

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING ON MONDAY 2nd AUGUST 2010 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present

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

Apologies for absence

Cllr J Barsley and C Woodley for family commitments, Cllr R Dafter for being unwell.

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 5th July

The minutes were agreed as being correct and duly signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

10/02021/House/CW1 Extension of time-1 Garden Cottages
Maidstone Road Matfield
Attic conversion including new 2 1/2 storey entrance porch & access stair with secondary external escape stair, replacement roof & fenestration to existing conservatory, new veranda, removal of porch, conversion of outbuilding for home office, realign driveway
07/01955 refers

Recommendation-Approval

10/02340/House/SJM Saxbys Horsmonden Road Brenchley
Two storey extension providing self contained granny annex

Recommendation-Approval

10/02036/FUL/SJM OS Plots 3100 & 3600 Crittenden Road
Matfield

Retrospective New entrance crossover, drive, fencing and gate

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to livestock being fenced away from the public right of way footpath.

Decisions taken by TWBC

10/01971/House/CLC Lime Tree Cottage Maidstone Road Matfield
Erection of 3 bay garage and studio/hobbies room

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Meetings Attended

Finance Sub Committee

Cllr Carter reported on the finance meeting that preceded this meeting. A review of the first quarters figures were largely in line with budget and gave no cause for concern. The items that were over year to date budget were items paid in advance such as insurance etc. Electricity bills were also in excess of those expected as EDF had decided to impose a standing charge which was included, but as the Council had now changed suppliers to

E. On the bills were expected to reduce to amounts as had been predicted. One item that was out of budget was the War Memorial expenditure which had a surplus. This was because it had been budgeted with a degree of uncertainty on the final costs and a previously agreed grant not being taken into account because it was thought it may be rescinded due to the long period between the grant and completion.

Parking

Cllrs McEwen and Dafter had met to consider ways of improving the surface verges to the west of the green in Matfield. A visit to meet the staff at Scotney Castle had been undertaken for advice on their experiences. One company had been approached regarding a plastic mesh which would need burying in the topsoil and it was hoped that the mesh would be less than £2000 to purchase without groundworks. J Miles and Co were preparing a quotation for this. Cllr McEwen would continue to research the issue.

Standards

Cllr Randall reported that following conversations with Paul Cummins and Barbara Varney of TWBC they were looking for more people to join the Standards Committee. It was suggested that a more rigorous selection process was used than that at present and this was in the process of being implemented.

Colts Hill

Cllr Randall as part of the working committee for the Colts Hill improvements had visited County Hall Maidstone. There were five areas for suggested improvement which included road and bend straightening; work to this end was already underway plus the addition of interactive road signs, triggered by both excess speed and the presence of traffic waiting to enter the A228 from Crittenden Road or Alders Lane.

Brenchley Memorial Hall

Cllr Carter reported on a meeting to discuss the potential rent review of the Sports Bar and deliberations were still in progress.

Brenchley School

Cllr Mackenzie reported that he had now been elected as deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Matters Arising

Public Conveniences

A revised agreement for the service and maintenance of the public conveniences was circulated. The Clerk was asked to circulate the original email containing this for Councillors to consider.

Affordable Housing –Matfield

The Clerk had been asked to obtain details of the layout which was circulated from the TW web site. Concerns were also expressed about the culvert to the front being filled in. The Clerk has visited the site and discussed the issue with the site Manager. The ditch stopped on the eastern edge of the sites boundary so any drainage had to flow westward. The entrance drive will be fitted with a drainage channel which is piped to the site's soakaways which will replace the action of the culvert at this point.

Matfield Pond

The Clerk was asked to advise Mr Birchall of the PC's decision not to proceed with work on the pond but to offer to meet his reasonable expenses in attending and advising. He has replied that he would not charge and was happy to provide advice now or in the future without charge. The maintenance of the pond was discussed, in particular the problem of increasing knotweed. It was considered a possibility that a contractor would need to be employed with April usually the best time of year. It was also agreed that it was acceptable for Mrs Edmeads to arrange the pollarding of the trees in The Avenue later in the year and that the Council would accept the invoice as usual.

Men of the Trees

The Clerk had been asked to contact the Men of Trees regarding their services. They have promised to post information but this is still awaited and the Clerk agreed to chase this.

Correspondence

TWBC- property purchase

An email from a resident regarding potential plans by TWBC leader Roy Bullock to purchase property, details of which were circulated. It was discussed but thought it not within the remit of the PC.

TWBC-Cardboard banks

An invitation to comment on the proposed removal the cardboard banks service which in our area is in Brenchley. The PC agreed it had no objections.

TWBC-Civic amenity vehicle

An invitation had been received to comment on the proposed reduction of services, reducing the provision of the vehicle to once a month on Saturday mornings. This was agreed as reasonable. However the emptying of the waste bin on the playing field was discussed and it was agreed to employ the contractor Cory who empties the bins for TWBC, to be engaged to provide this service at £3.50 a visit.

Siegfried Sassoon Fellowship.

An email had been received from the Chair of the above organisation enquiring as to whether the PC has a fund for the replacement of the stolen plaque and an offer for them to possibly contribute towards it. The Clerk had advised that no such fund as such exists. It was agreed to contact Mr Knott of the Cricket Club to enquire if a blue plaque near the pavilion may be more suitable and the PC would give this further consideration once an answer had been received.

Matfield Fete Committee

A request had been received that the PC should provide a generator to power public address equipment. It was felt that this was unsuitable for the PC to own and store such equipment but if the Fete Committee or maybe the PCC wished to purchase themselves the PC would consider a contribution.

NHS

Cllr Mackenzie advised he had been asked if he would be interviewed to discuss the services provided by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. It was considered preferable to delegate this to Cllr Randall who was happy to assist.

Resident

Cllr Mackenzie advised he had had numerous correspondences with a resident asking for a speed camera in Windmill Hill. It had been explained that the nature of the road and previous research made this an unsuitable solution for speeding in the area.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1391.43
Post Office	Tax and NI	£320.01
KCC	First ½ yearly mowing	£2641.35
E.ON	Electricity	£24.97
BTCV	Tree Warden donation	£50.00
BT	Phone	£140.92

Monies received

Allotments

Rents from all the allotment holders have now been received.

The issue of tenants utilising allotments to produce vegetables and fruit for commercial sale was discussed and considered unacceptable as in breach of the rules of allotments. The Clerk was asked to write to all tenants to explain this.

Other Matters as maybe previously notified

SE in Bloom

Cllr Mrs Cornford has been in touch with businesses in Matfield who express their enthusiasm for various plantings in the village when and if a grant is received.

Signage

The proposed signs on the boundaries indicating businesses within the villages were discussed. Alex King had agreed to contribute £500 and as such the PC was unlikely to have to contribute much but agreed a maximum of £150. Several locations were discussed and Cllr Cornford agreed to continue to identify the most suitable. The wording was agreed to be "Village Centre".

War Memorial

The production of the booklet was discussed as was the rededication service. There was a need to ensure that all was likely to be ready for this on Armistice Day which was the 14th November.

Playground

It was noted that parts of the play equipment had deteriorated and the Clerk was asked to contact the manufacturers for a quote to repair those parts that were required.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th August in Brenchley Memorial Hall.