

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY
7th DECEMBER 2009 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Vice Chairman J Barsley presided, Cllrs R Carter, I McEwen, R Dafter, B Stanley, C Woodley and Clerk M Powell. Borough Councillor Mrs M Callow. PCSO Nick Brown attended during the latter part of the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Chairman M Mackenzie and Cllr Mrs C Cornford 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 2nd November and the Finance meeting of 23rd November

The minutes were duly agreed and then signed as correct by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

None. However this item was held to the end of the meeting awaiting the arrival of the PCSO.

Planning Applications.

09/03299/House/TA1 Moatlands Manor Watermans Lane Paddock Wood
Removal of existing marquee and erect a single storey extension

Recommendation-Approval

We are surprised that the major north elevation has no fenestration, which seems unnecessarily cautious

09/03397/House/GM2 Chestnut Cottage Foxhole Lane Matfield
Demolition of existing garage and erection of attached garage, open sided carport and log store

Recommendation-Approval

09/03436/House/SEP Halfway Cottage Horsmonden Road Brenchley
Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of new larger outbuilding

Recommendation-Refusal

We consider this to be a disproportionately large development within the curtilage of a listed building

09/03104/House/ARJ Far Far Away Beech Lane Brenchley
Construction of equestrian sand school for private residential use

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to private use only and no external lighting

09/03433/House/GM2 39 Porters Wood Petteridge Lane Matfield
Single storey rear extension

Recommendation-Approval

09/03429/House/SJM

Woodlands Oast Fairmans Lane Brenchley

Removal of 2.1m casement windows from east elevation and replace with a 2.4m opening with french doors and side lights

Recommendation-Approval

09/03470/House/GM2

13 Chestnut Lane Matfield

Single storey rear extension

Recommendation-Approval

We are mindful that there will be a loss of light to neighbouring properties

Decisions taken by TWBC**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

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

09/02696/FUL/CW1

1 Chestnut Lane Matfield

Single storey pitched roof extension to rear and porch to front

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

09/02816/FUL/SJM

Portebello Holly Bank Matfield

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

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

09/02993/FUL/TA1

The Star Inn Maidstone Road Matfield

Change of use of three motel style letting rooms to village shop and post office

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

09/02991/OUT/CLC

Pippins Furnace Lane Brenchley

Outline-Replacement dwelling

Application-withdrawn

Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting**Street Lighting**

Direct Technical Services have been given an order to maintain our streetlights. When EDF decided not to offer this service anymore the Clerk looked at numerous other companies but it has been impossible to compare like for like. However this company has employed the engineer from EDF, and have offered an identical package to that we previously had at a slightly reduced price. The PC agreed this was acceptable.

Other Meetings Attended**Report of the Finance sub-committee meeting.**

In line with the minutes of the Finance sub-committee the accounts were presented as acceptable and that the calculations of the budget required a precept of £55,000 for the following year. It was noted that because of the requirement of TWBC to rid itself of the costs of running the public toilets an amount of £16000 was necessary to pay for these for this year and next. This was in line with the mandate from the public at the recent meeting held to this effect. However as the precept was £46000 for this year it was evident that considerable savings had been made to allow for this. There were concerns raised that an oak tree in Brenchley playground was ailing and may need felling but the budget of £500 was considered sufficient. The issue of donations was also discussed and the PC agreed to consider a donation of £1000 for this year divided between the Citizens advice Bureau, Hospice in the Weald and the Air ambulance. The amounts would be decided at the next full meeting.

Highways Seminar

Cllr Woodley has attended the above meeting; a copy of his report had been circulated.

KALC AGM

Cllr Randall had attended the AGM of KALC with several different speakers. Items of interest were an overview of the public transport requirements over the next 20 years with the aim of reducing reliance on personal cars by 4%. Another debate was regarding the amenity vehicle and the likelihood was that the service would reduce to once a month and on Saturdays as opposed to the current Sundays.

Hadlow College

Cllr Stanley had attended a seminar at Hadlow College, one of the speakers being the new Chairman of KCC. Some of the topics were that of promoting tourism in the county and trying to use local suppliers to keep money within Kent.

Matters Arising**Posts**

The repairs to the posts and chains around Matfield green have been completed, as has the installation of the security light.

