to contribute to the cost of its up-keep as this would set a precedent. It hoped that the Management Committee of The Close would be willing to maintain the pathway. **Action; Clerk**
- f. **Police Noticeboard** – The parish council had no objection to the police erecting a notice board in the village for information and news. However, the council would ask to be informed of the positioning of the board before it was erected. **Action ; Clerk**
- g. **Traffic leaving Archways & The Burden** – A complaint had been received about the entrance to the above properties on Conyngham Lane, which was dangerous because of inadequate sight lines. This was especially worrying because of the number of children who walked along to pavement from the school. It was agreed to ask Kent Highways to install dropped kerbs to give pedestrians the right of way. It was also agreed that the owner of the property whose fence adjoined the driveway would be asked to consider lowering it to improve sight lines. **Action; Cllr Gulvin & Clerk**
- h. **Wire netting on Bridges over Water Meadows** – Councillors agreed to investigate the current state of repair of the netting on the bridges and, if necessary, to arrange a working party to replace it. **Action; Cllrs Gulvin & Esdale**
- i. **Declaration of Interest Forms** – Councillors were asked to up –date their Declaration of Interest forms if necessary.
- j. **Police Parish Forum** –It was agreed to support the proposal to reinstate the Police Parish Forum. It was pointed out that this was the only regular, formal way in which issues of concern to parishes could be raised with the police. The original format of the meetings seemed satisfactory. **Action; Clerk**

- k. **Annual Financial Return** - The council noted that the Audit Commission had completed the 2007-8 audit of Bridge parish accounts and issued the certified Annual Return.
- l. **KALC Financial Information Day 18th October** - Cllr Esdale would attend this training and information day if available.

46/08-9 Correspondence - Noted

47/08-9 The following receipts were noted;

Canterbury City Council – reimbursement of legal costs £3,094.08
 VAT reimbursement - £249.46

48/08-09 Bank transfers:

The council noted the transfer of £2,000 between Parish Council accounts in August and of £1,000 between Parish Council accounts in September

49/08-9.The following items were authorised for payment; (note that 2 signatures are required on the invoice, cheque stub and cheque)

Payee	Amount	Purpose
Christobel N Seath	£621.68	Clerk's salary and office allowance for July 2008
*Kent County Council (KCS)	£1,258.86	First half yearly invoice for grounds maintenance £1,071.37 + £187.49 vat
*Christobel N Seath	£42.43	Petty Cash
Christobel N Seath	£621.68	Clerk's Salary and office allowance – August 2008
Mr D Edmonds	£16.20	Travel expenses for Chairman to attend KALC's Chairmanship Day 17.7.08
RoSPA	£129.25	Playground inspection fee 11.7.08 £110.00 + £19.25 vat
Christobel N Seath	£26.99	Printer refill £22.97 + £4.02 vat
Savills	£225.00	Rental for recreation ground period 25/3/08 to 28/9/08
Canterbury City Council	£252.67	Delivering Youth Sessions 8.4.08 & 22.4.08 £215.04 + £37.63 vat
Mark Esdale	£26.12	Refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting

* Authorised during August

50/08-9. Any other business;

- a. **Restoration of old Street Signs** – Cllr Esdale would provide photographs to be sent to the street name supplier
Action ; Cllr Esdale
- b. **Allotment, Open Space & Play Strategic Consultation Event 21st October** – Cllr Gulvin would attend this event if possible.
Action; Cllr Gulvin
- c. **Parish & Town Council Seminar 15th. October** – Cllr Esdale would attend this seminar which was being organised by Kent Highways.
Action; Cllr Esdale
- d. **Charlton Athletic** had notified the parish council of a scheme to arrange for parties from local parishes to attend their matches. It was agreed to pass this information to local youth organisations to assess the level of interest.
Action; Cllr Esdale

The meeting closed at 9.22 p.m.

The next meeting of Bridge Parish Council will be on Thursday 9th. October 2008 at 7.30 pm in Bridge Village Hall.