

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY
6th APRIL 2009 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman J Barsley, B Stanley, R Carter, I McEwen, P Randall, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M Powell. One member of the public.

Apologies for absence

Cllr C Treble for personal reasons.

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

Confirm Minutes of the full meeting on 2nd March

Exempt Item

It requires a proposal and agreement that, pursuant to section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the final item of business on the grounds it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by the attached report. It was proposed and agreed to declare the discussions of the final item as exempt.

Public Question Time

Mr P Bodman requested to address the PC on planning application 09/00777. He explained that the application albeit retrospective was being done by the owner to house horses for his own family's use in gymkhanas etc. The buildings were on skids to establish they were temporary structures and that the environmental officer had presented no objections and recommended approval. However he was surprised that the PC information pack did not contain this. Although recommendations suggest 1 hectare is required per horse for grazing, these horses were visited every day and feed brought in. The Council thanked him for his input.

Planning Applications.

09/00737/FUL/SEP

Glenbrook Foxhole Lane Matfield

Retrospective- Retaining structure incorporating semi-underground garden room-store with garden over.

Recommendation-Refusal

The Council noted that the application was a repeat of that previously refused and additional information appeared to be principally a structural report on which it was not qualified to comment. However it was considered to be contrary to H11, EN8 and EN15. .

09/00777/FUL/SEP

Plot 8536 Cryals Lane Brenchley

Retrospective stable and store. Amended 07/04090

Recommendation-Refusal

On the basis that there is insufficient information to justify the number of stables

09/00788/FUL/SEP

Cryals Lodge Cryals Road Brenchley

Alterations, extension and addition of first floor balcony

Recommendation-Approval**09/00794/FUL/GM2**

Childs Cottage Crook Road Brenchley

Alteration to roof to provide accommodation including two dormers, roof lights and a solar panel

Recommendation-Refusal

The design is overbearing and not in keeping with a property in the AONB

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**09/00203/FUL/SJM**

Hodge Cottage The Green Matfield

Demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage and store

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**09/00492/FUL/CLC**

Swingle Swangle Farm House Goshen Farm

Matfield Change of use from agricultural to residential to provide domestic driveway

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Refusal**Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting****Interests**

The Clerk has had a conversation with Mr Trowell of TWBC legal department querying whether the PC may have, and should declare a prejudicial interest when recommending particular applicants as tenants. The answer is that it does not, that the PC is just conducting its normal business. The Clerk also reported that Mr William Benson who has held the temporary position of Monitoring Officer is relinquishing the role to a Mr Cummings who will be joining the Borough shortly.

Other Meetings Attended**Finance Committee**

Cllr Carter reported for the Finance Committee on figures examined for year-end. They were generally in line with the budget. It was agreed that the cost of the War Memorial so far should be zero and monies transferred from the building society account to meet the first payment. The Clerk agreed to arrange this. The figures for the playground were misleading as the expenses and grant received was incurred in the previous financial year but not paid until the work had been completed. Meeting expenses were higher than expected because of the cost of posters for the extraordinary Parish meeting. It was agreed that the cost of the windows for Matfield pavilion were to be met from the contingencies fund and accounted for as an expense against the pavilion with the budget correspondingly adjusted.

The PC agreed that they were happy for the figures to be passed forward for the next stage of an internal audit. The Clerk requested that the end of year Finance meeting for the next financial year would be better postponed until the full meeting in May to allow receipt of the bank accounts for April to allow a full reconciliation, which the PC agreed to.

Cricket Club

Cllr Mrs Cornford, Mr Simon Knott of the Club and Mrs S Pemple of the Guides met to discuss the situation. Work had progressed well in tidying up the Pavilion with a considerable amount of contents being disposed of. The Club had provided some shelving for the Guides. Work was in hand to clear the area behind the building for parking. The Clerk was asked to check the deeds for the property to see where boundaries and rights of way lie. The Club had asked for financial assistance to provide a load of topsoil but had offered previously to give the PC some money to contribute

towards the windows. The Council agreed that it was better they purchase the soil themselves and not to give the PC the funds. It was proposed and agreed to employ the services of a local mole-catcher, as this was evidently a problem around the club and the verges.

