

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6th AUGUST 2007 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present

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

The start of the meeting was also attended by representatives of TWBC, Mr David Crosby, Head of Housing and Mr Paul Russell, Technical Officer in Housing Services, who presented correspondence inviting consideration of proposals for the improvement of the Gypsy site at Cinderhill Wood. The Council listened, made comments and stated it would debate its views when correspondence was considered later in the meeting and at a later date when planning applications were received.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs A Lee 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

After an amendment that an intended donation was to be made to the Kent Wildlife Trust and not the Woodland Trust the minutes were duly approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

Public question time.

Three members of the public attended and asked questions concerning parking and access to the highway in respect of the application for Heath Cottage, which were duly answered in the course of the presentation and debate of the application.

Planning Applications.

The planning applications had been reviewed by the Planning sub committee and were presented by Cllr Stanley with the exception of Heath Cottage, which was presented by Cllr Barsley.

TW/07/02046/FUL/BS1

Chestnut Cottage Foxhole Lane Matfield

Remove existing roof and construct chalet type roof raising ridge height

Recommendation-Refusal

The increase in volume is in excess of the guidelines and therefore contrary to H11 (2). The Council also commented that the swimming pool already in existence is not shown neither is the structure at present being constructed over the pool for which we have not seen, a planning application. The Planning Enforcement Officer would be informed.

TW/07/02186/FUL/TA1

Heath Cottage Brenchley Road Brenchley

Change of use from residential to dentist.

Cllr Stanley declared an interest and although remaining in the room took no part in the discussion.

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to adequate parking on site and Highway safety. The Council commented that there seems inadequate space shown for the parking required. Also subject to Highways dept approval. The Council was concerned about poor site lines and possible danger from an expected tendency by users to park on the road outside.

TW/07/2520/FUL/TA1

1 Burrs Hill Oast, Horsmonden Road Brenchley

Extend into roof void to form new bedroom and new staircase.

Recommendation-Refusal

The additional fenestration is inappropriate and contrary to recommendations for this type of rural building.

Decisions Taken by TWBC

TW/07/01252/FUL/CP3

The Platters High St Brenchley

Replacement Building

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Refusal

TW/07/01632/FUL/CP3

20 Chestnut Lane Matfield

Rear Extension

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

TW/07/01667/FUL/TA1

Weirleigh Cottage Geddes Hill Matfield

Conversion of existing garage to kitchen

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

TW/07/01815/FUL/CLC

Stock Stiles The Green Matfield

Single storey rear extension

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

TW/07/01956/FUL/CLC

Town Farm Palmers Green Lane Brenchley

Renewal of permission to rebuild collapsed structure and new building

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

TW/07/01974/FUL/CLC

Crittenden House Crittenden lane Matfield

Garage and extension to outbuilding

Recommendation-Approval Decision- Approval

TW/07/01955/FUL/DSD

Garden Cottages Maidstone Road Matfield

Attic conversion, entrance porch, attic stair, replacement roof, conversion of outbuilding to office

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Withdrawn Applications**TW/07/01603/FUL/DSD**

Beechwood Foxhole Lane Matfield

Rear extension and loft conversion

Decisions taken by the Clerk out of meeting**Brenchley Playground**

Permission has been given to All Saints Church to hold a service from 10am to 2.30pm on Sunday 2nd September.

Meetings attended by Councillors

Several Councillors of the Affordable Housing Sub Group met on 25th July to discuss its response to an email from TWBC. Minutes have been circulated.

Matters arising**Donation**

A donation of £250 to the Kent Wildlife Trust was agreed once they provided details for payment. However this has not been progressed as it has been questioned in correspondence that this may not be considered sufficient in light of the size of the project. This was further discussed and it was agreed by a majority vote to increase this to £350

Matfield Green

Cornfords have agreed to provide a quotation in the near future for levelling the path in front of the pond. They have also been asked to reinstate the post to allow refitting of the "Fishing by Children only" sign. The Clerk was asked to write to Cornfords to confirm the quotation together with asking for removal of the old broken wall, which is still in the pond. The Clerk was also asked to obtain a second quotation.

