

**MINUTES OF A PLANNING MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON
TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2012 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman P Randall, Cllrs I McEwen, J Barsley, B Stanley, R Carter, and C Woodley. Borough Cllr Mrs J March. Clerk M Powell. Cllrs Elect T de Guingand and Mrs N Marriot.

Apologies for absence

Cllr R Dafter 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 were advised to contact the Monitoring Officer before the meeting or declare the interest anyway.

Minutes

Approve Minutes of the full meeting of 2nd April 2012. The minutes were agreed as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

Mrs Marriot asked if the PC was aware that builders' vehicles were parking on the Green in front of East Court. The PC agreed to look into it and advise the owner to stop this.

Planning Applications.

12/00864/LBC/CLC Standings Cross Maidstone Road Matfield
Internal alterations to form open archway link from front bar to rear dining area
Recommendation-Approval

12/00807/FUL/TA1 Gate House Farm Fairmans Lane Brenchley
Erection of stables and horse walker and change of use of existing agricultural buildings to equine for domestic and commercial use.
Recommendation-Refusal
Because of safety issues of large vehicles turning into and out of a narrow drive onto Brenchley Road. We also feel the welfare of horses stabled there is in doubt with them requiring attention several times a day.

12/00719/House/EA1 Matfield Grange Cottage Sophurst Lane Matfield
Two storey pitched roof side extension with new dormer to south east elevation
Recommendation-Approval

Decisions by TWBC

12/00279/FUL/SE2 Ebenezer Chapel Maidstone Road Matfield
Replace existing windows and front door
Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

12/00292/CEU/TA1 Ryde House Short Lane Brenchley
Lawful Development Certificate- Non Compliance with an agricultural occupancy condition for in excess of 10 years
Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

12/00370/House/GM2 Paydon, Petteridge Lane, Matfield
 Removal of garage and shed. Erection of timber workshop
Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

Other Planning Issues

Ebenezer Chapel.

It was noted that the application had been approved despite the PC recommending refusal because of the lack of detail in the drawings. The Clerk was asked to research the issue of if there had been a revision we were unaware of.

The Branches

The deadline for a response to the Appeal Inspectorate was due this day and a written response was felt needed. The PC wanted to point out that the Cooper family moved from Cinderhill Wood of their own volition. They had previously been warned they would be unlikely to receive planning permission for the site where they now live. The entire site was originally 4 permanent and 3 tolerated pitches but TWBC declared latterly that the site now comprised of 6 pitches all of which were permanent and the pitch from which the Coopers moved was one of these. The PC is of the opinion the Coopers intentionally made themselves homeless. Cllr Woodley agreed to send an email that evening to this effect.

Meetings Attended

Finance Sub Committee

The Finance Committee met immediately prior to this meeting. The accounts were reviewed by Cllr Carter with variances over £500 explained in detail. The net result was that excluding the £24000 held for the possibility of adopting the public conveniences the spending was some £260 over budget in total. The PC was very satisfied with the accounts being on target and demonstrating the budget estimates to be accurate.

Matfield Pavilion

Cllr Woodley reported that the MPG had met with planning officers at TWBC. The whole area is EN21 including the land upon which the pavilion stood. As this classification meant the area was an open space for public use there was little chance of permission being granted to move its location. Combined with the results of the public consultation the current location was regarded as the only option to take. It was considered whether the plans were suitable to display at the APM but this was thought unwise as they are still being worked on. In order to reduce costs the building had been reduced in size, the number of showers reduced and the rear doors because of location were considered unnecessary. There were various opinions on the exterior colour both light and dark but the option of untreated sweet chestnut was being explored which would reduce maintenance.

Brenchley School.

Following a meeting at the School the Chairman reported that the quality of both the teaching and results were continuing to improve and that the next Ofsted inspection was likely to be better.

Decisions by Clerk

Playground

The Brenchley playground has been attended by the Clerk and another labourer to attempt to reinstate the roundabout (wobble- board). The bark has been dug out and the fixings exposed. The springs were determined to have rotted through. Coupled with the fact the wooden decking was in need of replacement and the chassis was rusted the apparatus was deemed to be beyond economic repair. The remains have been offered to the scrap recyclers who attend the amenity lorry on Sundays, who have promised to remove it. The PC agreed to consider its replacement later in the year.

Matters Arising **Training**

With new Cllrs about to join the PC enquiries are being made to TWBC and KALC about future training courses.

CAB

In the aftermath of the Paddock Wood branch closing further financial information had come to light. It was believed that grants of public money of the size involved to the CAB of circa £400,000 was normally decided by Committee but that committee had failed to meet and the matter had been decided by Cllr Mayhew. It was understood that she was employed by a firm of solicitors one of whose partners was a trustee to CAB. The Chairman advised that as a private individual and not on behalf of the PC he intended to write to the Standards Committee on the subject.

Correspondence

TWBC

The Clerk was asked to enquire as to the delay in deciding the Brenchley Affordable Housing application. The reply is as follows:-

The reason that the application is not yet ready to be determined is due to the submission of additional information by TCLG to address matters raised during the initial consultation procedure. This requires further consultation and reassessment by the case officer.

Accounts for payment

Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre	Donation	£2000.00
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Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Monday 8th May in Matfield Village Hall. This will be the first meeting after the elections will be the PC's AGM where the Chair and Vice Chair will be chosen and annual responsibilities agreed. Councillors will also be required to sign their acceptance of Office. There is also on Thursday 26th April the Annual Parish meeting in Brenchley Hall at 7.30 for 8pm.