

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 4th JUNE 2007 HELD IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman J Barsley, Cllrs A Lee, F Playfoot, P Randall, B Stanley, and D Jolley. M Powell-Clerk.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs R Berry and Mrs M A Edmeads for family commitments.

Pecuniary and Personal Interests.

Members were reminded to declare any interest, as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct, on any matter appearing on the agenda.

Confirm minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were duly approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman

Public question time.

Three members of the public attended together with PCSO Nick Brown. Two residents asked questions regarding the planning application for Beechwood, Foxhole Lane and their concerns over a reduction in their privacy. These were answered by explaining that privacy was not a primary planning issue but their concerns were noted.

Planning Applications.

Cllr Lee presented the following applications and although no other members had seen the proposals the recommendations were put to the committee and agreed by them.

TW/07/01603/FUL/TW2

Beechwood, Foxhole Lane Matfield

Rear extension and loft conversion

Recommendation-Approval

The Council noted that the design statement asks for a slight increase of the residential curtilage but the planning application does not. Further they expressed concern at the invasion of privacy the neighbours would experience because of the proposed balcony and side window.

TW/07/1667/FUL/TA1 and 07/1669/LBC/TA1

Weirleigh Cottage Geddes Hill Matfield

Conversion of existing garage to kitchen

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to Conservation Officers approval.

Decisions Taken by TWBC

TW/07/00654/FUL/CT2

High Tong Lodge Marle Place Road, Brenchley

Replacement of existing sheds with new

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

TW/07/00729/FUL/DSD

Wykeham Oast Fairmans Lane Brenchley

Conversion of garage to habitable room

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

TW/07/00780/FUL/CT2

Gate House Farm Fairmans Lane Brenchley

Conversion of existing garage to annexe

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

TW/07/01054/FUL/CT2

Town Farm Palmers Green Lane

Rebuilding of collapsed structure to form ancillary dwelling

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal

TW/07/01130/FUL/CLC

The Cottage The Green Matfield

Fitting of 2 Velux windows in outhouse

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

TW/07/01213/FUL/TA1

The Oaks Farm Hatmill Lane

Continue use without complying with condition 5 of permission 86/1615

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Other Applications**TW/07/00145**

Lordships House Marle Place Road

Retrospective application for a boundary wall subsequently refused

The case has been referred to Enforcement and the applicant has appointed an agent to redesign and reapply.

Decisions taken by the Clerk out of meeting

None

Meetings attended by Councillors

Cllrs Lee and Playfoot attended a meeting with a representative of Playdale Ltd to discuss improvements to the equipment in the Brenchley playground. A proposal to add equipment on the grassed area was discussed which due to cost it may be necessary to implement in two phases. The proposal was agreed in principle and Cllr Lee agreed to contact the company to obtain clarification of some costs, in particular those for ROSPA. The additional costs were hoped to be able to be recouped by grants from the Members Community fund and possibly from the Borough. The Clerk was asked to submit a proposal to Mr Alex King asking for a further £2500 and to approach TWBC. The Clerk was also asked to approach the Playing Fields Association and the Chairman volunteered to contact Waitrose in Paddock Wood.

Vice Chairman J Barsley had attended the Matfield Village Hall AGM. There was nothing exceptional to report but they hoped to hear shortly regarding a volunteer Caretaker.

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Kent Area Board. The main discussion revolved around the forthcoming Tour de France and the magnitude of the event. There was also a synopsis of the 2012 Olympics and its affect on Kent.

The Chairman had also attended a Housing Forum where the Housing Strategy for the next five years was presented.

The Chairman and the Clerk had a meeting with a resident who had previously been denied permission to hold a barbeque on the Brenchley playground but had gained permission subsequently from the leader of the local Scouts. An issue had arisen because the car park was closed for resurfacing and lining and the resident had removed bollards to park there. The Chairman advised the resident that there was a Health and Safety issue with adults and children being in close proximity to the hot white lining materials and advised that this was the responsibility of the organiser. The Council would accept no liability, which was agreed by the resident. The conflict in decisions was discussed as the Scouts did not have the authority to grant use of the playground and the Clerk was asked to review the lease as to the terms contained in it. Once done it was suggest that a meeting be held with the Scouts to agree what is permissible and a way of ensuring the Council is informed of lettings. There was also concern that the hall, the toilets and the garden had all been left in an untidy and unclean condition.

