

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY
18th JANUARY 2011 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present

Vice Chairman P Randal presided, Cllrs J Barsley, R Carter, R Dafter, B Stanley, C Woodley, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M. Powell.

Apologies for absence

Chairman M Mackenzie and Cllr I McEwen for family commitments.

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 6th December

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

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

10/03760/LBC/SE2 Matfield House The Green Matfield
Provision of new drainage to serve existing rainwater pipes on front elevation
Recommendation-Approval

10/04084/LBC/SE2 Matfield House The Green Matfield
Alterations to front railings
Recommendation-Approval

10/03861/House/SE2 Rose Tree Cottage Chantlers Hill Paddock Wood
Rear extensions and front porch relocation
Recommendation-Neutral
The proposal was found to be overbearing for the site. Further, as no materials are specified, and the porch appears to be of timber construct, which we deem to be unsuitable, we are unable to determine this application and are neutral.

10/03892/LBC/CLC Lees Court The Green Matfield
External alterations to windows and doors following consent 10/03041
Recommendation-Approval

10/03959/LBC/CW1 The Hay Loft High Street Brenchley
Single storey rear extension
Recommendation-Approval
Whilst we do not object in principle we note the footprint is not the same as existing which is at variance with the design and access statement and that it extends further west which requires the removal of a screening hedge

10/04121/House/SE2 Cryals Lodge Cryals Road Matfield
Redesign pitched roof to include new dormers and gable end; extension over main footprint to balance the elevations; alterations to doors and windows

Recommendation-Approval

Whilst we approve in principle we would draw attention to the letter from the management of Cryals Court regarding the encroachment of the proposal on land over which the applicant does not own and ask the officer to check this objection has been satisfied

Decisions taken by TWBC

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 Decision-Approval

10/03482/LBC/SJM South Cottage High Street Brenchley

Demolition of outbuilding, creation of single storey infill extension, internal restoration and alterations and removal of chimney

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval

10/03291/FUL/SJM The Platters High St Brenchley

Retrospective-replacement bungalow

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval

10/03669/FUL/CT2 A Berry and Son Ltd Petteridge Lane Matfield

Erection of 2 no detached houses & garages

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval

10/03715/FUL/CT2 Orchard Cottage Maidstone Road Matfield

Demolition of existing and erection of replacement bungalow

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval

10/03522/LBC/CP3 Bournes High Street Brenchley

Change of use of part ground floor and part of lower ground floor from office to self contained flat. Internal alterations to form separate internal entrance door to new flat, separate internal entrance to existing flat, block up existing door to shop and new WC to shop

Recommendation-Approval Decision Approval

Appeals

09/03787 Bassetts Farm Kippings Cross Matfield

Appeal Dismissed

Decisions by Clerk out of Meeting**Bus Shelter seat**

The Clerk was alerted to the seat in Markets Heath bus shelter as being badly damaged and in need of urgent repair. Upon inspection the timber was partially rotten and had been extensively vandalised. Some of the seat slats were broken and the cantilever brackets damaged. The Clerk took the view the seat base was beyond economical repair, and disposed of it. After discussion the Council agreed that the seat should be repaired and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for such.

Matfield Pond

Following the severe freezing of Matfield Pond and subsequent thawing between 110 and 150 fish, mainly carp, were found floating on the surface. Volunteers collected them on Sunday 9th and the remains were consigned to a skip. The hire of this was considered necessary for safe and environmentally friendly disposal despite the cost over and above a normal skip.

Cllr Randall had had a discussion with a company who specialised in pond work and who had done work for similar organisations to the PC. They required £250 to conduct a survey of the pond floor which would be deducted from the final bill if the PC decided to proceed on their recommendations. After discussion it was agreed to have this survey undertaken and Cllr Randall agreed to contact the company to arrange it.

Meetings Attended

KALC

Cllr Randall attended a meeting of KALC. One item of particular note was that a consortium of aggregate producers were applying to build a large rail / freight terminal near the M26. It would have some 4000 parking spaces and the concern was that the route for HGVs going south via the A21 would travel via Colts Hill with all the traffic that would entail. The CPRE was taking up the issue and from the PC's point of view it would maintain a watching brief until further developments took place.

Livingstone Founders

The Clerk has visited Livingstone Art Founders with a view to replacing the beacon millennium plaque and the manufacture of a new one for the Village of the year bench. Details must be submitted before the end of January to receive the award monies. They had quoted £140 for the plaque on the seat and £240 to replace the brazier plaque. The Clerk was asked to obtain an alternative quote but to get a quote in writing for the first item to facilitate the award.

Petteridge Playing Ground

Cllr Woodley met with some other interested parties to discuss possible ideas around the ground. It was evident that the first steps were considered to be a cleaning up operation which may be achieved with volunteers and possibly signposting might be an advantage. Cllr Woodley agreed to produce a questionnaire for canvas views from local residents. Once done he proposed a meeting with those concerned which the PC considered a good idea. The covenants in the original transfer of the land to the PC stipulated it must be used as a children's' playground. Cllr Woodley had discussed with a resident of Petteridge Lane their property contained a right of way and they had agreed that access would still be possible via their garage. Cllr Woodley suggested he would visit the site again to consider the possibilities and report back. The Clerk was asked to contact the KCC mowing contractors to discuss a removable bollard to the rear of Porters Wood to facilitate access with larger machinery which could reduce costs of mowing.

Matters Arising

Matfield Green Verge reinforcement

Following discussion the PC agreed to proceed with repairs and to accept the quotation from HyTex Ltd. However before proceeding Cllr Dafter agreed to contact them to see if they would also commit to the ground preparation as a one stop shop was considered preferable. A budget of £5000 was agreed. The Clerk was also asked to write to adjoining properties to advise them of the forthcoming works.

