

**MINUTES OF A PLANNING MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON 23rd
AUGUST 2011 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman P Randall, Cllrs, I McEwen, J Barsley, B Stanley, R Carter, and C Woodley. Borough Cllr J March. Clerk M Powell.

Apologies for absence

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 and Finance meetings of 1st August

The minutes of the Full meeting under the heading of Report of the Finance Sub Committee was amended to record that the repairs to the verge in Matfield also included the parking area. The Finance meeting was similarly amended then both were confirmed as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman.

Public Question Time

None

Planning Applications.

11/02058/House/SJM 1 Goshen Farm Cottages Brenchley Road Matfield

Single storey rear extension

Recommendation-Approval

11/02217/FUL/KB2 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 and whilst remaining in the room did not take part in the discussion or vote.

Recommendation-Refusal

Recommend refusal, our previous comments still stand. We note the Inspector noted that further extension of occupation of the site is still causing harm to the AONB to the extent that the designation would be compromised. Further there is no evidence of the applicants having looked for alternative accommodation for which they have had ample time since the Inspector refused the application.

11/02196/FUL/CW1 Blue Boys Oast Hastings Road Brenchley

Dividing existing residential unit to create two properties

Recommendation-Refusal

Although the rearrangement of the accommodation is acceptable the access route is not explained which was the reason for the previous refusal of 97/00600

11/02194/LBC/SJM

Brenchley Manor Brenchley Road Brenchley

Removal of existing roof tiles, carry out minor repairs to roof timbers, replace roof tiles with mixture of salvaged and re-claimed tiles, Renewal of roof lead flashings and valley gutters

Recommendation-Approval

11/02230/FUL/RH1 Bassetts, Hastings Road Brenchley
Demolish existing fence and erect new fence/gates with frontage landscaping

Recommendation-Refusal

The area is described as garden and associated land and we would therefore question the need of two large sliding gates which appear unjustified unless they were required for the entry and exit of heavy goods vehicles.

11/02359/FUL/TA1 Bassetts, Hastings Road Brenchley
Erection of barn for agricultural storage, land management equipment and hay storage

Recommendation-Refusal

The proposal is in no way appropriate to the site or stated use and is considered overdevelopment and disproportionate. We would also draw attention to the use of this land by a fencing contractor without permission and that the proposal appears to be utilising an existing high fence which has an enforcement action upon it.

11/02301/House/CLC Walnut Tree Cottage, Brenchley Road Matfield
Single storey and two storey rear extension and porch

Recommendation-Refusal

We consider this overdevelopment and completely disproportionate to the rest of the building

11/02322/House/CLC 2 The Gables Brenchley Road Brenchley
Front Porch

Recommendation-Approval

Decisions by TWBC

11/01796/House/SJM The Wagon Lodge Fairmans Lane Brenchley
Single Storey infill extension

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

11/01864/House/CLC Summerford Oast The Green Matfield
Construction of 2 bay garage with garden and log store, utility/ store room and home office

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

11/01955/House/SE2 Corsica Nursery Brenchley Road Matfield
Single storey rear extension including adaption of existing outbuilding to form annexe

Recommendation-Neutral Decision-Approval

Meetings Attended

The Chairman and Borough Cllr Mrs March attended a meeting with Police to repeat the “restorative justice” process for speeding motorists in Matfield on the 16th August. It was considered again a success with only two fixed penalty tickets being issued.

Matters Arising

Co-Option of new Councillor

There have been two applications, Mr Ron Berry, a former Councillor and Mrs Ann Downes from Matfield. After due consideration a sealed vote was held and the winning candidate was declared as Mrs Downes. The Clerk was asked to write to both and advise the outcome.

Finger Posts

The finger post from Brenchley centre has been returned from KCC following advice that they do not have funds for its restoration. It was noted that the post on the corner of Coppers Lane and Brenchley Road and the one on the junction of Pixot Hill and Watermans Lane are both down to one finger each. The one opposite the Castle Inn is leaning and the paintwork is in a poor state. The Clerk was asked to research local craftsmen who could repair them inexpensively.

Audit

The 2011 annual audit return from the Audit Commission has been returned satisfactorily without comment.

Correspondence**Town Plan**

A copy of Robert Atwood's Town Plan had been received and distributed via email.

Alex King

An invitation by Alex King to a meeting in September had been received but it was noted the invitation was in fact for Chairmen and Clerks only.

Resident

A letter had been received asking what measures the PC are taking in the light of the Prime Minister's statement on zero tolerance for any misdemeanours regarding speeding through Matfield. The Clerk had replied detailing the restorative justice programme and asking if the resident would care to volunteer their services on the next occasion.

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

Advice has been received that TCHG have been awarded funding to allow an affordable housing project in Brenchley to proceed. They would like to come and present their suggestions to the PC in October or November prior to a public consultation. The Clerk was asked to contact TCHG to arrange a mutually convenient date.

Unauthorised Signage

Various signs have been reported throughout the Parish advertising businesses and their services. The Clerk was asked to contact the Enforcement Officer and advise we were concerned of the increasing proliferation of signs and could he advise the offenders of the regulations concerning these.

Projector Screens.

The issue of fixed screens in the two halls used for meetings was discussed. It was agreed that they would be desirable if the management of each hall was in agreement. Cllr Barsley would refer the matter to Matfield Hall Committee and Cllr Carter likewise for Brenchley. It was thought it would be worth applying for a SCCP grant to pay for these once details were known.

Office & Mileage Allowance & Computer.

It was discussed and agreed that the reimbursement to the Clerk for office use should be set at £225/mth from April 1st 2011 and the mileage allowance set at 45p/mile from the same date. It was also noted that the laptop computer used by the Clerk had failed, was considered not worth repairing and that it had been replaced. The PC agreed to pay for this as a necessary expense together with any software required to facilitate its use.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be 5th September in Matfield Village Hall