Approval of Annual Accounts Return

Following the satisfactory annual internal audit of the accounts the Council was required to make its annual governance statement and return. The Clerk provided the figures from the accounts and details of what declarations were being made together with justification for above average changes year on year. The most significant of these was the increase in expenditure and revenue due to an insurance claim to repair Matfield Pavilion following storm damage. The Council duly approved both the figures and the Governance Statement return. The Clerk was asked to forward this to the external auditor.

Matters arising from meeting of 30th April

Trees

Permission has been received for the felling of the Catalpa and two Sycamores in Matfield and Messrs Colin Coley has been asked to start work as soon as possible and the Catalpa has now been felled.

Correspondence

TWBC

Tunbridge Wells Housing Strategy 2006-2011
This was noted.

KCC

Application Pack for Member Community Grant. It was agreed that copies of this application document should be made and circulated to all local community groups.

Tomm Estates Ltd

A letter advising that rather than request moving the bus shelter outside Central Stores development the company wishes to build a brick built shelter at their expense to match the properties under construction and would be submitting a full application. They offer to submit a preview to the Council when prepared. It was agreed that any reasonable proposal should be considered. The subject of subsequent ownership was raised and it was agreed that this and other aspects of the suggestion could be discussed between the PC and the developer in due course.

Public

A letter of complaint from a member of the public whose parents are buried in Brenchley Churchyard was received. It expressed the view that the area is very neglected. Cllr Playfoot stated that this had been the case but the Churchyard Committee now had a new Chairman and had appointed new contractors and that matters were improving. The Clerk was asked to write to the correspondent and convey this, together with a suggestion that all work was done voluntarily and a volunteers' day was held every year if she wished to assist. The correspondent's letter to be passed to Rev Campbell Paget together with our response.

Jubilee Seat

A quotation from A J Knight of Brenchley Road Matfield had been received in the sum of £1150.00 for the removal of the seat, repair and replacement. Due to the previous difficulty in obtaining quotations from suitably qualified craftsmen and the fact that money had been raised locally from residents who supported the original installation, it was felt the Council should agree to this. The Clerk was asked to raise an insurance claim, which if accepted would offset some of the costs.

Accounts for Payment

The Council agreed that, although the lease for Cinderhill Wood had not been paid for several years because of disputes regarding the damage and misuse of the site, they had been largely resolved and the lease should be renewed. The Clerk was asked to contact Lois Howell at TWBC to enable the Council to review the terms for re-signing the lease before paying the invoice.

The Council also asked the Clerk to write and thank the contractors L J Marsh for a prompt and efficient service and relay this to both their staff and their sub-contractors who white lined the car park.

Other Matters as maybe Notified

Amenity Lorry

It was noted that the amenity lorry is still being used for commercial waste. The driver of the lorry is reluctant to refuse such waste, which was considered understandable due to potential threat to his personal safety. The Clerk was asked to contact a resident local to the car park to request any information as may be gathered regarding registration numbers etc. The idea of leaflets explaining the necessity of restricting the use of the facility to domestic waste was discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact Julie Mellor of TWBC to seek an opinion. The Clerk relayed a conversation with TWBC that if some waste was unable to be off loaded the likelihood of fly-tipping increased, as some were reluctant to go elsewhere or pay TWBC to take it. PCSO Brown was asked if fly-tipping was a problem. He replied that it varied across his region but it was part of his brief and he reported all finds to TWBC. He also asked for a list of common tipping sites that he would keep a special watch on and this was provided. It was agreed communication between the Council and him was best conducted through either the Chairman or the Clerk.