

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2007 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies for absence

Cllrs P Randall and Mrs M 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.

Four members of the public attended. Questions were asked on the following topics: -

Residents were concerned about the parking of cars in Matfield and asked what could be done to alleviate this. With the new developments only having one space per dwelling people would be forced to park in the main road. The Council replied that it did make representations to this effect when Webbs Orchard was proposed but TWBC chose to ignore this. Cllr Lee suggested that in fact there could be a benefit from traffic calming when cars were forced to slow to avoid the parked cars. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to KCC Highways reminding them of potential dangers.

A resident asked what powers the PC had in planning issues. The reply was given that although the Council had no statutory powers of veto, as a collective body they represented the interests of the community and with the benefit of local knowledge had better standing than individuals alone when it came to making recommendations.

The Council was asked what could be done to deal with inconsiderate patrons of a local public house creating noise and disturbances especially after midnight. Complaints had been discussed by residents regarding underage drinking, music, noise and potential drink driving. Cllr Lee replied that new licencing laws were considerably more stringent now than they used to be and the Licencing Authority of TWBC should be written to by the resident with specific details of any complaint. Our local PCSO has the ability to discuss matters with the Licencee concerned and the PC asked the Clerk to advise him of the issues raised.

The Council was asked what had happened to the Jubilee seat, which was missing. The reply was it was in the hands of a specialist repairer and would be returned when finished. The resident offered help if the Council's insurers were reluctant to pay but was advised that in fact the Clerk had received assurances from the insurer that they would settle the claim. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for achieving this, which was agreed.

The Council was asked who had responsibility for the maintenance of Matfield Pond. The Council replied that notionally they did but all work was voluntary and was undertaken regularly. New volunteers were welcome.

Planning Applications.

TW/07/02828/FUL/BS1

Cork Wood Fairmans Lane Brenchley

Conversion of existing garage to annexe

Recommendation-Refusal

The property is outside the LBD and within the AONB. We are concerned the development will lead to sub-division and subsequent sale as a separate dwelling.

TW/07/02847/ADV/PJT Blue Boys Service Station Hastings Road Matfield
 Alterations to existing static illuminated signs.
 Recommendation- Approval
 We feel the landscaping is already overgrown and its maintenance should be part of the approval.

TW/07/02825/FUL/CLC The Beeches, Cryals Road Brenchley
 Conservatory
 Recommendation-Approval

TW/07/02880/FUL/BS1 Little Crook Cottage Crook Road Brenchley
 Single storey front extensions
 Recommendation- Approval

TW/07/02884/FUL/CLC 8 Porters Wood Petteridge Lane Matfield
 Rear Conservatory
 Recommendation- Approval

TW/07/02700/FUL/CLC 12 Church Close Brenchley
 Side extension now revised balcony arrangement.
 Recommendation- Approval

Decisions Taken by TWBC

TW/07/02513/AGRI/PJT Part OS Plot 4300 Fairmans Lane Brenchley
 Erection of pre-cast agricultural building.
 Originally refused. The applicant increased the size of the holding to greater than 5 hectares and TWBC determined that it now fell under General Permitted development for agricultural Purposes and planning permission was not required.

TW/07/01600/FUL/CLC Poulhurst Bungalow Furnace Lane Brenchley
 Change of use of land to residential and new access and drive
 Recommendation Approval Decision- Approval

TW/07/02046/FUL/BS1 Chestnut Cottage Foxhole Lane Matfield
 Remove existing roof and replace with chalet roof and raise ridge height
 Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

TW/07/02186/FUL/TA1 Heath Cottage Brenchley Road Brenchley
 Change of use to Dentist
 Recommendation-Approval Decision- Refusal

Decisions taken by the Clerk out of meeting

Following damage to a bollard and paving slab in Brenchley centre caused by a Royal Mail van the delivery centre in Tonbridge has been contacted and a reply is expected shortly.

