

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY
1st JUNE 2009 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman J Barsley, R Carter, I McEwen, P Randall, R Dafter, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M Powell. Borough Councillor Mrs M Callow.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of TWBC: - Mr Raymond Warren, Interim Head of Community and Corporate Planning, Lizzie Goodwin, Partnership Engagement Officer and Holly Goring, Research and Information Officer.

Apologies for absence

Cllr B Stanley 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 5th May

The minutes were duly confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chairman

Ward Walks

Mr Warren introduced the team and Holly Goring explained the forthcoming process for the planned ward walks. This has been designed to encourage residents to give their views and a wide range of subjects concerning the services they receive and would like from the Borough. Previous experience has proved that the walks are very beneficial and result in many issues being resolved. Volunteers were requested and the clerk was asked to feedback dates when Councillors had had an opportunity to consult their diaries.

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

09/01382/FUL/CLC	Little Swingle Goshen Farm Brenchley Road
Matfield	
Erection of stables	
Recommendation-Approval	
09/01471/FUL/SJM	1 Old Parsonage Cottages Brenchley Road
Brenchley	
First floor front extension	
Recommendation-Approval	

Decisions taken by TWBC

09/00978/CEU/JR	Stable Studio Kippings Cross Farm House,
Hastings Road Brenchley	
Lawful development certificate Garage area converted to form self-contained studio flat	
<u>Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal</u>	

Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting

Following an accident in Brenchley the Clerk has been in touch with both the driver and his parents and is currently researching the cost of replacing the bench that was damaged and reinstating the shrubbery.

Other Meetings Attended**Brenchley School**

The Chairman attended a meeting with the school governors. A new advisory Head Teacher in charge and creating a long-term plan to improve the school. There is an intention to reduce the number of pupils. The Chairman of the Governors has resigned, as has the Governor in charge of Finances.

Public Conveniences

Cllrs McEwen and Randall met with Julie Mellor of TWBC to discuss the possible and imminent closure of the toilets. They offered to pay TWBC two thirds of the estimated running costs i.e. £4000 each to continue to run them, which seemed to be acceptable. The PC held the view that we should ask TWBC to fix this charge for three to five years. The PC resolved that Cllrs McEwen and Randall should continue to pursue negotiations.

Cinderhill Wood

Cllr Dafter had met with Jane Frostick of KHWP. There are still incidents of motorcycles being ridden in the woods and damage has been caused to a gate. There was also a sheep found dead with injuries consistent to an attack by a large cat.

Matfield Pond

Residents have expressed concern over people congregating around the pond and causing a nuisance. Also that fishing had injured some of the birds. The Clerk was asked to contact the Environmental Agency to police the licensing of anglers.

Recycling

B/Cllr Mrs Callow reported that new doorstep recycling measures were scheduled to commence end of July or beginning of August. Discussions were still in hand regarding the amenity lorry, which may well be removed.

Matters Arising**Resignation**

Cllr C Treble has advised the Chairman he will resign. The Clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy once he has received written confirmation.

Flags

Two new flags have been ordered and received.

Signs

Two new signs showing a warning of ducks have been ordered and installed.

Planning Meetings

It had previously been agreed to try and limit the content of planning meetings the planning matters and matters sufficiently urgent they would not wait until the next full meeting. The Clerk was asked to enquire what the situation is with other local Councils.

Correspondence**Big Lottery**

Advice that the grant of £4985 won by Kent High Weald Project will be in our bank account shortly. We will be expecting an invoice from KCC shortly in order to release these funds to KHWP.

Kenward Trust

A request for financial support for their charity that assists suffers of drugs, alcohol and substance abuse. Although thought a worthy cause with some problems of this nature having been experienced locally, the Council were regretful that the budget did not permit a contribution this year.

Penshurst Architects.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from the above architects to enquire of the opinion of the PC to their draft proposal to build several houses at the top of Pixot hill on an exception site basis. Cllr Randall presented the draft proposals, which were discussed. It was the unanimous opinion of the PC that they would be opposed to this proposal and agreed to allow Cllr Randall to compose a letter of reply to be forwarded via the Clerk.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1309.09
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£306.84
Zurich Insurance	Annual insurance premium	£2330.34
Cornford Builders	Repairs and maintenance	£738.16

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Audit**

The accounts have been audited by Mr T Guingand F.C.A. and have been signed as accurate and acceptable. The Council and the Clerk, acting as the Responsible Financial Officer, confirmed that they had conducted the financial affairs of the Council in accordance with the systems and controls prescribed by the financial regulations. It was proposed and agreed that the Chairman signs the accounts and the Annual Governance Statement, which he duly did.

Insurance review

The PC reviewed its insurance policy and considered the list of assets and their insured values. The Clerk has spoken informally to Burlite Ltd who is of the opinion that to replace completely the Matfield memorial would be of the order of £40,000 and the Brenchley memorial some £60,000. Currently the pair are insured for £42040. Zurich advise that they are happy that we renew our insurance at the premium stated and that they will advise an additional premium if the PC decides to increase its cover. The Clerk was asked to ask for a quotation for £80,000 and £100,000. It was also agreed unnecessary to insure a flag for £54 in view of the £100 excess imposed. The Council also agreed to consider the necessity of insuring a block-paving path.

Matfield Post Office

Cllr Mrs Cornford reported she had had a discussion with the Brian Hodge, Landlord of Morellos Restaurant. The restaurant had planning permission for conversion of a barn into staff accommodation that was no longer required and this might be a possible location for a shop.

A further meeting was planned for the following week with Mr Hodge and Shaun Carter of ACRK

Date of next meeting

The next planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23rd June has been cancelled, as the Clerk will be absent. Thereafter the following full meeting will Monday 6th July, which will be preceded by a Finance meeting.