

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

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Cllrs C Woodley, J Barsley, McEwen, B Stanley, R Dafter, Mrs A Downes. Clerk M. Powell. Cllr P Randall attended in the latter stages of the meeting. Three members of the public which included representation from the Courier newspaper.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs R Carter and Brg Cllr A McDermott 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 planning meeting of 18th October

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

Public Question Time

A resident questioned why in relation to the proposed affordable housing scheme in Brenchley that both a four bedroom house and one bedroom maisonettes were considered appropriate in light of the housing needs survey which was some years out of date. The Chair answered that the survey was a rolling programme and that demand still outstripped supply. There are local people who have a housing need of both a 4 bedroom house to accommodate 6 people and likewise a single bedroom for two. The question of parking and its effect on school safety was also raised and its sufficiency for the number of residents proposed. The PC agreed to note the question and replied that the PC was always attempting to find better, more efficient solutions to an ongoing problem.

Decisions by Clerk

Pond

The level of water in the pond was very low and the supply has been opened for a week to top it up.

Meetings Attended

Affordable Housing Consultation.

It was reported that by and large the consultation was a success with many people expressing their views, which were mixed with some degree of criticism. Principal concerns were regarding parking and road safety. Whilst the design might need a small change overall the majority were not actively opposed.

Matfield Pavilion Group

Cllr Woodley reported on the last meeting of the MPG which to date had looked at two different designs. The main issues at present were seeking further advice which was being offered pro-bono by an architect, together with alternative sources of funding.

Matters Arising

East Court

Contracts have been exchanged for completion on 4th November. The legal charge held by the PC was £40059.61 less solicitor's fees. The issue of whether this should remain an exempt item was discussed and it was considered that now the charge had been fulfilled it was in the public domain and should not be. Cllrs agreed to consider the matter of its use and make recommendations a later date.

Boundary Changes

A report by Cllr Woodley on proposed changes to electoral boundaries in the area and consideration should we wish to make a response. Tunbridge Wells District was proposed to be split into two areas i.e. Tunbridge Wells and Weald. He reported that the PC should not be overly concerned and that there was little he could see that could be objected to at present. Relationships with other constituencies will be of interest at a later date.

Correspondence

CAB

Advice has been received that the CAB is considering closing its Paddock Wood Branch and replacing it with a mobile facility due to lack of funds. The Paddock Wood branch is not keen on being absorbed into the head office area. A shortfall of some £30,000 is reported for the area and ways of reducing costs are being explored.

Resident

A complaint has been received regarding damage to the verge in Holly Bank around the Memorial. The Clerk has replied advising of the kerb shortly to be installed.

KCC

An invitation to join the consultation on supplementary options regarding the Mineral and waste site Development Plan. Cllr Woodley agreed to review the proposals and report in due course.

Residents

Copies of emails to TWBC had been received complaining about inaction regarding the developments at the Plum Orchard Fairmans Lane. The Chairman proposed he would converse with Jim Keyhoe of TWBC and that our Borough Councillors should be involved.

Planning Applications.

11/02772/FUL/TA1

OS Plot 9763 Beech Lane Brenchley

Formation of new access gate and track to provide direct access to existing stable block and paddock together with removal of condition 3 of 00/01834- stable block shall be used ancillary to residential occupancy of Enfin

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to no commercial use.

11/03045/House/CW1

East Court The Green Matfield

Extensions and alterations- amended drawings

Recommendation-Approval

11/02995/FUL/CW1

Poulhurst Farm Furnace Lane Brenchley

Formation of new stables & tack room within existing barns together with refurbishment of existing structure and finishes and new landscaping

Recommendation-Approval

Subject to no commercial use.

11/03130/House/SE2

Rasworth Cottage Hatmill Lane Brenchley

Removal of existing flat roof and replace with pitched roof on rear extension

Recommendation-Approval

11/03232/CEU/CW1

Blue Boys Cafe Hastings Road Matfield

Certificate of lawful development (existing) Use of site as A3 & A5 mixed use (sui generis)

Recommendation-Approval

Decisions taken by TWBC

11/02486/FUL/TA1

Blue Boys Cafe Hastings Road Matfield

Conservatory to rear elevation

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

11/02424/House/SJM

2 Tong Farm Cottages Tong Road Brenchley

Conservatory to rear elevation

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Refusal

11/02568/House/SJM

1 Old Parsonage Cottages Brenchley Road

Brenchley

Shed extension with 12 photovoltaic panels

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

11/01930/House/CW1

Pembrol Cryals Road Matfield

Replacement of existing fence with 3m high acoustic barrier along boundary with A21

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

11/02678/FUL/CW1

Hopbine Inn Petteridge Lane Matfield

Retrospective 2m X 2.5m umbrella on front patio

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

Other Matters as maybe previously notified

Interactive Speed Sign

A complaint has been received that the sign is only actuating at 40mph. The Clerk was asked to advise KCC and to request that it be re-calibrated. It has also been reported that a serious accident occurred on the Maidstone road and the police have been asked to do a speed check.

Matfield War Memorial

Consideration was given to a request that the memorial needing cleaning. The Stone Shop of East Farleigh had provided a quotation earlier in the year and that an alternative supplier had been contacted with a view to obtaining similar.

Winter Issues

The issue of salt bins was considered. Various Cllrs reported that bins local to them were full and others would be checked. The PC purchased some salt last year for distribution via local outlets but that was not without its problems, gaining complaints from alternative retailers. Cllr Woodley agreed to ask Inn Store if they would be stocking salt this year themselves.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1200.61
Post Office	Tax and NI	£442.71
Namesco	Domain charge	£23.99
P Allison & Sons	Hire of Fencing	£156.00
Direct Technical Services	Street lighting maintenance	£133.49
Matfield Village Hall	Hall hire undercharged	£34.00
BT	Phone	£221.54
SLCC	Annual membership	£147.00
TMS	Plans and scans	£33.00
E.On	Electricity	£24.97
Communicorp	Clerks and Councils Direct subs	£12.00
Roundabout	Annual advert	£120.00
Livingstone Art Founders Ltd	Repairs to viewing point topograph	£990.00

Monies Received

Warners Solicitors	Legal Charge settlement	£38919.61
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Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd November in Matfield Village Hall. The Clerk presents his apologies. The meeting following is 5th December which is preceded by a meeting of the Finance Sub Committee when next year's precept needs consideration.