

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 7th MARCH 2011 IN MATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided Vice Chairman P Randal, Cllrs J Barsley, R Carter, R Dafter, B Stanley, C Woodley, I McEwen, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M. Powell. Borough Cllr A McDermott. Two members of the public.

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 meetings of 7th February and 22nd February

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

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

11/00392/LBC/CP3

Honeycombe Cottage Marle Place Road Brenchley

Two storey extension

Recommendation-Approval

11/00373/CEU/DU1

Ellis Orchard Tong Road Brenchley

Lawful development certificate- a steel clad and roofed structure which is used for a staff restroom and occasional overnight accommodation

Recommendation-Refusal

11/00445/FUL/SJM

The Branches part OS Plot 8642 Petteridge Lane Brenchley

Temporary change of use from agriculture to use for residential purposes and stationing of a mobile home for residential purposes and a touring caravan for three years -to find alternative accommodation.

Cllr J Barsley declared an interest as an employer of one of the residents and whilst he remained in the room took no part in the discussion or voting.

Recommendation-Refusal with a request the application is called into committee.

Decisions taken by TWBC

10/04121/FUL/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 Decision-approval

Appeals

10/01825 Erection of a dwelling on farm land in Pearsons Green Road

Advice that an informal hearing by a planning inspector will be held on 5th April at 10am in the Town Hall

Meetings Attended

The Chairman has attended a School Governor's meeting. The report in the Courier misquoted a statement that the school now was satisfactory, in fact it should have read

the school now had a satisfactory level of improvement. Its shortfall in budget caused somewhat by replacing staff was being supported by TWBC.

Matters Arising

Petteridge Playing Field-Maintenance

A quotation has been received from KCC as follows

To remove concrete bollard and replace with lockable drop down bollard £471.43

To clear area between the fence line and the cut area of grass of
brambles and rubbish/litter £680.00

To lift the lower branches of the Oak Tree on RHS of entrance to
playing field to allow tractor access £750.00

To cut up fallen trees and branches around woodland of the playing
field to chip the arisings back to ground £2900.00

The PC considered the matter but deferred a decision. There has been communication with KHWP who may be able to assist with volunteer work.

Petteridge Playing Field-Access

Cllr Woodley has been in touch with the residents of the land encroaching on the Right of Way and reported they were well aware of the existence it. The Clerk was asked to write to state that we confirm the existence of this ROW and that we maintain an interest in maintaining it.

Containers in Cinderhill Wood

The Clerk reported he had agreed with Mr S Reid to purchase the container and porta-cabin for £500 on the basis that the Council had subsidised the football club in the past and it would remove the obligation by Mr Reid to remove them. He would empty them shortly of training equipment. The Clerk was asked to approach any local contractors who would remove them hopefully with some return.

Correspondence

Resident

A resident of the Cottage, The Green Matfield has applied for planning permission for some work to be done which requires access through the side gate from the Drying Ground and for contractors vehicles to be parked in front of the property. The site will be cleaned up afterwards, ant damage made good and any reseeding done. This was thought acceptable providing all was made good when the work was complete.

KCC

A revised quotation for mowing has been received to take into account the football pitch being cut only twice a year The price quoted is being queried because at £360 for two cuts it would appear expensive in comparison to 2010 when the cost was some £570 for 21 cuts.

Census Office

An email requesting possible disadvantaged groups who may have difficulty in filling in the forms and whether we would have any volunteers to help with informal clinics to assist. However they have researched the village structure and are having difficulty in identifying any particular group considered necessary or appropriate to target. The PC felt it had no particular groups to recommend.

Greg Clarke MP

Advice has been received that Greg Clarke MP will visit on 1st April to arrange various surgeries in the Star and some drop in sessions. It was understood he intends on going to the School, will hold a surgery in Brenchley Hall and talk to the W.I. Final details will be advised to enable Cllrs to attend where possible.

Roundabout

Correspondence had been received expressing concern regarding the PCs deliberations published in Roundabout which may have given the perception that the trustees of the charity rely on the input of the PC and receives funding from it. Whilst the PC has a representative with the charity and has provided funds in the past it was agreed that this perception was not intended to be given in any way and that it should take this into account when reporting any future matters concerning the hall.

Birch Close

A resident of Birch Close had complained of some vandalism emanating from a field attached to Birch Close. The Clerk was asked to make contact with a view to visiting the resident to see what the problem is.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1229.97
Post Office	Tax and NI	£330.90
I McEwen	Reimbursement for website hosting fee	£82.94
Direct Technical Services	Street light repairs	£262.45
J P Miles	Hedge cutting	£372.00
E.On	Electricity	£49.94
S Reid	Purchase of container	£500.00

Other Matters as maybe previously notified**Affordable Housing Plans**

The Chairman reported that emails had been sent to Mike Allwood of TCHA and Sarah Lewis of TWBC regarding a date to hold an event to mark the construction of these homes. An answer is still awaited but ideally it should be towards the end of March or if not mid April.

Cllr Barsley made the point that many of the potential applicants to obtain one of these homes could be disadvantaged if they did not have access to a computer or the ability to use one. The Chairman replied that whilst this might be considered true it should be remembered that the traditional methods of writing and filling in forms was still available to those who needed to.

Youth Engagement

The Chairman felt that a donation of £250 was in order to purchase some equipment such as a basketball hoop. This was agreed by the PC. He reported that some residents of the area were looking at ways of funding possible projects as a youth provision. The Clerk reported on the area of land the PC owns alongside the Village Hall and showed some photographs. The PC felt that it could house some facilities, however the brick structure needs examining first to find out its purpose. It was agreed that the area should be mown as part of the annual mowing contract but it would need clearing of brambles first. It was hoped the youngsters would tackle this as a first step to creating their own space. The youngsters had suggested they would like a "pod" arrangement as a meeting place. It was felt there were several locations possible such as the land mentioned or close to the pavilion.

Brg Cllr A McDermott stated he was aware of a charitable foundation that had some funds available for projects such as this and would pursue it further.

Litter Picking

Dates are 19th and 26th March-volunteers are welcome. It had been advertised in Roundabout, Post Offices and B&M News.

Matfield Green

Cllr Mrs Cornford reported several broken posts and lengths of chain were apparent around the Green. The Clerk was asked to arrange for their repair.

The Bull

It was understood that the tenants of the Bull had tendered their notice to leave because they considered it likely it would never become profitable. There was a concern that the owners would consider applying for a change of use to convert it into flats. The Chairman together with Mr Shaun Carter was planning a visit to Enterprise Inns to discuss the options.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd March in Matfield Village Hall.