

MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 5th
JANUARY 2015 IN MATFIELD PAVILION AT 7.30pm

Present

Vice Chairman B Stanley presided, Cllrs N Woodward, A de Guingand, P Randall, Mrs G Warner. Clerk M Powell. Borough Cllr A McDermott. No members of the public.

No Item

1 To accept apologies for absence

Chairman M McKenzie for a family holiday. Cllrs I McEwen for illness, C Woodley and Mrs N Marriott for family commitments.

2 To approve Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Approve minutes of the full meeting of 8th December 2014.

Resolved:- To accept the minutes as accurate. The Chairman then signed them as accurate.

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

Members were reminded that if any have a *prejudicial* interest in an agenda item, this should be declared at the start of the meeting.

Personal interests could be declared at this point or, alternatively, could 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 have been advised to contact the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

4 To adjourn to allow public participation- questions and comments

5 To consider the following planning applications.

- 5.1 14/505317 Egypt Oast Cryals Road Matfield**
 New open bay cart shed/garage and entrance porch.

Cllr N Woodward declared an interest in the application, being the applicant. He left the room until the vote was cast. Cllr B Stanley declared an interest as the applicant was a friend and although remaining in the room took no part in the discussion or vote.

Resolved To recommend approval

- 5.2 14/505775 Elmhurst Dundle Road Matfield**
 Removal of existing modern softwood staircase and installation of new oak staircase

Resolved To recommend approval

6 To receive items for information and decisions

6.1 Decisions taken by TWBC

- 6.11 14/01330 Land adjacent Portebello, High St Brenchley**
 Detached dwelling with garaging.Utilisation of existing access in SE corner and provision of entrance drive.

Recommendation-Refusal Decision Approval

The Clerk reported that the owner of the property had offered to replace the fence between Portebello and the Jack Verrall garden with close boarded fence at his own expense. The Council thanked him for this generous offer.

- 6.12 14/500135 Gate House Farm Fairmans Lane Brenchley**
 Conversion of existing agricultural building to a live/work unit
Recommendation-Approval Decision Refusal

7 Meetings attended by Councillors

7.1 Precept & Finance Sub-Committee

The Finance Sub-Committee had met immediately prior to this meeting to review the accounts year to date and used them as the basis for calculating the required precept for 2015-16. They reported all figures were in line with expectations and that they recommended a precept of £61000.

Resolved :- To accept this recommendation and apply to TWBC for this amount.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Banking

The Clerk reported that following some research to improve our banking process information of the facilities provided by Unity Trust Bank has been received. Their speciality is public bodies such as Parish Councils and Charities. Their single most relevant offer is their ability to provide internet banking whilst still requiring 2 or 3 approvals. The Clerk would envisage the latter, he loading the payments onto the system once approved by the PC at a meeting. Subsequently two approvals are required from authorised Cllrs before the transaction is complete. Deposits are done via pre-paid envelopes and cash deposits via the Post Office, all without charge. Interest is offered on both current and deposit accounts. A cheque book is still provided for payment of suppliers who are unable or unwilling to be paid on line. They can accept two signatures out of the 9 we require and will provide telephone facilities where your Clerk can converse with them without being one.

The Clerk was asked for further research to ensure the bank was FSA approved and regulated, for a decision at the next meeting.

8.2 Resident

A letter had been received complaining of the street lighting around the affordable housing being built in Brenchley. They were considered too bright and at a level above the ground which shone into neighbouring properties. Cllr A McDermott agreed to discuss with the Head of Planning what permissions had been given to the builders on this subject and Cllr Stanley agreed to visit the property after dark to understand the degree of the problem.

8.3 Office of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Kent

An invitation to the Chairman or Vice Chairman or another representative of the PC to attend with partner the annual Civic Service in Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 10th March. It was agreed to pass the invitation onto the Chairman.

8.4 Carols Service in Brenchley

Cllr B Stanley reported that the carols around the tree had raised £684 for Hospice in the Weald which when combined with the proceeds of the switching on of the Christmas lights made a total of £794.

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

None

10 Accounts for payment

10.1	M Powell	Salary and Expenses	£1381.28
10.2	Post Office	Tax & NI	£415.23
10.3	Eon	Electricity	£24.62
10.4	Jakk Country Furniture Designs Ltd	Refurbish Brenchley finger post	£322.56
10.5	I McEwen	Survey Monkey	£48.00
10.6	Siemens Financial	Photocopier lease	£122.40

Resolved To accept these invoices and to pay them,

11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday 20th January