

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING ON MONDAY 7th JUNE 2010 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman P Randal, Cllrs R Carter, R Dafter, J Barsley, I McEwen, C Woodley, and Clerk M. Powell. Also present Borough Cllr A McDermott.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs B Stanley and Mrs C Cornford for family commitments. Borough Cllr Mrs M Callow for a prior meeting 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 4th May

The minutes were amended to reflect that Cllr J Barsley had joint responsibility with Cllr Woodley for Rights of way and country matters and that Cllrs Barsley and McEwen would be taking advice on the best means of repair to the rear of Matfield Green. The Chairman then signed them as correct

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

10/01440/House & 01442/LBC/SEP Brattles Grange Tibbs Court Lane Brenchley
Single storey extension to kitchen in place of extension built in 2003
Recommendation-Approval

10/01534/House/SEP Chapel House Maidstone Road Matfield
Renew roof covering over rear kitchen including lowering the pitch, demolish existing outbuilding and replace with log cabin
Recommendation-Approval

10/01599/FUL/GM2 Elmhurst Farm Dundle Road Matfield
Creation of new agricultural access to Elmhurst Farm and associated works
Recommendation-Approval

10/01706/House/CLC Acorn House Windmill House Brenchley
Orangery to rear elevation
Recommendation-Refusal
It was considered to be of poor design and proportionality when compared to the rest of the building.

10/01783/House/CLC 2 Margaret Villas Maidstone Road Matfield
Loft conversion including rear dormer and front Velux windows

Recommendation-Neutral**10/01590/ House/SJM**

The Oaks Farm Hatmill Lane Brenchley

Erection of a carport

Recommendation-Approval

Cllrs M Mackenzie and P Randall declared an interest as the applicant was known to them and whilst they remained in the room they did not enter into the conversation or vote on the application.

10/01640/FUL/ARJ

Goldmere Fisheries (Jefferson) Romford

Road Pembury

Retrospective-Demolition of old and erection of replacement fishing lodge

Whilst not within our boundary the PC wished to comment to the following effect: - We are not convinced this is a replacement building and photographic evidence would be helpful of a prior building. Also there are two pipes leading from the local brook to the site and we would be interested if a licence for water abstraction had been granted. The PC would also challenge the statement that the building cannot be seen from a public right of way.

Decisions taken by TWBC**10/00525/House/CW1**

1 Chapel Row Maidstone Road

Matfield

Retrospective-Replacement of existing outbuildings with a building comprising shed, summerhouse and outer decking area.

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval**10/00359/FUL/GMT**

2 The Cottage Petteridge Lane Matfield

Single storey front extension and 2-storey rear extension

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval**10/00843/LBC/GM2**

Park Cottage High Street Brenchley

Removal and replacement of tile hanging with existing tiles and some similar tiles on north facing wall and incorporation of felt insulation behind and replacement of window flaunches with lime mortar as existing.

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval**10/00920/LBC/SJM**

Honeycomb Cottage Marle Place Road

Brenchley

Two storey extension

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Refusal**10/00780/House/SEP**

1 Fir Tree Cottage Green Lane Brenchley

Addition of two dormer windows to front elevation

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval**10/01108/FUL/TA1**

Corsica Nursery Brenchley Road Matfield

Demolish existing dwelling and outbuildings and erected two detached dwellings

Recommendation-Refusal Decision Refusal**Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting****Matfield Green**

Following a request from St Luke's Church the Clerk has given permission for the green to be used on the 17th and 18th of July for a village fete, a dog show and a table top sale on behalf of "Love Matfield". Further to hold a Barn Dance the profits of which would go to charity.

Meetings Attended**Highways/PC**

Cllr Randall attended a meeting with other representatives of Parish Councils and KCC Highways dept. It was also attended by Mr John Dunn KCC's new Director. Various issues were discussed and KCC advised the services they could offer were likely to get worse with the cuts to their budget. On the subject of potholes the Clerk and Cllr Woodley were asked to repeat their previous exercise of touring the parish and mapping the remaining potholes.

Village Hall

Cllr R Carter had attended a meeting of Brenchley Village Hall, the principal topic being the forthcoming rent review under the lease of Brenchley Sports Bar.

Cricket

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended a meeting at the Kent Cricket Ground in Tunbridge Wells, which was also attended by the Mayor. The Mayor was very keen to promote two issues; a charity supporting sufferers of rheumatoid arthritis and local businesses. He intended to hold networking sessions, which was thought going to be valuable.

Brenchley School

The Chairman had been to numerous meetings with Brenchley School and was in fact now a full Governor. The School had now more resources and had employed two new teachers; one being a special educational needs co-ordinator. Two teachers have left and one taken early retirement. Although the school was working under special measures disciplines the results of last year's SATS tests were better than other schools in the area and it is very likely that this year's will be as good.

