

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2010 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman P Randall, Cllrs, I McEwen, R Dafter, C Woodley and Mrs C Cornford. Borough Cllr A McDermott. Clerk M Powell. Three members of the public and Sharon Marith, a reporter from the Courier also attended.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs B Stanley, R Carter and M Callow for family commitments. Cllr J Barsley for an injury.

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 full meeting of 4th October

The minutes were confirmed as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposal of exempt item

It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed unanimously that, pursuant to section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the **final** item of business on the grounds it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Public Question Time

The applicants for the Walters Farm application asked if they could elaborate on the proposal which the PC agreed to. The changes from the previously approved application were considered a better proposition which although involved an increase in ridge height made a better proportioned building with smaller windows. This increase in height would be partially offset by the building being dug into the land. The increase in pitch of the roof made the use of clay tiles possible which improved the look of the building. Another resident from a nearby property read letters of objection from one of his neighbours and one of his own essentially stating their belief that the higher roof would be considerably more noticeable and add to light pollution. The building did little to enhance the AONB contrary to Core Policy 15. What was described as single storey was in fact a two storey building. The Chairman thanked the residents for their input.

Planning Applications.

10/03347/FUL/TA1 Land to the rear of Walters Farmhouse High St Brenchley
Demolition of existing barn and construction of dwelling and garage
Cllr Mackenzie declared an interest and whilst he remained in the room took no part in the discussion or vote.

Recommendation-Approval

Whilst the PC had no objections in principle the Planning Officer should satisfy himself that the increase in ridge height will not be detrimental to the surrounding area.

10/03321/House/SE2 1 Weald View Pearsons Green Road Brenchley

Two storey extension and front porch.

Recommendation-Refusal

The PC considered this to be an overpowering full height extension with a poor design of porch

10/03312/House/CLC Orchard Cottage Maidstone Road Matfield
Replacement double garage
Recommendation-Approval

10/03313/House/CLC Burtons Crook Road Brenchley
Retrospective-Erection of replacement garden shed
Recommendation-Approval

10/03395/House/SE2 Pinto Chantlers Hill Paddock Wood
Conversion of roof space and internal alterations to provide a study, bedroom and shower room
Recommendation-Refusal
The PC had objection in principle but considered this to be a poor design unsympathetic to the original building

Decisions taken by TWBC

10/02980/FUL/CLC Old Palace High Street Brenchley
New gates in existing undercroft
Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Meetings Attended

Kent Highways

Cllr Woodley attended a meeting of Kent Highways on the 27th October which was considered useful and informative.

KALC

Cllr Randall had attended the quarterly executive meeting of KALC. One item of note was that rules regarding auditing of accounts were changing which may involve employing a professional auditor or an experienced person not connected to the PC.

TWBC

Brg Cllr McDermott reported that he had attended a full council meeting on the 20th October. It was very well attended to the point that the Police were necessary to restrict numbers. The contentious item was regarding Hawkhurst, the outcome being that Hawkhurst has now regained its status as a village.

Matters Arising

Planning Fees

The Clerk was asked to research current fees for a planning application possibly behind Matfield Pavilion. A simple lean to would have a fee of £170 for a gross floor space of under 40m² rising to £335 for a space of 40-75m²

Christmas Lights

The Clerk has applied for a grant of £350 but advice received suggests a grant in the order of that received last year is more likely which was £205. However it would appear that £250 is also available from Alex King and the Clerk is applying for that. The Clerk was asked to enquire what was required in Matfield and to order further lights as allowed for with funds available.

Car Parking Matfield Green

Cllr McEwen reported on options for reinforcing the verge to the rear of Matfield Green. Options include varying densities of a plastic mesh to imbed in the grass. The lighter variety whilst cheaper would probably be a false economy as it would be unlikely to last any significant time. It was discussed and agreed that the principle was acceptable with the heavier mesh and that Cllr McEwen would seek formal quotations for both supply and installation. Cllr Mrs Cornford reported that the cricket club would also like to be included in the project with mesh behind the pavilion but at their expense.

