

**MINUTES OF A PLANNING MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON  
TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Cllrs B Stanley, R Carter, I McEwen, P Randall and Mrs C Cornford. Clerk M Powell.

**Apologies for absence**

Vice Chairman J Barsley 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 previous planning meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

It was agreed that the word "massive" be removed in relationship to the fund raising for Brenchley Charity and following this the minutes were duly approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Public Question Time**

None

**Planning Applications.**

**09/00084/FUL/TA1** Mouse Trap Farm, Churn Lane Horsmonden lane  
Retrospective Mobile Home for farm/fishery worker

**Recommendation- Refusal**

The Council felt the siting of the mobile home was not sufficiently justified.

**09/00492/FUL/CLC** Swingle Swangle Farm House Goshen Farm  
Matfield

Change of use from agricultural to residential to provide domestic driveway

**Recommendation-Approval**

**09/00701/FUL/CLC** Rough Acre Beech lane Brenchley  
Two storey front extension. Replacement of concrete vertical tiles and pebble dash with clay vertical tiles

**Recommendation-Approval**

**Decisions taken by TWBC**

**09/00149/FUL/CLC** Ashlynn Maidstone Road Matfield  
Erection of detached double garage and additional vehicular access to front of property

**Recommendation-Approval Decision-Refusal**

## **Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting**

### **Bus Shelter**

Following a car accident the bus shelter by St Luke's Church has been damaged. The Clerk has asked Messrs Cornfords to repair it together with replacement of the door of the Matfield notice board.

## **Meetings Attended**

### **War Memorial**

The Clerk together with Mr T Maw and Mr Newton of Burlite visited an industrial building on a farm in Ruckinge. The block of stone for the cross of Brenchley War Memorial was inspected prior to it being rough-cut to the approximate size required before final carving at the workshop in East Farleigh. Mr Maw was happy with the stone. It was proposed and agreed to pay the first instalment.

### **Public Lavatories**

Cllr McEwen had met with Robert Powell of TWBC to discuss the closure of the public lavatories. TWBC are adamant they intend either to close them or pass responsibility over to the Parish Councils. It was felt that it could potentially cost circa £6000 pa for each by the time cleaning, insurance, rates etc had been taken into account. Cleaning is being performed once a day at present and twice a day in mid-summer. The Cllrs were asked if in general terms they would be happy spending around £10-12000 pa and the consensus was against. However, the Council would be agreeable to spending half of this. It was agreed this would be put to the residents at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Cllr McEwen and the Clerk agreed to pursue quotations for an alternative cleaning contractor.

### **Cricket Club**

Cllr Mrs Cornford had been in discussion with representatives of the Club and had a further meeting scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> March. The Club required permission to repair the verges, roping off the area as necessary during the works and clearing the undergrowth behind the pavilion to enable some parking of their own cars. The Council agreed to this subject to the parking being an informal agreement which could be rescinded at any time and that it felt it appropriate that the club provide posts and chain to prevent its use by the general public. Cllr Mrs Cornford also reported that the Club required a soap dispenser in the showers for hygiene reasons, at their expense, which the Council agreed to. The Club had offered £250 towards the maintenance of the Pavilion, which was gratefully accepted.

### **Brenchley Memorial Hall**

Cllr Carter reported that he had a meeting with the trustees in which he had agreed to be their treasurer. The Clerk had researched the issue of prejudicial interests which were unlikely to present any issues over and above those that might already exist and if in doubt Cllr Carter should declare an interest if any matters arose in Council in the future.

## **KALC**

Cllr Randall reported he had attended a routine meeting of KALC, which was attended, by William Benson, Director of Business Support and Change for TWBC. The discussion centred mainly on their budgets and the current state of the Standards Committee.

## **Matters Arising**

The deadline for an election has passed and the Council discussed the procedure it should adopt in making a decision on whom to choose from the current four candidates who had expressed an interest. It was agreed that a request be sent to each asking for a brief statement on backgrounds, skills and interests, length of time living within the Parish and what they personally felt they could bring to the Council. A deadline of the end of March was set to enable consideration before the next meeting when a decision would be made.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Brenchley Memorial Hall**

A letter detailing some of the work carried out to the hall over the last year and a request for the third tranche of £5000, which was agreed to.

#### **Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group**

A request to survey Matfield pond to help build a record of bio-diversity in the area had been received. The Council agreed to this and asked the Clerk to request a copy of the findings.

#### **Recycling**

A request from the Environment, Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee has been received asking for comments on the choice of containers for tins and plastic bottles. The options are further containers such as already exist are whether residents would be happy using clear plastic sacks. The Clerk reported on personal experience in Westerham where sacks were employed and the difficulty was that they were regularly torn open by foxes and cats leaving debris strewn over the pavements. The Council agreed to consider both options.

#### **KCC**

A note from Mr Alex King had been received advising that KCC had been rated as "excellent" in a rating by the Audit Commission.

### **Accounts for payment**

|                         |                      |          |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Burlite Ltd             | Interim payment      | £2786.51 |
| Brenchley Memorial Hall | Third annual payment | £5000.00 |
| Brenchley Memorial Hall | Rent for hall        | £200.00  |

### **Other Matters as maybe previously notified**

#### **Goose**

Complaints had been received from a resident about a goose living on Matfield Pond and causing some noise. Cllr Cornford reported that few organisations were able to help. The RSPCA would only attend if the bird were injured. Some charitable organisations would care for it if it could be captured but this was felt unlikely to be easily achievable. The only other alternative would be to have the bird shot but this was thought unlikely to be acceptable to the majority of residents.

#### **Pearsons Green Road**

A report had been received of several caravans being parked on Bluebell Farm. The Head of Planning at TWBC had been advised and the Chairman would write to the head of Enforcement.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Brenchley Memorial Hall. This will be preceded by a meeting of the Finance Sub Committee at 6.45pm