

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2009 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Cllrs R Carter, I McEwen, R Dafter, B Stanley, C Woodley, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M Powell. Borough Councillor Mrs M Callow. Three members of the public.

Apologies for absence

Vice Chairman J Barsley and Cllr P Randall for family commitments.

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.

Confirm Minutes of the full meeting on 7th September

An item regarding Matfield Pond on page 1469 stated that Cllr Randall agreed to contact Kent Wildlife Trust to seek advice. It was agreed this was erroneous and that it was in fact Cllr Dafter. The minutes were duly amended and then signed as correct by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

Three residents who live close to Pine Cottage expressed their reasons why they felt the planning application should be refused. Collectively they felt that the new access road would lead to the development of a full-scale industrial estate, as the width of some 5.5m wide would allow access for HGVs. They felt that any increase in the development would be detrimental to their family's well being and asked for the support of the PC.

Planning Applications.

09/0263/3FUL/CLC

Little Chill Mill Bungalow Tibbs Court Lane

Brenchley

Single storey side extension, replacement of flat roofs to rear extension and two front bay windows with pitched roofs

Recommendation-Approval

09/02729/FUL/CP3

Pine Cottage Maidstone Road Matfield

Formation of new vehicular access and change of use of land previously used as access to residential curtilage

The Chairman declared a personal interest and whilst he remained in the room took no further part in the discussion.

Recommendation-Refusal

Recommend refusal as we consider the drive to be unnecessarily large and the reasons for it unclear. We are concerned that the proposal will have a detrimental impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and will add to the increasing urbanisation of the village. We are also concerned that the Change of Use will be potentially detrimental and it is unclear why it should be necessary.

It was also agreed to ask Cllr Mrs M Callow to call in the application for decision by Committee. In the reply to TWBC the reasons the PC required it called in was noted as follows: -

"We consider that this application will be seriously detrimental to the AONB and further that the if approved the establishment of an industrial estate rather than the existing permitted use within a village environment is sufficiently serious to warrant the

consideration by the Committee. The width of the proposed drive will allow for regular use by HGVs and the danger of these emerging onto a B class road needs consideration beyond access requirements.”

09/02696/FUL/CW1

1 Chestnut Lane Matfield

Single storey pitched roof extension to rear and porch to front

Recommendation-Approval

09/02816/FUL & 09/2819/LBC/SJM Portebello Holly Bank Matfield

Garden room to rear. Rebuild garage with pitched roof and create entrance hall.

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to the Conservation Officer's approval.

Decisions taken by TWBC

09/02336/FUL/GM2

Childs Cottage Crook Road Brenchley

Extension to kitchen and alterations to roof to provide additional accommodation (amendment to 09/00794)

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

09/02374/FUL/TA1

Oasthouse, Little Dunks Farm Cuckoo Lane

Brenchley Construct a 20m x 40m riding arena comprising of a network of land drains, a stone base, silica sand and rubber surface surrounded by a post and three railed fence with a five bar gate entrance

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting

War Memorial

The Clerk has spoken to Burlite Ltd regarding progress on the cross of Brenchley Memorial. Work was actually in hand as we spoke but no completion date was provided. The Clerk advised he had attended the premises and a photograph of the work so far was circulated.

Training

The Clerk has expressed willingness to attend a KALC training course on obtaining a CILCA qualification. The course date has yet to be set but likely to be February next. The course would hopefully provide Clerk with sufficient training on how to proceed and the qualification was likely to take two or three years to achieve. The PC discussed this and agreed that this was beneficial and a necessary step before it could consider a route to becoming a "Quality Council".

Other Meetings Attended

Finance

Cllr Carter reported on Finance sub-committee meeting. The accounts for the first half-year had been examined and found satisfactory with no cause for concern. Expenses were below budget and the few items with queries had been satisfactorily explained. The PC discussed items and agreed that they were happy with the accounts.

Footpaths

Cllr Woodley reported on a meeting with Jonathan Bibby-KCC footpaths officer. He had looked at the network and had been provided with a schedule of the programme to attend each path as required clearing overgrown vegetation. Issues regarding dilapidated stiles had been discussed and Cllr Woodley agreed to explore and report on such ones as could either be repaired, replaced or where no livestock was in existence, be replaced by gates etc. It was felt that it would be advantageous if volunteers to help with clearance, signage etc could be sought. Cllr McEwen suggested the web site as a good advertising base and Cllr Woodley said he would consider writing an article for Roundabout.

