

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY
2nd MARCH 2010 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present

Cllr P Randall presided, Cllrs R Carter, I McEwen, C Woodley, B Stanley and Clerk M Powell. 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Mackenzie, R Dafter and Brg Cllr Mrs M Callow for family commitments, J Barsley for a prior appointment.

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 1st February 2010

The minutes were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman

Public Question Time

With regard to a forthcoming application for a replacement house at Pippins, Furnace Lane Brenchley a resident asked the PC to consider the proposal very carefully. The application is to replace a small bungalow. A previous application that proposed a six-bedroom 6-bath or shower room house had been withdrawn on advice from the planning officer as being too bulky. This new application removes two the bath or shower rooms but still creates a large house, which would obscure an excellent vista over open countryside to Sherenden. The proposal only shows 2 parking spaces, which is insufficient for such a size of house. Although outline planning permission was granted some time ago for a modest dwelling this current application compares the proposed increase in size to that permission and not to the existing building. Further would the PC also consider whether the proposal would enhance the AONB.

The Chairman replied that the application would indeed receive careful consideration at the next planning meeting.

Planning Applications.

10/00321/House & LBC/CLC

Lees Court The Green Matfield

Demolition of conservatory and single storey side addition; construction of single storey side and rear extension with associated internal alterations

Recommendation-Refusal

Although we consider the proportions acceptable we feel the design is unsympathetic in detail especially with regards to the fenestration. We also note the loss of one arched window

10/00394/House/GM2

13 Church Close Brenchley

Extension of existing drive and associated landscaping

Recommendation-Refusal

We consider the proposal to be harmful to the street scene

Decisions taken by TWBC

09/03787/FUL/GM2

Bassetts Hastings Road Brenchley

Erection of fence and gates- retrospective

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal

09/04050/FUL/CW

1Elmhurst Dundle Road Matfield

Extension of residential curtilage

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**09/04026/House/CW1**

Broad View Maidstone Road Matfield

Revision of roof and additional front bay and rear conservatory

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting**

A resident of Hatmill Lane has complained the lane being unswept with leaves and other detritus covering the road making parking and walking difficult. The Clerk has informed KCC Highways.

Other Meetings Attended**Restorative Justice**

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Cornford and the Clerk attended the trial of the "restorative justice at a speed trap in Matfield. Numerous police officers, a representative of the Fire Brigade and the press were there. In 3 hours speeding motorists were temporarily detained whilst their details were taken and a conversation was had regarding the potential consequences if an accident were to happen because of excess speed. The PC was generally impressed with the organisation and that it was considered a success. However there was concern at the way it was reported in the Courier, which gave an impression of the PC planning to sit in judgement of offenders. The Clerk was asked to contact the Police to ask for a meeting before the next event to prepare a press release so the process was accurately portrayed

Planning

Cllrs B Stanley, C Woodley, Mrs Cornford and the Clerk attended a training session at the Town Hall. Mostly the briefing was to update attendees on changes to processes and people and provide an opportunity to ask questions. A presentation was made regarding the listed building planning application process together with a presentation on enforcement. It was agreed that there was a clear need for TWBC to keep the councils better informed of any enforcement actions. It was asked if the planning officer could contact the council if there was disagreement on the decision of any particular application. The advice was it was not possible as this would have to be the case with all statutory consultees and a PCs view carried no more weight than the others.

Matters Arising

None

Correspondence**Kingsland Garden Services**

Advice that their account for 2009 is attached and that they would be happy to continue the work for 2010 if desired. The PC agreed that it was acceptable at the same price.

TWBC

The Big Lottery Fund has awarded TWBC a grant to run summer play days in rural areas over 3 years. The activities include skateboarding, rock climbing, sports, art and dance etc and are free to children up to 17 yrs old. They need a large open space and enquire if the PC would like to have such activities in our Parish. It will be in August and run for several days. The equipment is mobile and would be removed each day. The PC considered the proposition an excellent idea with either the Green at Matfield or the playground at Brenchley being potentially suitable.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1204.54
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£320.01
Kingsland Garden Services	Mowing St Lukes Churchyard	£180.00
JP Miles	Hedge cutting allotments and playground	£158.63

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Insurance review**

Cllr R Carter was thanked for the work put in to research the matter. It would appear that there are a limited number of insurers who will accept Councils. It was agreed that Aviva would be selected when the current policy with Zurich expired. The matters were discussed and it was agreed to insure the War Memorials for £100,000 and to commit to Aviva for 3 years to obtain the best price.

Verges at Matfield Green

It was discussed that the verge at the southwestern corner of Matfield Green were in a poor state and an eyesore. Options included reinforcement, which was considered expensive. Alternatives included moving in soil and re-seeding and possibly fixing removable posts to prevent damage during the winter months. It was considered best to obtain professional advice and the Clerk was asked to contact a landscape gardener and our usual hedge-cutter for opinions.

Draft Contract for public conveniences

Cllr McEwen was thanked for his work in reviewing the draft contracts from TWBC for the public conveniences. The comments he had raised were accepted especially to the effect that the contract should be ongoing rather than just for one year, that there should be an annual review and that we should seek a fixed price for at least the next 3 years. The Clerk was asked to communicate this with TWBC.

Matfield Shop

Cllr Mrs Cornford reported that considerable work was underway with the shop and that the shop fitting of equipment was planned to start on Monday 8th. The hope was the shop would open at the end of March with the Post Office following on the 7th April. The grand opening was planned during April and Kathy Perks of "Archers" fame would be available to do the honours.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a planning meeting on Tuesday 16th March in Matfield Village Hall at 7.30 pm.