

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING ON MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2009 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman J Barsley, Cllrs F Playfoot, B Stanley, R Carter, I McEwen, C Treble, and Clerk M Powell. One member of the public.

Apologies for absence

Mr Alex King, Borough for a prior appointment, Cllr Mrs M Callow, Cllrs P Randall and Mrs C Cornford for family commitments. Borough Cllr Mrs S Slade was unable to attend.

Declaration of Interests

Members were reminded that if a member has a *prejudicial* interest in an agenda item, this should be declared at the start of the meeting.

Personal interests may be declared at this point or, alternatively, can be declared at the time a specific item is being discussed if that member wishes to speak on the item in which s/he has a personal interest. In case of doubt about such an interest Councillors are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer before the meeting or declare the interest anyway.

Public Question Time

Three questions were asked: -

1. What is the PC's position on the Cabinet decision to close the public toilets in Brenchley and Matfield and had we made representations to the Scrutiny Committee? The Chairman answered that the topic would be discussed later in the agenda but the view is that they should stay. We had had a public meeting, which also took this view and this had been communicated to TWBC.
2. Was there any news on the Post Office in Matfield? It was understood that a decision from the Post Office was expected in the next seven days and this would be made public once the Post Mistress had been advised. There is a plan for the interim if the outcome is unfavourable.
3. Damage had been caused by cars to the verges on the west side of Matfield green, had the PC any plans to repair them? He was answered that the problem had been looked at several years ago but to lay a mesh to prevent such damage would have been prohibitively expensive. Some damage had been caused by the cars that had been seen driving around Cinderhill Wood and the PCSO had been advised.

Confirm minutes of previous full meeting of the 1st December

The minutes were duly approved and signed by the Chairman.

Planning Applications.

03916/FUL/SJM The Oast Crittenden Road Matfield

Two single-storey extensions and a single-storey link

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to the Conservation Officers approval

08/04075/FUL/TA1 Land to rear of Walters Farmhouse High St Brenchley

Demolition of existing barn and construction of dwelling

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to a formal application for change of use from agricultural use to residential being approved.

08/04012/FUL/ARJ

Meadow Cottage Crook Road Brenchley

Single storey side and rear extensions, gable roof and new dormers; new double garage
Recommendation-Approval

Subject to the new proposal satisfying the Planning Officer that it overcomes the previous objections raised in the previous Notice of Refusal.

08/04080/FUL/TA1

Moatlands Manor, Watermans Lane Brenchley

Change of use from golf clubhouse to single dwelling. Resiting of two tennis courts and removal of existing gravel parking area

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to the building not being listed

Decisions taken by TWBC**08/03090/FUL/CLC**

Town Farm Palmers Green Road Brenchley

Change of use of land to residential and erection of domestic wind turbine

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Refusal

It was noted that despite TWBC wishing to support renewable energy they had no apparent policy on wind turbines and usually refused most such applications.

08/03107/FUL/SJM

Cowden Horsmonden Road Brenchley

Detached sheep barn/lambing shed

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

08/03343/CEU/CLC

The Stables, Fairmans Lane Brenchley

Continued occupancy of the Stables by persons other than immediate relatives or employees of the occupiers of Gate House Farm

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

08/03473/FUL/CLC

Newfield Crittenden Road Matfield

Single storey rear/side extension and replacement garage block

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal

08/03621/FUL/CLC

Tawsden Cottage Spout Lane Brenchley

Replacement garden store with ancillary accommodation

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

08/3507/FUL/ARJ

Little Dunks Farm Cuckoo Lane Brenchley

Construction of a 40x20m equestrian arena, change of use from agricultural to equestrian and erection of timber stables.

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting

Mr Noakes has been engaged to repair the fencing in Cinderhill Wood and the seat at the Jubilee seat

Other Meetings Attended**Cinderhill Wood**

The Chairman attended a meeting to discuss the issues around Cinderhill Wood, the details of which had been circulated by email. A member of the public had provided valuable information regarding rights of way and the meeting proved both informative and constructive. It was noted that a gate across the drive to the lower car park had been tied up and that horses were tethered on the football pitch.