Utilities failures

Cllr Alex King has been petitioned for his assistance in improving communications between utility companies and KCC Highways to speed the processes necessary in the event of breakdowns, emergencies etc and he has responded that he will raise the issue with them.

Sewer Replacement.

It was reported that the proposed replacement of a sewer and the subsequent closure of the Horsmonden Road has been postponed for between one to two years.

Correspondence**Cinderhill Wood**

An invitation to comment on proposals to improve and increase the size of the Gypsy encampment in Cinderhill Wood had been received. The Council was concerned that originally the site had been agreed as four sites with three being tolerated on a temporary basis. There were now four permanent plus two tolerated. The proposals assumed that there would be six permanent sites with the two tolerated sites now being redefined as permanent. This plan required an increase in the area of the site due, it was stated, to discussions with the Fire Brigade who regulated a larger separation between caravans. The Council also felt it should explore the regulations to satisfy itself this was the case. Cllr Jolley agreed to look into it and attempt to enlist the assistance of Cllr Lee.

Polling Arrangements

An invitation to comment on a review of polling districts places and access arrangements. Councillors considered that existing arrangements regarding this service were satisfactory. The Clerk was asked to enquire if a date had been fixed for the local elections next year and to ask Election Officers of TWBC if they could ensure early booking with the venues to avoid potential double booking.

Speed Limits

A copy of an email from a resident and a letter from another to KCC urging for a speed limit in Crook Road and the negative response. The reply stated that KCC would only consider marking the road with a safety message if the Parish Council supported it. It was agreed this was the case and the Clerk was asked to write and confirm this.

LCCS

An invitation to attend a presentation by the Local Crime; Community Sentence group on crimes and sentences to be held in Paddock Wood on Monday 24th September at 7.30 pm Cllrs Mackenzie. Stanley and Jolley expressed interest and the Clerk volunteered to attend.

Sports News

A copy of the July issue of "Sports News" produced by TWBC Leisure services was handed out.

Police

Copies of a news issue from the Police HQ were distributed.

TWBC

A report of the Eastern Area Planning Committee with details of how monies collected from Planning contributors has been spent. This was noted.

Accounts for Payment

Post Office	Tax and NI	£255.41
EDF	Street Lighting maintenance	£62.47
KCC	½ year mowing	£2472.41
Cornfords	Repairs to Matfield pond	£528.75
BT	Phone	£100.42
EDF	Electricity	£41.15
TMS	Notices	£7.05
Kent Wildlife Trust	Donation	£350.00

Monies Received

Mr Holmans	Allotment Rent	£15.00
BPH Productions	Hire of Jack Wish Pavilion	£1000.00

Other Matters as maybe Notified**Money Received**

It was discussed and agreed that the money received from BPH Ltd for hiring the Jack Wish Pavilion for a motor manufacturer's advert should be divided equally between future expenditure on the Pavilion and Brenchley Playground.

Annual return.

The Audit Commission has returned the annual return, which the PC has previously approved, asking for a more detailed explanation of variances of more than 15% year on year. The Clerk had produced a breakdown, which was approved by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Hedges

It was reported the hedges on the eastern side of Holly Bank in Brenchley were overgrown and impeding pedestrian passageway. The Clerk was asked to research who the current owner of the property is and to write asking if they could be cut back. The Clerk was also asked to advise KCC Highways that reflective road signs were obscured by vegetation in the vicinity of the junction of Crook Road and Pixot Hill. Cllr Playfoot agreed to present the clerk with details of other minor street scene problems in the Parish.

Rebekah Peacey

It was advised that Rebekah Peacey will be 100 years old shortly and the Council decided it would be very appropriate to present her with a bouquet of flowers. Cllr Playfoot agreed to organise this.

Tree of Light.

Cllr Playfoot reminded the Council that it was customary to organise a "Tree of Light" at Christmas for the benefit of Hospice in the Weald and proposed this year it was held alongside Matfield Pavilion and volunteered along with Mrs Playfoot to organise it. This was agreed.

Viewing Point

It was reported that broken glass was being found at the Viewing point in Crook Road on a regular basis usually in the mornings after Friday and Saturday nights. The Clerk was asked to enlist the help of PCSO Brown to monitor the situation.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is Tuesday 21st August in Brenchley Memorial Hall to discuss planning issues.