Matfield War Memorial

The Clerk had been asked to get a further quote for the cleaning of Matfield Memorial. Burlite Ltd who last cleaned it some 10 years ago. With careful and proper cleaning it is thought the memorial can be brought back to its brilliant white but recommend it needs doing on a more routine basis to reduce costs. Their quote is for £680 for scaffolding and £2112 to thoroughly reclean and repoint where necessary using soft brushes and low pressure water and to consolidate and restore the lead lettering as required giving a total of £2792 plus VAT. An alternative quote from IMI has been received to not scaffold and to steam/media blast the memorial for £1050 without repointing etc. Lead letters would be re-enamelled at £0.50p each. The latter was considered undesirable as it was contrary to recommendations from the War Memorials Trust. After consideration the PC came to the view the project was not a high priority, should wait at least until the summer and that the possibility of a grant should be explored first.

Brenchley War Memorial Stones

The Clerk was asked to view some large stones for the protection of the verge at the Memorial. Cllr Stanley and the Clerk travelled to the Gallagher quarry in Maidstone. Consideration was given to both height and width, the former being considered more important both for effective protection and visual amenity. It was considered that blocks of ragstone in its natural grey without the inclusion of iron oxides which give a red hue to be more in keeping with the memorial. Four blocks each about a 600mm cube would weigh about 1 tonne and cost approximately £250 delivered. The Clerk was asked to advise TWBC of its intentions in case an objection was raised before proceeding.

Matfield Pond tree removal

Colin Coley quoted £145 for the removal of part of the willow tree on the south west corner of Matfield Pond. This quote seemed to be for a large section of the tree to be removed beyond that proposed. It was agreed that the PC should accept the quote in principle but that Cllr Randall would meet with the contractor to ensure only that part of the tree required to be removed was. A resident has also advised that two trees in the Avenue may be dead and need removing.

BT Infinity

All Cllrs were urged to assist in voting for BT to consider the Brenchley exchange worth of upgrading. The area received 1027 votes or 52% of the eligible households putting the area in 11th place amongst the 2500 exchanges. A letter from the Chairmen of both Brenchley and Horsmonden has been sent to BT urging them to consider us in a favourable light if further upgrades in the near future can be accommodated.

Precept

The annual precept for next year for £55000 has been applied for. The Clerk reported he had received acknowledgement of such from TWBC.

Correspondence

Civic Complex

An invitation to attend a public workshop and to make comments on the future of Tunbridge Wells Civic complex has been received, together with copies of an explanatory leaflet and a questionnaire was distributed. Cllr Woodley had replied on a personal basis but agreed to formulate a response based on his understanding of what the PC's response would be and circulate it for agreement. The Clerk was asked to write to our Borough Cllr to ensure he was aware of the late delivery of the leaflets which arrived after the open days were held.

Localism Bill

A summary of the above, produced by CPRE, has been received and copies were distributed

Brenchley Charities

Several letters of appreciation and thanks have been received for the grocery parcels distributed at Christmas by Cllr Stanley on behalf of the charity. Cllr Stanley explained that 14 boxes had been distributed this Christmas and were somewhat larger than last year. He and his wife Fay were thanked for their hard work in this endeavour which was very much appreciated by the recipients. The Clerk was asked to check on who were the trustees of these charities. It was considered that the underlying funds could support an increased number of box donations if suitable recipients could be identified.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1399.43
Post Office	Tax and NI	£330.70
E.ON	Electricity	£24.97
South East Water	Pond	£272.39
TMS	Broadband flyers	£58.75
KCC	2 nd ½ year mowing	£2765.62
EJP Fire protection	Pavilion extinguisher maintenance	£30.08
William Wallace	Bench on the Green	£360.00
PR Signs	Pub Signage	£165.68

Monies Received

KCC	Christmas light grant	£250.00
KCC	Memorial Booklet grant	£500.00
KCC	Village signs grant	£500.00

Any other matters as may be previously notified.**Youth engagement in Matfield**

A few problems have arisen in Matfield associated with unsocial behaviour by some youths in the area. It has been proposed that a meeting is held with some of their representatives to understand the issue and where the PC can have a helping input. Cllr Dafter advised that a meeting had been scheduled in the Star on 15th February which was hoped to be well attended.

Affordable Housing

Cllrs were asked to give consideration for recommendations on a celebratory function to mark the opening of the Matfield Affordable Homes which would probably be late in February or March. Applications for the homes themselves were over-subscribed and concern was raised that the allocations were not being overviewed by the PC. The PC was asked to see if TCHG would provide feedback on their choices.

Mowing

The question of mowing the Cinderhill football field was raised. It was agreed that the area should receive a rough cut twice a year to allow it to slowly return to a natural state.

Bedgebury Pinetum

Concern was raised that suggestions had been made that the Government was planning to sell off large areas of woodland maintained by the Forestry Commission. A local action group was being formed despite it being a nationwide problem. The PC would keep a watching brief to monitor possible future outcomes.

Parish Councillor

Cllr Barsley reported that he had attended recently the funeral of Mr Richard Dench who was at one time a Parish Councillor.

Flooding

The Clerk was advised that after the recent heavy rains a large area at the entrance to Sophurst Wood Lane was flooding and asked to advise KCC

Matfield Churchyard

Cllr Randall reported that the tree vouchers won as a result of the 'Village of the Year' competition, had been used to acquire a *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Lane Roberts' which had been planted in the new Matfield Churchyard.

Salt Bags

It was noted that the 1 tonne salt bags only arrived just in time before the recent snow falls and that TW had predicted falls of about 2 inches when 7 or 8 actually fell. It was felt the PC should draw this failing to the attention of the Borough.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in Brenchley Memorial Hall on Monday 7th February.