St Luke's Church

Cllr J Barsley and Cllr R Carter met with Mr Roly Franks to discuss the request for financial support. The Church had broadly managed to break even in the past but in light of the financial downturn had thought it prudent to budget for a loss this year. It was

discussed and agreed that the PC would pay to have the hedges cut around the churchyard which would save them around £400-500 and further to reserve a maximum of £1000 from contingencies for use later in the year depending on the eventual financial result. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor the PC uses and put them in touch with Mr Franks.

Brenchley School

The Chairman had visited the School and had been invited to sit as an Associate Governor with a brief to be involved with human resource issues. The PC agreed that it was valuable for them to have representation with the School.

Matters Arising

Precept

The precept had been provisionally set at £46000. It was discussed and the Council agreed to confirm this.

Mowing

The annual quotation for mowing has been received from KCC Landscape Services. The prices have increased by 5% from last year. It was agreed to accept this.

Pavilion

Cllr Treble reported that as requested he had received replies from Mr Ian Wilkins regarding his quotation for £4200. The wood would be the hardwood Sepili. Payment would be required on completion and Cllr Treble was very happy to recommend this supplier base on his experience and if any other Cllrs wished to view his work he would willingly show them the results. The PC agreed to accept this quotation but asked for a Pro-forma invoice to allow the expenditure to come from budgeted funds this financial year, as the job was unlikely to be finished before April.

Correspondence

Thorn Cottage

Advice from the Enforcement Officer that the shed built in the front garden has been removed. However it was noted that the air-conditioning unit was still in place and the Clerk was asked to write again to the enforcement Officer to progress the matter.

TWBC

1. A report on public lavatories and their decision to close the facilities in Matfield and Brenchley.
2. Advice that the Cabinet decision to close the lavatories will be called in and reviewed by the Corporate Services Select Committee and the Environment, Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee. The Clerk advised he had been contact to see if the PC would be represented and if we wished to speak. The Chairman agreed to attend together with one other Councillor and asked the Clerk to advise TWBC that he would speak.
3. A copy of the new Business rates policy had been received and the Clerk was asked to distribute copies.
4. An Agenda for Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th January was circulated.

Communities and Local Government

A consultation document

Accounts for payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1949.97
Post Office Ltd	Tax and NI	£319.51
Roundabout	Renewal of yearly advert	£175.00
South East Water	Water for allotments	£68.75
South East Water	Water for pond	£12.60
EJP Fire Protection Ltd	Pavilion extinguisher maintenance	£29.38
TMS Marketing	Signs	£96.23

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Christmas Lighting**

It was generally considered that the new lights in both Brenchley and Matfield were a success and Cllr Stanley agreed to explore the possibility of encircling the village centre of Brenchley next year. The Clerk was asked to write and thank Mr and Mrs Edmeads for their much-appreciated provision of the lights in the Avenue.

Road Salt

Cllrs Stanley and Playfoot had both experienced difficulties in that the container of road salt in the Brenchley car park was empty and finding the appropriate authority to replenish it was difficult. TWBC Car parks department agreed to attend to it. The Clerk was asked to diary a reminder to check the bins next October.

Cinderhill Wood

It had been brought to the attention of Cllr Barsley from other residents that the amount of light pollution from Cinderhill had increased. The PC had been assured that the fittings used would prevent this and the Clerk was asked to provide the original planning application.

Matfield Affordable Housing.

The PC discussed the best route to a public consultation on proposals for affordable housing. It was after some debate agreed that a Saturday would be the best time and it was disappointing that TCHG had so far said it would be unable to attend at the weekend. It was also agreed that the best method of consultation would be to hold an open exhibition of plans and proposals followed at the end of the day by a short presentation with a questions and answers opportunity. The Chairman agreed to write to all concerned to this effect and to request that as TCHG were an important contributor to the proposals that they find a suitable representative to attend.

Public**Street Lighting**

It appeared that the light at the end of Church Close is permanently on. The Clerk was asked to advise EDF with whom we have a maintenance contract.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a planning meeting on Tuesday 20th January in Matfield Village Hall at 7.30 pm.