Matters Arising

Bus Shelter

The bus shelter by St Luke's Church has been repaired following a car accident. The perpetrator is unknown and it was felt unlikely to be worth pursuing our insurance company due to an excess of £250.

Recycling Containers

The PC was asked its view on appropriate containers to be used for doorstep collections of recyclable materials. The recommendation is overwhelmingly for 55 litre plastic containers plus some hessian sacks where this is impractical in flats etc and Cabinet will decide on 16th April.

Keith Price

As requested the Clerk has written to Mrs Price expressing sympathy and condolences on the passing of Keith Price.

Cinderhill Wood

The Clerk was asked to contact the landscape Officer regarding light pollution from the newly installed lighting at Cinderhill Wood. Mr Scully has been out of office and his secretary had telephoned to advise he was aware of the complaint and would call on his return. It has been noted since however that the lighting has been switched off at night.

Correspondence

Shepherd Neame

Advice that following a car crash destroying the sign outside the Wheelwrights Arms they intend to install temporary festoon light to the perimeter of the pub until the sign can be replaced.

St Luke's Church

Advice had been received that the Church has received a quotation for mowing the churchyard totalling £360.00 and a request for support. The Clerk was asked to get in touch with KCC Landscape Services for an alternative quote with a specific request that the PC receives the invoice direct.

Resident

A complaint had been received about cars parking on the pavement especially outside the Old Palace. The Clerk was asked to pass this on to PC Martin Pemble for possible action. This decision to be made known to the residents

Complaints had also been received about noise from outside the Bull in the early hours. Whilst the PC felt it important that the pub flourished it felt that this was unfair to residents and the Clerk was asked to communicate this as well.

Accounts for Payment

EDF	Repairs to street lights	£224.92
Temple Knight	Call out charge for photocopier	£112.70
M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1212.95
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£319.51

Other Matters as maybe previously notified

Stiles

Cllr Barsley mentioned that many residents would like to visit the Churchyard and take their dogs with them but several stiles were not practical for some dogs to negotiate, The Clerk was asked to make a request to the footpaths officer that matters could be improved.

Recycling Bins and the removal of community bins.

It was suggested that once the doorstep recycling for cans and plastics had started that the community bins could be removed. The Clerk was asked to contact TWBC and ask what their plans were.

Suggested names for the Matfield Affordable homes project.

Councillors were asked to consider possible names for the proposed development and possibly to ask for suggestions at the Parish Meeting. Cllr Mackenzie agreed to have a conversation with Mr Allwood of TCHG.

Possible access requirements of above into woodland

It was felt that before plans were finalised it would be useful to incorporate access through the site for the benefit of pedestrians and also possible future development by way of a football pitch in the woods. Cllr Mackenzie agreed to have a conversation with Mr Allwood of TCHG.

Brenchley Charity Account

Cllrs Stanley and Randall agreed to arrange the presentation at the APM between themselves and the Clerk would provide some details. Cllr also stated that with the resignation of Fred Playfoot another person would need to take responsibility and that Mrs Fay Stanley would volunteer.

Posting of Councillors details on web site

It was discussed and agreed that Cllrs would all have an email address via the web site, that photographs together with some a very brief biographical details be published.

Public Conveniences

Cllr McEwen reported that after some research he felt it very unlikely we could improve on cleaning costs from that paid by TWBC. If the decision was finally made for closure, alternative use for the buildings such as a community shop should be considered before demolition. This would be part of the questions put to residents at the APM.

Matfield Lights.

The Christmas lights were still in evidence outside the Star and could possibly create a nuisance to local residents. The Clerk was asked to enquire if these lights presented a planning issue.

Post Office

The Chairman reported that no progress had been made and that the owner was now asking for a commercial rent with a maximum of a two-year lease which would make the development of the tea shop questionable and the running of a post office impossible as Post Office Counters Ltd would not invest in a business with a lease of only two years. A further meeting between The PO, ARKC and the Chairman is to take place as soon as possible with a view to finding a resolution to the PO problem.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a full meeting on Tuesday 21st April in Brenchley Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

Exempt Item**Consideration of candidates for co-option.**

Councillors had had the opportunity to independently review the individual candidates resume of experiences and interests before the meeting. It was agreed that the voting was held as a secret written ballot in two stages to obtain a clear result. Helen Edmeads received the majority with Ray Dafter in second place.