Meetings attended by Councillors

Cllrs M Mackenzie and J Barsley together with the Clerk met Mr R Cottrill of TWBC and toured the Affordable Housing preferred sites with a view to giving Mr Cottrill a clearer understanding of the merits of each site. Mr Cottrill advised he would consider all the information gathered and would respond shortly.

Cllr Randall had attended a meeting of KAPC and agreed to be elected Vice Chairman with a view to becoming Chairman in 2008.

Matters arising

KCC

The KCC Annual Plan-containing performance 2006/7 and Priorities 2007/8 was received on CD and copies were distributed.

Cinder Hill Wood Lease

An email from TWBC has been received regarding the lease the Council requested to renew for Cinder Hill Wood, which advises that the non-payment of £40 for the last four years rent is an impediment to the granting of a new lease and requests payment before any further progress is possible. The email also stated that until the PC had been consulted about the increase in size of the gypsy site and details agreed the lease could not be issued but the PC would continue to have security of tenure. The Council agreed to pay this due to the efforts of the Borough to resolve the issues but agreed the new proposals for the gypsy site still did not provide sufficient parking spaces for the quantity of vehicles observed to be using it.

Crime

Crimes involving cars being broken into in Matfield have been reported. The Clerk has been asked to research whether there is a grant available to assist in funding any preventative measures such as CCTV. TWBC, KCC, and the Police have been contacted and an answer is awaited. The Clerk was asked to research costs of mobile CCTV systems

Speeding.

Last year the Council was contacted to see if it would be interested in becoming involved in the local Speedwatch Campaign, which would involve the acquisition of a speed measuring camera and volunteers to man it. The enquiry has been made again from PC James Ball from the Road Policing division. He advises that it may be possible to borrow or hire the equipment from another Council or purchase for between £2000 and £3500 but depends on sufficient volunteers to man the locations chosen. The Council considered that the efforts of local residents in setting up the scheme was sufficient and that this information should be passed on to the co-ordinators.

Correspondence

TWBC

A copy of a street closure order in the Paddock Wood area for the Mascalls Fun Run on 30th September which includes Maidstone Road, Warrington Road, Church Road, Mascalls Court Road, Mile Oak Road and Chantlers Hill

TWBC

An email from Robert Powell TWBC Director of Services to the Community discussing emergency planning. It states that the PC has no specific responsibilities in the event of an emergency but would be contacted for the dissemination of information in the event of a crisis and be used as a source of local information.

ROSPA Report

The annual safety inspection report for Brenchley playground has been received. It lists some items that require attention. It was considered by the Council that the recommendations were mainly of low risk. It was also felt that the bark levels, which the report identified as low, could be raised by raking it over as it had become compacted. No volunteers to do this were forthcoming. They agreed to ask the Clerk to commission Playdale Ltd to undertake the majority of the maintenance of the equipment at the time of installing new equipment proposed for the near future and it was also agreed to authorise the Clerk to engage Mr M Noakes to attend to the minor maintenance issues.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	
Post Office	Tax and NI	£319.85
Playsafety Ltd	Safety inspection	£70.50

Other Matters as maybe Notified

Cherry Trees

It was noted with regret that the Tea Room of the Cherry Trees in Matfield had closed.

Post Box

The continued lack of replacement of the stolen Post Box in Geddes Hill was a matter of concern. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Delivery Manager at Tonbridge Sorting Office and a Manager of the Maidstone HQ who advised that a survey would be conducted to establish its use. The Clerk had also spoken to several Postmen to ascertain usage but had been unable to talk to anyone who emptied the box. The Chairman had various contacts, which he would relay to the Clerk for further chasing.

BITA

Cllr Barsley asked if the log maintained by the Clerk (BITA) on the state of progress of various topics currently in hand could contain dates of actions. The Clerk agreed to redesign the log to accommodate this.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is Tuesday 18th September in Matfield Village Hall to discuss planning issues.