

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 4th JULY 2011 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Cllrs J Barsley, R Carter, C Woodley, I McEwen, P Randall, and R Dafter. Clerk M. Powell.

Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs C Cornford due to travel problems and 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 planning meeting of 21st June

The minutes were amended to show Cllr J Barsley was not in attendance and then duly signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

11/01796/House/SJM

Single Storey infill extension

Recommendation-Approval

The Wagon Lodge Fairmans Lane Brenchley

11/01769/House/CLC

High Tong Marle Place Road Brenchley
Demolish existing porch and replace with orangery entrance removing existing bay window. Demolish existing sunroom, rebuild as garden room with pitched roof with traditional joinery. Introduce new open porch to rear entrance with mono pitched roof

Recommendation-Neutral

11/01834/FUL/TA1

Three detached houses with integral garages

Recommendation-Approval

Land rear of Berry & Son Petteridge

Decisions taken by TWBC

None

Decisions by Clerk

Brenchley Playground

Part of the fencing between the playground and the car park was demolished presumably by a car. The Clerk asked C Forward and Son to repair it and it has now been done.

Meetings Attended

Standards

Cllr Woodley attended a meeting with the Monitoring Officer regarding the future of the Standards Committee. Although it was thought the standards board was being abolished it would exist for some form in the future. It was discussed if a new code of conduct would be voluntary but KALC is of the view that some version will certainly be beneficial.

Memorial Hall

Cllr Carter attended the regular meeting of the Memorial Hall, most of the discussion being routine matters. However, their AGM is on the 28th July and all would be welcome.
Brenchley School

The Chairman attended a meeting of Brenchley School Governors. The School is now performing at a good standard and it was hoped the special measures classification would soon be dropped following the next inspection. The budget had been set for the next three years but it expected a shortfall of some £30,000 over these years for training and non teaching items. They are requesting support to some degree from as many sources as possible and the PC may like to consider this at some time in the future.

Matters Arising

War Memorial

A quotation for laying kerb stones on the damaged verge has been sought and the owner of the adjacent property has been written to requesting a contribution towards the cost.

Pavilion business plan

A business plan has been circulated which requires consideration. It was felt that the Pavilion was underutilised and ideas for its promotion considered. There were concerns however that this might detract from the use of Matfield and Brenchley Halls and putting it up as direct competition was possibly not appropriate. It was an important objective that the tenure of the Cricket Club was secure. If the building was opened up to other organisations a mechanism to control it was required. However the maintenance of the Pavilion was essential to keep it a going concern. Over time the decoration inside, the kitchen and the showers/toilet facilities were all in need of improvement. It was discussed and agreed to go ahead with the installation of heating and the necessary modification of the wiring using the lower of the quotes received from BrightSpark Ltd.

The guttering to the front and rear of the pavilion was in need of attention and the Clerk agreed to have this attended to.

CHW

The entrance to Cinderhill Wood is in need of some attention and various proposals are for consideration. Cllr Woodley was expecting to meet with Jane Frosdick of KHWP to remove some graffiti and he would suggest to her she approaches the parole board if she needed some additional labour.

Correspondence

Jack Verral Garden

A request has been received from the proprietor of Olive Stores (Bournes) to be able to use the lower terrace of the Jack Verral garden as an area to place tables for use by their tea room customers. They offer to employ a professional garden team to tend to the garden and keep the grass cut. They also want to erect a shed on the upper terrace to house the tables and chairs at night and over the winter.

However, there are covenants established limiting its use when the land was bought by the PC in 2005. It was thought these covenants may only apply to part of the land and the Clerk was asked to research the details as well as writing to the new owner advising the PC was exploring possibilities and would advise in the near future

Meeting

TWBC has a new Planning Development Manager-Jane Lynch who is happy to attend our planning meeting on the 19th July. It is intended to be an informal introduction but she will answer any site specific questions within reason given some notice for research. It was agreed to start at 7pm and Cllr Randall would compile some questions.

Land adjoining The Green

A letter on behalf of a property adjoining The Green had been received suggesting that the PC could acquire a small parcel of land in exchange for some land it already owned. The PC was unsure as to why it would want to but Cllrs McEwen and Barsley agreed to research the issue. The Clerk was asked to write to convey receipt of the letter and to advise that the PC were considering it.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1250.6
Post Office	Tax and NI	£412.74
E.On	Electricity	£24.97
J P Miles	Mowing football field	£90.00
TMS	Photocopying	£22.20
Brenchley & Matfield Youth Group		£900.00

Monies Received

B Mitchell	Youth Group	£500
KPA	Youth Group	£400

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Co-Option**

Consideration was given to the co-option of a new Cllr once the deadline of the 5th July has passed giving opportunity for the electorate to call for an election. It was felt that an article in Roundabout was needed and potential volunteers should provide a letter of appropriate interests with a brief CV. A deadline of 12th August was proposed to allow the PC the opportunity to consider the candidates at its planning meeting of 23rd August.

Matfield Fire Station

Cllr Barsley has raised concerns over Matfield Station being able to attend fires. Their Watch Manager has recently resigned after many years service and there is a shortage of staff with an embargo on recruitment.

The Clerk reported that normally a minimum of four staff are required to run the pump out to a fire, five are preferred. Matfield had difficulties attending fires and RTA's because they only had four part time staff, the absence of any would prevent it going out. From research done by Cllr Barsley it was apparent that there was not only a complete embargo on recruitment across the county there was an intention to reduce the headcount even further. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with Alex King.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th July in Matfield Village Hall.