Donations

Following research it was agreed in January to donate £400 to both the CAB and Hospice in the Weald and £200 to the Air Ambulance. It was agreed to now make these donations.

Right Of Way

The Clerk reported on a building apparently taking place on a right of way in Petteridge linking Petteridge Lane with the playing field. The ROW had been unused for several years and the issue was not considered worth pursuing at this stage. Easier access could be provided by a removable bollard in the footpath from the rear of Porters Wood. It was discussed that a postcard questionnaire to local residents might establish what they would like to see the field being used for, a decision on this being reserved for the future.

Correspondence

KCC

A draft consultation "Bold Steps for Kent" to replace the last 4 year plan "Towards 2010" was passed to Cllr Woodley for consideration and a draft response.

Planning Enforcement

An email had been received regarding the illegal occupation of a site in Petteridge Lane. It advised that TWBC were proceeding to prosecute the matter in court. Cllr McDermott was asked if he would enquire on the likely timescale we could expect.

Policing Kent 2011/14 Survey

Advice has been received that Kent Police Authority is currently working with Kent Police to determine the policing priorities for Kent and Medway, which will form the basis of our 2011/14 Policing Plan. In order to consult as widely as possible Cllrs were asked to respond to a survey to be found at a website with the following link:-

http://www.kent.police.uk/news/latest_news/related/surveys/pp_council/policing_plan_consultation.html

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1214.18
Post Office	Tax and NI	£320.01
E.ON	Electricity	£24.97
The Star Inn	VOTY reception	£150.00
M Mackenzie	VOTY expenses	£40.40
C Woodley	SE in Bloom expenses	£148.14
CAB	Donation	£400.00
Hospice in the Weald	Donation	£400.00
Air Ambulance	Donation	£200.00
BT	Phones	£143.27
PR Signs	Signs	£627.45
C Cornford	VOTY expenses	£26.53

Other Matters as maybe previously notified

Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk reported that RSVPs had been received indicating some 65 people would like to attend the reception. It was discussed and thought prudent to cater for approximately 120. Cllr Mackenzie reported that he had seen a first proof of the commemoration booklet which was very good. The first run was 175 copies. It was hoped that donations may be made although the books were to be distributed free of charge. Any surplus income (after a reprint) should be donated to the British Legion or Help our Heroes or some other suitable charity for the armed forces.

Junior football in Matfield

Cllr Woodley reported that the club was ceasing operation for lack of interest. The PC discussed the issues and agreed it did not consider the costs of maintenance worthwhile and the Clerk was asked to advise KHWP that the pitch was sadly no longer required and could revert to their use. The Clerk was also asked to discuss the matter with Mr Reid who had been organising the club regarding removal of lighting, electricity etc.

Kent Minerals and Waste Strategy

Cllr Woodley reported that there was little for the PC to engage with but felt we should write regarding the report itself. It was an exceedingly long document but failed to provide an executive summary to aid understanding of the scope of it. It was felt that consultations such as this would be better served with face to face briefings to make it easier to absorb and that documents such as this were almost a waste of time. Cllr Woodley agreed to compose a letter to this effect for the Clerk to send.

Matfield War Memorial

A request to have the memorial cleaned had been received. The Clerk had obtained one estimate which involved high pressure jet washing which would cost in the order of £1500. Concerns were raised that this could potentially be damaging and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries with English Heritage, SPAB and similar bodies on the best approach.

Matfield Pavilion

A request had been received from the Cricket Club for permission to plant bulbs around the pavilion and around the perimeter of the green on an ongoing basis. This was considered acceptable and Cllr Randall would provide advice on planting.

New Bench.

A quotation had been received for a simple bench to celebrate the winning of "Village of the Year" Competition. The cost was £365 including installation. With an estimated further £50 for a plaque it was well within the £500 prize and it was agreed to order it.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in Matfield Village Hall if it is called.

Exempt Item