

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY
7th OCTOBER 2013 IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.30PM**

Present

Chairman M Mackenzie presided. Vice Chairman P Randall, Councillors B Stanley, C Woodley, A de Guingand, N Woodward, I McEwen, Mrs G Warner. Clerk M Powell. No members of the public attended.

No Item

1 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs N Marriot for being unwell, Borough Cllrs A McDermott and Mrs J March for prior commitments.

RESOLVED To accept these apologies

2 To approve Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Approve minutes of the planning meeting of 20th August

RESOLVED To accept the minutes as accurate. They were then duly signed by the Chairman

3 To record declaration of Interests on any item on the Agenda

Members were reminded that if anyone had 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 had been advised to contact the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

4 To adjourn to allow public participation- questions and comments

None

5 To consider the following planning applications.

5.1 13/02664/House/HW1 4 Sophurst Wood Sophurst Lane Matfield

Rear Conservatory

RESOLVED To recommend refusal

due to inappropriate/poor design and lack of information regarding materials to be used.

5.2 13/02783/LBC/CP3 Ashmeade Crooke Road Brenchley

Single storey rear addition

RESOLVED To recommend refusal

as the design is not complimentary and spoils existing architectural features notably the unsympathetic fenestration.

Cllrs M Mackenzie, B Stanley and N Woodward declared a personal interest as the applicant was known to them. They remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

6 To receive items for information

6.1 Decisions taken by TWBC

6.11 13/01243/House/NR1 Goldens Cottage Windmill Hill Brenchley

Two storey side and rear extension, side and rear garage extension with bedroom over

Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Approval

6.12 13/01938/House/SF1 Beech Hill, Cryals Road Matfield

Alterations and extension to annex

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**6.13 13/02082/FUL/HW1 Priory Cottage Sophurst Lane Matfield**

Demolition of dwelling and replacement with chalet style dwelling

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**6.14 13/02106/House/HW1 Weirleigh, Gedges Hill Matfield**

Replacement detached garage

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**6.15 13/02157/TPO/DMD Moatlands Manor Watermans lane Paddock Wood**

Wellingtonia-Remove low split hanging branches. Cypress-Fell. 2 Limes-fell one and reduce height by 40% of other

Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval**7 Correspondence****7.1 Love Matfield Society**

A letter from Love Matfield Society enclosing a cheque for £550.00 bringing their donation towards the pavilion clock up to £800.

AGREED That the Clerk should reply and thank both the Society and Rev Mandy Carr.**7.2 Resident**

A resident had emailed regarding concerns over the village green especially about Japanese Knot Weed around the pond. The Chairman had responded. The PC was aware of the issue and endeavoured to keep it under control. The lilly pads were also creating a problem that the solution to was being considered.

7.3 Resident

A resident had drawn attention to the poor condition of the verge to the rear of the Green. The problem has occurred since the laying of the mesh when the grass failed to grow through it due to very dry conditions. When the rain did return the topsoil was washed away. The only solution appears to be fencing the area off for some months having reseeded it and spread some more topsoil. However that is impractical at present as the contractors for the pavilion were using it for parking. It was considered this would have to wait until spring but in the meantime the exposed mesh could be slippery when wet and warning signs of the potential danger were needed

8 Reports of Meetings attended by Councillors**8.1 Finance Sub-Committee**

The Committee reported that the figures were broadly in line with that expected. The insurance was over 50% but paid annually. No more expense was expected for this item until the Pavilion was complete and the insured value was increased. The £24000 back payment for the public conveniences was within the budget (see item 8.4) An expense for pollarding the trees in the Avenue was expected shortly and was usually charged to the Mowing and Hedging line. One item over budget was Brenchley Memorial Hall at £2400 against £1000 budget due to the contribution to resurfacing the car park. More was expected when the invoice for £1500 was received for the agreed annual parking charge. It was reported that the Tennis Club had as yet to pay its 1/3rd of the cost. Cllr de Guingand declared an interest as he was an auditor for the club.

RESOLVED To accept the accounts as presented by the Clerk as accurate and without cause for concern.

8.2 MPG

Cllr Woodley reported that work was progressing well on the pavilion but the completion date expected had now moved to 27th November. The painting weekend was planned for 9/10th November. The problem of the changing rooms being too small had been discovered in time and was an error on the drawings. This had been resolved by the removal of a small fin wall and space had consequently increased. Finances were looking good with total expenditure expected at £226000 with income at £192000. Mrs Chris Klempau had agreed to continue to sit on the Management Committee for which the PC was grateful. The official opening ceremony was scheduled for June 2014, the date as yet to be specified and Mr Derek Underwood had agreed to officiate.

8.3 Brenchley Memorial Hall

Cllr Woodward reported on a meeting in early September. Two new trustees had been appointed to add to the skills of the board. The general view was that the hall was unsustainable operating in its present form and the needs of the community had changed since 1923 when the hall was built. A report was being produced giving proposals for the short, medium and long term and the views of the village would be sought as to what the residents felt they would like to see in the facilities offered. One idea included a heritage centre which would allow the rehoming of all the records held by the Historical Society and would be open to the public on specific days of the month.

RESOLVED The PC would support and fund a local survey to this effect.

8.4 Public Conveniences

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Mr William Benson to discuss the payment for maintaining the public conveniences over past years. It had been originally agreed at £4000 each pa. Mr Benson outlined the difficulties the Borough had with finances continually being reduced by central government. Whilst they were trying to maintain as many services as possible it was likely that some items would eventually either go or need to be paid for locally, which would mean an increase in precept, at present un-capped. Negotiations with Mr Benson had concluded with an agreement in principle of £24000 to cover past maintenance of the conveniences subject to ratification by the PC.

RESOLVED To pay the £24000 discussed to cover the period up to 31st March 2014.

9 To be advised of urgent Business as may be previously notified.

9.1 Council Insurance

The insurance is due for renewal and is for either £2098.57 or a discount can be had for agreeing to another long term agreement of 3 years bringing it to £1993.64

RESOLVED To accept another long term agreement to gain the benefit of the offered discount.

9.2 Wesley Centre

Cllr Randall reported that the Community Store House had opened in the Wesley Centre in Commercial Road. Food was being collected by donations from various locations such as Waitrose, The three Churches in Paddock Wood, the Children's' Centre and the Salvation Army in East Peckham. Donations were encouraged for non-perishable food stocks to assist those struggling to make ends meet.

10 Accounts**10.1 Accounts for payment**

10.11	M Powell	Salary & Expenses	£1295.00
10.12	Post Office	Tax & NI	£356.86
10.13	L J Marsh Ltd	Tarmac Brenchley Hall car park	£8640.00
10.14	PKF Littlejohn	Audit	£360.00
10.15	Matfield Hall	Hall Hire	£153.00
10.16	Broker Network Ltd	Insurance as Item 9.1	£1993.64
10.17	Davis Builders	Progress payment	£25573.71
10.18	E.On	Electricity	£24.62

RESOLVED To agree the above invoices and to pay them.

10.2 Monies received

10.21	Love Matfield Society	Donation	£550.00
10.22	Brenchley Hall	Contribution to resurfacing	£2400.00
10.23	Tonbridge Rugby Club	Sale of chairs	£400.00

11 Date of next meeting

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