

11/01557/House/SE2 2 Weald View Pearsons Green Road Brenchley
Erection of a conservatory
Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

11/01575/House/SE2 1 Weald View Pearsons Green Road Brenchley
Detached garage
Recommendation-Approval Decision-Approval

11/01545/FUL/EM2 Parkwood Farm Cryals Road Matfield
Erection of detached house and garage
Recommendation-Refusal Decision-Refusal

Decisions by Clerk

Playground

Spares for the broken rocking horse have been ordered as has 6m³ of bark.

Meetings Attended

Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

Cllr Carter reported on the finance meeting held prior to this meeting. The finance committee had examined the accounts as presented to year to the end of July. Items over budget were “meetings” where a payment was made in this year for charges received relating to the previous financial year, “woodland” where the money for a grant was received last year but not invoiced and paid until this year and “postage” which appeared high but the Clerk held a stock of stamps. Additionally the budget for repairs to the verge in Matfield had been set at £5000 but had eventually cost £6400 due to additional work by way of new kerb stones and tarmac to their edge. Reserves were higher than previous because of the continuing provision for the public conveniences. Nothing had been heard from TWBC for some time regarding whether they still intended to pass this cost onto the PC or from when it would apply. It was discussed and agreed that if nothing was heard by December the PC would approach TWBC prior to considering its budget for next year.

The sub-committee had agreed that they were happy that the accounts presented were accurate and that there were no areas of concern. The PC agreed with this and accepted them.

KALC Executive Committee, 9 July.

Cllr Woodley reported on the above meeting. A question had been asked if it they thought appropriate that the Clerk should have sole responsibility for setting the agenda for a meeting and whether this reflected the needs of the Council. The existing legislation which gave this responsibility could be considered ambiguous. The Clerk was asked his opinion which was that although the responsibility was that of the Clerk, there had never been a time in the last 5 years when if a Councillor had asked for a particular item to be included it had been refused and the argument was spurious. The PC was in agreement with this. Matters also discussed were the maintenance of the local footpaths currently managed by KCC, but in light of current financial limitations were being neglected. There was a degree of interest in a collaboration between PCs and the County Council.

NALC/ SLCC June 2011

Cllr Woodley reported on the NALC/SLCC event in June 2011, The Chief Executive of SLCC, had expressed a personal vision for a Local Councils Alliance. Comments had been invited. It was acknowledged that there was a fundamental difference of opinion between NALC and SLCC and between the two organisations, each representing a different role, one as a Trade Union and the other as a “professional” organisation. The idea had been proposed some years ago and at that time rejected by NALC.

Matters Arising

Jack Wish Pavilion Business Plan

The future of the Pavilion was discussed at length. Cllrs R Dafter and C Woodley had drafted a paper on the background of the pavilion together with an outline on future plans for its greater utilisation. It was agreed that over time it would be necessary to budget more spending to both maintain the pavilion and to upgrade its facilities. Cllr Woodley asked if the PC would support the document in broad terms which it was agreed it was happy to do. The first stage expenditure regarding heating and wiring had already been agreed and the electricians would be able to give an indication of the level of insulation existing at present. The Chairman thanked the Cllrs for their work in analysing the present situation and preparing the paper.

Broadband

Cllr McDermott reported that he had been involved with the provision of broadband to rural communities. There are still grants of up to £50,000 available and notification of these was expected in the autumn. Cllr McEwen agreed to write to BT to ascertain the current situation regarding upgrading local exchanges.

Correspondence

Localism Bill

An invitation had been received to meet with Greg Clarke and other parish/town councils to discuss the above bill.

Government's Open Public Services White Paper

Cllr Woodley reported that the Government has published its White Paper on the reform of public services and how it contains proposals for the development of parish and town councils. It sets out how Government plans to devolve power to local communities. In addition to new powers contained in the Localism Bill, the White Paper promises new powers for parish and neighbourhood councils, including streetscapes, parking, leisure facilities, bye-laws and licensing. Parish councils will also gain additional powers through community budgets which would pool funding streams to tackle specific concerns. The Government is consulting on the White Paper between now and September. NALC will be issuing a separate policy consultation briefing next week calling for responses by 7 September. KALC has called an Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee, for 20 August, to discuss the consultation.

KCC SCCP Grants

Advice had been received that local community grants were available and applications were required in September. Various ideas were discussed and it was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

Other Matters as maybe previously notified

The issue of whether the PC had any plans for the forthcoming 2012 Olympics and HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was considered. It was felt that local organisers would be hosting their own events and it was unnecessary for the PC to organise its own event. The lighting of the beacon at Matfield had been registered as one of 2012 Councils participating.

Accounts for Payment

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1249.22
Post Office	Tax & NI	£412.94
E.On	Electricity	£24.97
BT	Phones	£189.99
KCC	1 st ½ year mowing	£2610.47
L J Marsh	Tarmac pavilion entrance	£840.00
B Harvey	Gutter repairs to pavilion	£110.82

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd August in Brenchley Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.