Village Shop/Post Office

Cllr Mrs Cornford reported following the PC and some 150 residents who attended a presentation regarding proposals for a shop and post office in Matfield on 9th September in the Village hall. There has been a subsequent meeting between Sean Carter, the proprietor of the Star, Daryl Jones of TWBC Economic Development Officer and the architect Peter Bodman. Planning permission for change of use of the redundant buildings at the Star was likely to be applied for shortly. Grants may be available and when the units are vacated on the 16th October further structural surveys will be carried out.

Crime Prevention

Cllr Dafter reported on various items regarding crime Prevention. The co-ordinator for West Kent Watch- Mr Peter Rowling has been adopted as a partner of the Police partnership who will be giving assistance by way of funding to develop the web site. There are now 6 or 7 co-ordinators for Neighbourhood watch in Matfield.

Matfield Pond

Cllr Dafter also reported on a conversation with Sussex Wildlife Trust who proved to be very helpful regarding the thinning of lilies in the pond. One of their experts a Mr Peter Birchell has offered to visit and survey the pond, if the PC agree, with a view on giving advice on what is required. The PC agreed they would be very happy for this to happen.

Community Safety Partnership

The Chairman and Cllr Woodley attended a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership at Cranbrook School regarding strategic priorities for reduced crime and anti-social behaviour. Various senior Police Officers were also in attendance. The PC thought that the message was positive and good. However, it was thought that the audience there were the already converted and not the people that needed to be reassured of both the efficiency and commitment of the partnership and the breadth of the group, together with their co-operation and mutual understanding.

School

The Chairman reported that he had attended meetings with Brenchley School Governors. The majority of the governing body was comparatively new to the post and they were looking for a new Headmaster. They were financially sound and morale was high. The results of the SATS tests were better than expected and significantly better than previous results. The intention is that numbers will be less and that from September there will only be one class per year.

Borough Councillor.

Brg Cllr Mrs Callow reported on various meetings. She advised she sits in the Committee for Local Economy and Housing. The annual horse fair in Horsmonden had been a success with little trouble and the Gypsy community had actually taken out their own public liability insurance.

There are still many rumours regarding TWBC removing or reducing the amenity vehicle but costs must be reduced. A question had been raised about whether the calculation of the cost of some £175,000 per annum for running this service included landfill tax that is in fact paid for by KCC and not TWBC.

Two recent accidents of pedestrians being hit by speeding motorists in Goudhurst, including a toddler in a pram were a recent issue and consideration was being given to ways of reducing the potential dangers.

She reported that Borough Cllr Sally Slade had officially resigned from the position but would remain in place until the next election in May to prevent further expense.

Matters Arising

Bus Shelter

Following the accident that damaged the bus shelter outside St Luke's Church an estimate has been sent to the owner of the car involved and a cheque has been received from his insurer. The Clerk had delayed placing the order with Cornford Builders as mention had been made of the possibility of moving the shelter. The PC discussed this and agreed this was impractical. However, the Clerk was asked to contact KCC Highways to ask advice on ways that the shelter could potentially be made safer.

Chevron Sign

The Clerk reported that the chevron sign outside St Luke's Church had been replaced.

Correspondence**KHWP**

An invitation and application form for the Kent Free Trees Scheme 2009 was distributed.

KCC

An invitation to comment on a Scoping Report for a sustainability appraisal regarding Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework had been received. Cllr Woodley agreed to read and consider if action was required.

ACRK

An introduction had been received from Mr Carl Adams, recently appointed as Rural Officer for ARCK having taken over from Victoria Lawson. He is an advocate of the concept of a Parish Plan. To this end he proposes a meeting to explain the process. The PC discussed this and it was noted by the Chairman that the enthusiasm from the Council was refreshing and the Clerk was asked to invite Mr Adams to a meeting to discuss it.

Residents

A copy of an email to TWBC had been received expressing objections to any further development at Pine Cottage.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1256.80
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£320.01
EDF	Electricity	£65.21

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Fly Tipping**

Cllr Mrs Cornford reported that the fly tipping behind the toilets in Matfield was getting worse and that the gate was broken. The Clerk was asked to contact TWBC to ask them to clear the land.

Christmas Lights

Cllr Stanley discussed proposals for extending the lights in Brenchley this year. The intention was to provide some lights around the village square. The lights in Matfield had been organised by Mark and Son and Cllr Stanley agreed to discuss with them the proposals for this year. It was also agreed to spend up to the budget on further lighting and the Clerk was asked to enquire of TWBC as to the likelihood and timing of a further grant.

Brenchley Charities

Cllr Stanley had previously volunteered to organise the Christmas food parcels in the Parish. The matter was discussed and it was agreed to increase the spending and number of beneficiaries this year. Cllr Stanley would also make enquiries on who potential candidates were.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a planning meeting on 20th October in Brenchley Memorial Hall.