Matters Arising**Street Lights**

Following advice that a street light outside No1 Oakfield Road was not working Direct Technical Services advise that the mercury lamp is beyond economic repair. The Clerk has asked them to replace it at a cost of £204.75. The replacement will be a sodium bulb, which is longer lasting and uses less electricity. They as standard produce a soft golden light, which is more effective and lasts longer than the white light at present, but if this is a problem a white sodium bulb can be used at an additional £20/bulb. An EU directive that the mercury lamps will be outlawed across Europe has been postponed from 2010 to 2012 by which time they will no longer be manufactured and we will be obliged to change all 8 lamps we own. However there will be issues nearer the time of capacity to be able to attend to these as many county councils are already in the process of changing and have in some cases signed 25 year maintenance contracts, creating a shortage of manufacturing capacity.

Ivy

Michael Noakes has been asked to remove the ivy around the cherry trees in Brenchley playground. The ivy has been cut through and will be removed. He has also replaced some missing fencing posts. Cllr Randall advised that it is a myth that ivy will harm a healthy tree and in fact did support considerable species of insects. It was important that the remaining ivy was removed as soon as possible as once it was completely dead it would be extremely difficult to remove.

Affordable Housing

The Chairman reported on the current status of the projects. The Matfield site had been officially handed over to the contractor and work was expected to start shortly. The proposal for Brenchley was progressing with contracts being drafted for the sale and purchase subject to planning permission and the eventual public consultation.

Safety Review

The Clerk reported that KCC have been reminded that they promised a safety review of the bus shelter by St Luke's Church.

Annual Insurance

The renewal notice from Zurich has been received for a premium of £2461.37 which, as agreed will not be renewed. An invoice had been received for £2035.36 from the broker of our new insurer, "Aviva". Cllr Carter was thanked for his work in achieving this reduction.

TWBC

B/Cllr A McDermott reported that he had had a meeting with TWBC with amongst other topics, Cinderhill Wood was discussed. David Crosby had left and his replacement was Kevin Heatherington who whilst only in attendance once a week at present would eventually take over the role. Cllr McDermott also reported that he was now on the Eastern Planning Committee and the Communities Standing Committee.

War Memorial

The Chairman advised that the replacement cross is now finished. There was a meeting planned on Tuesday 8th June between the stonemason and the scaffolders, which the Chairman and Clerk would attend. Cllr Dafter advised that the Kentfallen web site had been very useful and a lot of information had already been collected. Some previous research done some time ago by a member of the Historical Society added to the information. The Chairman also advised that Alex King had offered some financial support and we had had a very nice letter from the web site producer who was happy for us to use the research material it contained. There has also been a telephone offer of cash towards the project as well as the services of a standard bearer at any re-dedication that may take place.

Correspondence

HMRC

Advice that despite using their CD calculator for NI contributions there was an underpayment of £0.16p for the entire year on to which £0.03p interest was added. However because we chose to submit our employers annual return on line a year before it became mandatory we qualified for a £75.00 incentive effectively making our account £74.87 overpaid. This has been deducted from our cheque this month.

Direct Technical Services

A revised contract for street lighting maintenance had been received; the previous version was rejected as unacceptable. Cllr McEwen agreed to review the contract and report at a later meeting.

KALC

Issue 347 of Parish News was distributed.

Resident

Another letter of complaint had been received from a resident of a property adjoining the allotments. A tenant's dog was discovered on her doorstep having got through the fence. On advising the tenant came to the conclusion the attitude of the tenant is at odds with his previous assurances. The Clerk was asked to contact her and advise her of the conversations he has had with the tenant.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1838.81
Post Office	Tax and NI	£319.81
Came and Company	Insurance	£2035.36
B Stanley	APM refreshments	£65.41
P Randall	Meeting Expenses	£12.60
TMS	Posters & stationary	£94.16
ACRK	Subscription	£35.00
EDF	Final Electricity Account	£323.16
Direct Technical Services	Street lighting maintenance	£126.90
Southern Water	Allotment Water	£20.44
Southern Water	Pond Water	£10.50
M Noakes	Maintenance of playground	£165.00

Monies received

HMRC

VAT Refund 08/09

£3345.48

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Posts**

The posts around Brenchley War Memorial have been knocked down again. A decision is required on their replacement, as their effectiveness seems limited. One possibility that was considered was replacing the posts with boulders of rock. The Clerk was asked to explore this.

Standards Visit

Paul Cummins TWBC Standards Officer wishes to visit the PC. The Clerk was asked to contact him and offer the first meeting dates in July and August and a date needs to be decided.

Parkwood Farm

A major development of a large house of architectural merit is proposed and the developers would like to make a presentation or have an on site meeting. The PC felt that a presentation at a meeting would be best although Cllr McDermott advised that any Cllrs attending such would need to declare that they had been lobbied.

Village of the Year Competition

The Chairman advised that with the encouragement of Cllr Mrs Cornford there were thirty possible entries in several categories from Matfield but unfortunately none from Brenchley.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd June in Brenchley Memorial Hall.