

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2011 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Cllrs J Barsley, R Dafter, C Woodley, I McEwen, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M. Powell. Two members of the public.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs B Stanley and R Carter for family commitments, Cllr Randall and Brg Cllr McDermott 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 18th January 2010

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

Public Question Time

Two members of the public attended. Whilst not asking questions they wished to thank the PC for all their efforts in assisting with the development of Wish Court and the securing of accommodation for their relative, a long standing resident of Matfield who, following the death of her husband was being evicted from her present home. The Chairman replied that the PC had not singled anyone out and that after 20 plus years of work on this project the end result was good. However due to demand unfortunately 22 individuals or families were disappointed. Cllr Barsley commented that it is possible some people may have been disadvantaged over lack of internet capability but the Chairman felt that the traditional form filling method of application was still available and that we should consider any possibility of involving the CAB to help people get online. The Gateway in Tunbridge Wells was of help but more was needed to ensure the failed applicants were assured of equal consideration.

Planning Applications.

Due to illness and absence of some members of the sub-committee all the planning applications were not discussed in full with one exception.

10/04135/FUL/CT2

Cherry Trees The Green Matfield

Erection of single dwelling with integral garage, associated parking and extension of existing access

It was considered unanimously to recommend refusal on this, another application to build a single house on the site following refusal both by delegated authority and subsequent appeal for 3 houses. Cllr Woodley agreed to write a formal response of the PC's objections based primarily on development within the AONB contrary to PPS7 and the fact that the guidelines also recommend refusal for new development within the gardens of a listed building. It was noted that the previous appeal inspector considered that the development of Webbs Orchard was contradictory to the AONB considerations and despite having been given permission could not be used as a precedent for this development at Cherry Trees.

Decisions taken by TWBC**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**10/03722/FUL/SJM**

Kenilworth Coppers Lane Matfield

Flat roof dormer to rear with conservation roof light to front

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**10/03760/LBC/SE2**

Matfield House the Green Matfield

Provision of new drainage to serve existing rainwater pipes on front elevation

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**0/03861/House/SE2**

Rose Tree Cottage Chantlers Hill Paddock Wood

Rear extensions and front porch relocation

Recommendation-Neutral Decision-Approval**10/03892/LBC/CLC**

Lees Court The Green Matfield

External alterations to windows and doors following consent 10/03041

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**10/03595/LBC/CW1**

The Hay Loft High Street Brenchley

Single storey rear extension

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**Appeals lodged against decision****10/01825/FUL/CT2**

OS Plots 4800 & 6900 Pearsons Green Road

Brenchley Erection of a dwelling on farm land to be used as an agricultural workers home

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal**Meetings Attended****Matfield Green Car parking**

Cllrs McEwen, Dafter and the Clerk attended a meeting with the contractors of the car parking mesh. Following discussion it was proposed that the mesh should be installed as soon as possible to minimise disruption during the cricket season and that a line of kerb stones be laid to provide a firm straight edge to the mesh. This was agreed by all.

Matters Arising**APM**

A date for the APM is required. This was discussed and agreed for the 12th May. The Clerk reported that Matfield Hall was unavailable but Brenchley Memorial Hall had been provisionally booked. Mr Ron Atwood, the new leader of TWBC had been invited and Tonbridge Film makers were available on that date.

Signage

Cllr Mrs Cornford and the Clerk toured the Parish to try and locate alternative sites not on KCC land for the brown tourist signs recently removed by KCC. Cllr Mrs Cornford had been advised by John Burr of KCC that although extraneous signs were illegal on Highways land the signs on the A21 were on land of the Highways agency and as such should have been left. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Burr to seek a dispensation for a few signs in the Parish and to advise the white signs he had offered were not required.

Plaques

The Clerk was asked to get an alternative quote for two bronze plaques, one to replace the stolen plaque from the beacon and one new one for the new bench. Livingstone Art Founders quoted £240 and £140 respectively. An alternative quote from a company in Tunbridge Wells who only offer plaques in brass of a thinner gauge was £135.00. and

£76.49 The latter includes £45 for the Millennium Logo but this was price offered with the logo unseen as the owner was pricing over the phone. It was agreed that bronze plaques whilst more expensive were in fact a better long term proposition and the Clerk was asked to order these.

Memorial Stones

The corner of the land surrounding the memorial has been driven over again. However the driver was observed. The Clerk has been in touch with the local employer who has agreed to assist in making reparations and has some stones in stock which could be used to protect the area. The Clerk is intending to visit and view. Whilst the company are happy to contribute they feel that they should not be wholly responsible as the latest damage is only part of that that exists. It was also agreed to ask Alex King if any assistance was possible on providing a length of kerbstones to run from the corner of Holly Bank up to the boundary of the War Memorial ground.

Correspondence

TWBC

The Branches

Advice that the 1st hearing on the above matter will be on the 15th March at 2pm in Sevenoaks Magistrates Court

Cranbrook & Paddock Wood Partnership

A request to hold some family events in Brenchley playground in association with TWBC similar to last year which apparently was a success. This would not be at the same level as last year due to restricted funding. It is planned they would visit twice during the week commencing 11th April. An evaluation of last year's events is on route. This was considered acceptable.

KCC

Advice of a proposal to divert W297 & W299. Cllr Woodley would review the proposal.

KALC

An invitation had been received to attend a planning conference in Lenham on Saturday 12th March with a choice of morning or afternoon sessions at a cost of £60.00 plus VAT. Cllrs would consider this.

Advice that BTCV has been awarded a grant of £650,000 to survey and record some 10000 trees in Kent and are looking for volunteers.

Resident

A copy of a letter had been received sent to KCC by a resident complaining about overgrown hedges bordering the footpath from Sophurst Lane back towards the village centre. **A Note since the meeting. Response from KCC that action had started but because they have to notify landowners 3 times before taking action themselves and charging it on, it may be three months before finally they (if they have to) clear the path. It is hoped that the neighbouring properties will respond promptly. The resident was advised of this progress.**

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1269.32
Post Office	Tax and NI	£330.90
Cliff Hughes	Memorial Garden maintenance	£120.00
BT	Telephones	£141.42
Small Loads	Salt	£473.52
Greensolve	Skip Hire	£414.00
CPRE	Subscription	£29.00
Clerks & Councils Direct	Subscription	£11.00

Monies received

ACRK	Village of the Year grant	£500.00
Brenchley Forge	Sale of Salt	£194.00
Innstore	Sale of salt	£195.00

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Petteridge playing ground**

Cllr Woodley had prepared a questionnaire for residents of Petteridge seeking their views on any improvements that could be made to the playing ground. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to print copies for distribution.

Forward Planning

Our aspirations for the future were briefly discussed. It was agreed this should be a topic for the APM and Cllr Woodley agreed to speak on that occasion

Rubbish

The ever increasing problem of rubbish accumulation was discussed. It was agreed to publish a request in Roundabout seeking volunteers and the Clerk was asked to enquire of TWBC if litter picking equipment and collection could be provided.

Civic Complex

The future of the Civic Complex in Tunbridge Wells was discussed. It was felt it was important that although the exact location was not critical it was essential that residents could easily access Council Chambers and advice centres such as the Gateway. It was also felt important that public services funded by tax payers were readily available and that they remain in the locality. Cllr Woodley would include this in our response to the previously received questionnaire.

Date of next meeting

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