

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 6th
SEPTEMBER 2010 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman P Randall, Cllrs J Barsley, B Stanley, R Carter, I McEwen, R Dafter, C Woodley and Mrs C Cornford. Borough Cllrs A McDermott and Mrs M Callow. Clerk M Powell.

Apologies for absence

None

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 on 2nd August 2010

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

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

10/02572/TPO/DMD The Platters High Street Brenchley
Trees-Silver Birch -reduce crown by 30% Reduce branch overhanging property on east side by further 10%

Recommendation-Approval

10/02412/FUL/TA1 Blue Boys Inn and Monsoon Spice Hastings Rd Brenchley
Retrospective-Change of use of part of restaurant car park to hand car wash (sui generis)

Recommendation-Refusal

It was considered a detraction from the visual amenity and that there is insufficient parking.

10/02548/House/CW1 Cllrs Stanley and Mackenzie declared a personal interest and did not take part in the discussion or vote
2 Egypt Farm Cottages Cryals Road Matfield

Two storey side extension, alterations to existing roof, front porch and detached garage

Recommendation-Approval

10/02604/FUL/TA1 Kent National Golf Club Watermans Lane Paddock Wood
Reversion to former agricultural use of part of now defunct golf course with sheep and horse grazing and equestrian facilities

It was decided to withhold a recommendation pending an answer to the question of the extent of the grazing land and the impact on any footpaths and whether it was a commercial enterprise with the subsequent impact on traffic in Watermans Lane. The decision would be taken via email once the Clerk had ascertained this to the satisfaction of the Council.

Decisions taken by TWBC

10/02036/FUL/SJM OS Plots 3100 & 3600 Crittenden Road Matfield
Retrospective New entrance crossover, drive, fencing and gate
Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

10/02191/FUL/CLC The Clays Maidstone Road Matfield (Land to the rear of)
Erection of detached dwelling
Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal

10/02181/FUL/CT2 1 Chestnut Lane Matfield
Demolition of garage store building and erection of single storey building
Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal

Other Planning Matters

10/02346/House/SJM Matfield House.
It has been brought to the attention of the PC that the verge upon which it was proposed to build the buttresses was not owned by the applicant. The Clerk was asked to advise TWBC that it would no longer support the application because of this.

Other Meetings Attended

Planning

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by Cllrs C Woodley and Mrs Cornford to Hawkenbury to attend a meeting of the Planning Committee of TWBC. Cllr Randall was thanked for the significant contribution he had made in the preparation of our response to the applications being considered which had assisted in a successful conclusion.

Abbeyfield

Cllr Barsley attended an open evening at Abbeyfield, a residential premise in Paddock Wood that offered low cost accommodation primarily to the elderly with the benefit of a degree of supervision. It was surprising that there were still some four rooms vacant and if any of the PC was aware of someone looking for such accommodation to contact Abbeyfield directly.

Brenchley Hall

Cllr Carter attended a routine meeting at the hall but there was little to report.

Decisions Taken by Clerk out of meeting

None

Matters Arising

SE in Bloom

The TWBC grant of £175 has now been received. Cllr. Woodley agreed to consider the best way of spending the grant to best use the money – perhaps planting round the tree ie Brenchley, or bulbs in the drying Ground Matfield as discussed. He would consult and advise accordingly. Cllr Randall would advise on type and suitability of plants

Correspondence**Croquet**

A letter has been received from the organiser of the croquet tournament held recently on the green in Matfield. It was well received and Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled Charity benefitted by £135.00

TWBC

An email had been distributed from Karen Broom regarding the expected enforcement process for a failed retrospective planning application and appeal in Petteridge Lane

Council Tax Referendum

An invitation had been received to comment on proposed changes to the regulations regarding the setting of Council Tax by replacing the current capping regulations with a requirement for a referendum to be held in the event of a precepting authority seeking to impose an excessive increase. Cllr Woodley had prepared a briefing paper outlining his considered response. He was thanked for his hard work in the preparation of this. The Council considered the content, agreed in the main with its content but asked for an additional comment that our method of bringing items such as these to the attention of the public had been successfully achieved by including them in the Parish AGM or a special Parish meeting. Cllr Woodley agreed to amend the response and to provide the document to the Clerk to send.