Salt Bins

Following an email to KCC highways the Clerk has received a telephone call from Mr Richard Kaupert to advise that all the bins in our area have been checked and filled as necessary. He has been asked if it is possible to get another at Markets Heath but he believes that all additional bins for this year have been decided upon. Cllr Stanley volunteered to check that the bins in Brenchley had in fact all been filled.

Date of Meetings

The proposed dates of next year's meetings have been circulated. The PC considered these and agreed all was acceptable and that the halls should be booked.

Correspondence**KCC**

Advice that KCC has been granted approval for the introduction of a permit scheme relating to roadworks.

KCC**Mowing**

The annual quotation for mowing has been received from KCC. The prices have risen by 2% and after consideration the PC agreed this was acceptable.

.The Office of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent

An invitation has been received to attend the Lord Lieutenants annual Civic Service at All Saints Church Maidstone on Thursday 22nd April commencing at 11am. No member of the PC was available but the Clerk was asked to pass the invitation to the Chairman on his return from holiday.

TWBC

A reply to questions asked of the Enforcement officer on certain items. The Clerk was asked to enquire if planning permission was required for fences over 2m in height.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1463.54
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£319.81
Chris Hawkes Electrical	Installation of pavilion security light	£230.00
Lights4Fun	Christmas lights	£1200.00
C Forward and Son	Repairs to posts around Matfield Green	£486.45
KCC	Country stewardship payments	£5277.32
(a grant has been received for this amount)		
Cornford Builders	Repairs to bus shelter	£327.75
KCC	Second ½ year mowing	£2720.28
Terry Barham	Maintenance to pavilion	£320.00
Eric Barham	Maintenance to pavilion	£185.00
South East Water	Water for allotments	£135.95

Public Question Time

PCSO Nick Brown attended and asked the Council of its opinion of a new speeding initiative referred to as "Restorative Justice". In essence if the PC agrees the Police will stop motorists speeding between certain limits. Over these limits the normal process of a ticket being issued or a prosecution for excessive speeding would apply. However, within agreed limits the offender would be offered the opportunity to avoid a ticket by attending a mobile police station at the time to receive a warning and to apologise to a member of the PC or community. The PC agreed to this proposal.

The issue of parking outside the Brenchley School was discussed, particularly by the side of the road. The PCSO had had a conversation with the temporary Headmaster to try and get his input. Cars parking on the pavement in Brenchley were also a problem and he advised that tickets have been issued to some offenders.

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Matfield Pond Management**

Cllr Dafter had previously met with Mr P Birchall who was a pond specialist. He had quoted £680.00 to install natural vegetation as a filter bed to tackle the problem of the run-off water from the road. The Clerk was asked to enquire exactly what the nature and extent of the filter beds were and any ongoing costs that might be predicted.

Power of Well-Being

The Clerk reported on a training seminar he had attended on "The Power of Well Being" being a statutory power arising from section 2 of the LGA 2000 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It is a power to do anything the PC considers will achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of its area. It is intended to avoid some of the shortcomings of The LGA 1972 s137 power. When exercising the power the PC must have regards to both the guidance in force at the time issued by the Secretary of State and the sustainable communities strategies of the principal local authorities in the area. However in order for the PC to gain this power it must obey four criteria. These are: -

- At least two thirds of councillors when exercising that power must have stood for election.
- At least 80% of councillors must have been trained in the power
- The PC must have a community engagement strategy in place
- The Clerk must be "qualified"

The latter can be a two-year process.

Matfield Village Shop

A question was raised as to what power the PC had to support the opening of the village shop. The Clerk has made enquiries there are some grey areas. However other sources of funds were possible and Cllr Stanley agreed to pursue these.

Allotment Water Bills

Since the permission was granted for further standpipes the bill for water has risen steeply. Hosepipes are being used contrary to the rules. The PC considered this and agreed to make a supplementary charge to cover the difference between this and the average spend in recent years in proportion to the tenants' individual rents.

Cats Eyes

Cllr Barsley had reported on numerous cats eyes being missing. The Clerk was asked to contact KCC to request their replacement.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a planning meeting on 22nd December in Brenchley Memorial Hall