Matfield Pond

A quotation to pollard the trees in the Avenue and to remove a decayed tree had been received from Marks Plant for £195.00. This was considered acceptable with the proviso that the trees needed pleaching rather than pollarding.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1266.08
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£320.01
TMS	Planning map scanning	£29.38
E.On	Electricity	£24.97

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Matfield Pond**

Cllr Mrs Cornford was thanked for her work with the litter around the pond which was largely from the children fishing. The Clerk was asked to contact the Environmental Agency to see if they could repeat the training course they held locally some 5 years ago to ensure the anglers were aware of how to fish in safety with the welfare of the fish and the environment in mind. The Clerk also advised that he has contacted the Probation Service to enquire if recipients of community service orders could be gainfully employed within the Parish and it would appear that with sufficient notice and the appropriate type of work required it would be possible. It was agreed that the PC would consider possible jobs which the Clerk would communicate to the Service. The lillies were getting to be a cause for concern and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr P Birchall again to see if he would be interested in thinning them possibly with the aid of a team community service workers.

Matfield Pavilion

The Cricket club had worked hard to clear the area behind the pavilion and have asked if the PC would consider them erecting a lean-to wooden shed to house their equipment. The PC agreed to this subject to the appropriate planning permission being obtained at the expense of the Club. The PC would assist in applying for the permission as it normally received a discount on the fees. A proposal had been received for the PC to consider the establishment of a tea room/cafe within the pavilion to serve the public and the users of the pavilion. The PC agreed in principle that it was acceptable but doubts as

to the suitability of the building were expressed. All expenses and permissions would need to be at the expense of the proposer and would be subject to a formal lease and rent being agreed.

Village Signs

Cllr Mrs Cornford presented a quotation for signs to the village centres. After discussion it was agreed to reduce the number of signs proposed. Their locations were also agreed.

Strategic Review and The Rural Challenge

Cllr Woodley had prepared two briefing papers which were distributed. These are for consideration at the next meeting.

Matfield Green

Cllr McEwen had been looking into the possibility of embedding a plastic mesh into the verge to prevent erosion from parking cars. It was thought that the total cost would be circa £4000. The PC agreed in principle that although there was no budget available at present it could be considered in the future. It was agreed that Cllr. McEwen would get a more detailed quote as the principal of the proposal and the cost *indication* was within our ability if planned in to the next precept. The planting season was usually April or September.

It was also discussed that the two plaques on the beacon were missing. The Clerk had possession of one which he agreed to replace once he had some anti tamper screws and it was also agreed to spend up to £50.00 to replace the other.

Christmas Lights

Some lights on the tree in Brenchley and by The Forge in Brenchley have been damaged by high winds. The matter was discussed. A budget of £500 was already in place for Christmas lights. A cherry picker would be needed with approximately four sets of lights in Brenchley and some extra for Matfield to extend the lighting further up the Avenue

TWBC

An article had appeared in the Courier detailing proposals to close the Assembly Hall and invest in other property. Brg Cllr Alan McDermott explained that no decision had been taken on the Assembly Hall and was still a matter of rumour. TWBC had borrowed £20million because they had managed to obtain a rate of 2.38%pa fixed for 10 years from the government. This was a wise strategy when one considered that a large part of the Councils reserves of a similar amount was getting circa 6%pa. TWBC had placed a bid on the old cinema site in partnership with J Laing and Co. but the amount and whether it was the highest bid was unknown. The Land registry in Hawkenbury was closing sometime in the future and TWBC had had its offer accepted for the purchase of the building. Its intention was to rent the office space to partners – police, health etc.

Cllr Barsley questioned whether it was an appropriate function of TWBC to speculate in property when they could no longer afford to fund the public lavatories and had disbanded their pest control services.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st September in Matfield Village Hall at 7.30 pm.