

**MINUTES OF A FULL MEETING OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY  
1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY IN BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

**Present**

Chairman M Mackenzie presided, Vice Chairman J Barsley, Cllrs R Carter, I McEwen, R Dafter, B Stanley, C Woodley, Mrs C Cornford and Clerk M Powell. Borough Councillor Mrs M Callow attended for the latter part of the meeting. Two members of the public.

**Apologies for absence**

Cllr P Randall 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 full meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

The minutes were duly agreed and then signed as correct by the Chairman.

**Public Question Time**

A resident said that he had attended the consultation in Five Oak Green regarding the Colts Hill improvements. His calculations based on information obtained were such that the accident rate at the Crittenden/ Alders lane junction was considerably lower than had been advised. The Chairman replied that KCC had agreed to reconsider the alternatives and that Brenchley PC were part of the working group. Although the chance of a bypass to Colts Hill in the next ten years was remote it would appear that KCC had listened to peoples opinions.

**Planning Applications.**

**10/00086/LBC/CP3**

Heath Cottage Brenchley Road Brenchley

Alternative scheme to consent 09/02013 for a single storey rear extension including the deletion of proposed window and door to side elevation, the repositioning and obscuring of side window the reduction in number of roof lights and introduction of flat ceiling within kitchen

*Recommendation-Approval*

**10/00006/LBC/CT2**

Cherry Trees The Green Matfield

Customer toilets to be constructed. No walls to be demolished with only construction of new ones. Post Box to be removed and resited to new post office. Front exterior of tearooms to be repainted.

*Recommendation-Approval*

Subject to the Conservation Officer's approval.

We note that there are 3 houses shown on the site plan which do not exist and were part of a previously refused application

**Decisions taken by TWBC**

None. However the Chairman reported that he was due to attend a Chairmans' meeting shortly when they will be asking Planning Officers when they will do as promised and contact the PC when there is a fundamental difference of opinion with any particular planning application.

**Decisions taken by Clerk out of meeting****Potholes**

The Clerk and Cllr Woodley reported that they have toured the parish mapping significant potholes and this has been communicated to KCC to facilitate repairs as soon as possible. Advice from Mrs Sue Bickerstaff of KCC was to report this through the contact centre, which should bring a speedier response.

**Affordable Housing**

Advice has been received that TCHG hope to start work on site in March. The Clerk has had an informal conversation with Mr Mike Allwood, their New Business Manager regarding the fact that the nesting season will have begun by then. He has agreed to contact their contractors and ask them to start work as soon as possible to fell the necessary trees before the nesting season begins.

**Other Meetings****KCC**

Cllr Woodley and the Clerk met with Mrs Sue Bickerstaff, KCC Highways Liaison Officer and her colleague to tour some of the parish to discuss the issues regarding the condition of many of our roads, problems with flooding, damage to verges etc. She advised that funds are strictly limited and only dangerous roads, large potholes etc will be repaired. All cosmetic work has been suspended for the time being.

**Colts Hill**

Several Councillors attended the consultation regarding changes to Colts Hill including the proposed improvement to the Alders Lane/ Crittenden Road junction, which would involve the latter being closed. The PC had recently written to register its opposition to the plan and has now been invited onto the next working party on 11<sup>th</sup> March to discuss alternatives. Cllrs Woodley and Randall had agreed to attend and the list of priorities for them was discussed. It was agreed that all measures contained in the PC's letter were acceptable providing the route from Matfield to Tonbridge via Crittenden Road and vice-versa was maintained. The PC agreed with the comments of Cllr McEwen that any measure to slow the traffic would be good. B/Cllr Mrs Callow commented that it was good that Brenchley PC was now in the working party and it was generally acknowledged that the PC was very pro-active, working hard and doing a good job for the benefit of the Parish and that it would continue to receive her support.

**APM**

The issue of the APM on the 29<sup>th</sup> April was discussed and it was agreed that although there was some confusion last year as to start times it should be promoted as 7.30pm for an 8pm start. As a Borough election is due early in May it was thought beneficial that the PC invited prospective candidates to attend and speak at the meeting. The PC asked Mrs Callow if she was aware of who was being promoted as a future potential B/Cllr candidate. She replied she did not but agreed with the PC that there should be overt publicity for all such candidates and would endeavour to promote this. Mrs Callow was herself invited to attend and participate in the APM and to ask the new candidates that would replace Mrs Slade who will not stand for re-election.

**Matters Arising****Restorative Justice**

The first date for the police to implement a trial system of "restorative justice" is Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30am. A mobile police station has been booked and a volunteer from the PC is required to represent the residents and Council. Cllrs Mackenzie and Mrs Cornford agreed they could manage an early shift with Cllrs Woodley and McEwen

volunteering for a later start. Other councillors would advise their willingness/availability. The Clerk was asked to contact the Police to enquire exactly what was the procedure and what would be expected from them.

### **Planning Rota**

The rota for planning is out of date and needs consideration. The Clerk was asked to rework the rota to give all Councillors an opportunity throughout the year to have an input and to acquire knowledge of the procedures. It was agreed that in future the plans should be deposited at the Chairman's business premises and that Councillors on the rota would visit to inspect.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Street Lighting**

A draft agreement has been received for the maintenance of our streetlights and needs consideration. The Clerk reported that he was unhappy with the proposed contract and would like to discuss the matter with the contractors before recommending any such contract to the PC.

#### **Public Conveniences**

Draft Contracts for the upkeep of the lavatories have been received which require consideration. Cllr McEwen had made some recommendations and it was agreed he would discuss the matter with Cllrs Randall and Carter before making a final recommendation. The Council agreed that the comments made by Cllr McEwen so far were very valid and should be incorporated in the final reply.

#### **EDF**

A reminder letter has been received from EDF regarding their latest invoice. From December they have decided to add a standing charge to every item and our quarterly bill has risen from £65 to £151. This effectively amounts to £576 pa plus VAT to run 8 light bulbs, which are on light sensors or time clocks. The Clerk has been in touch with EDF numerous times and each time they have promised to call and offer what alternatives they can. The Clerk has explained their bill will not be settled until this has happened. The PC discussed the matter and agreed that we should pay an amount the same as the previous bill and write to EDF advising of our disappointment regarding their response and we will consider taking the issue to the Ombudsman if their eventual response was unsatisfactory.

### **Accounts for Payment**

M Powell	Salary and expenses	£1235.44
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI	£320.01

### **Other Matters**

#### **TWBC**

B/Cllr Mrs Callow asked if we had a local problem team such as neighbourhood watch who could respond to local residents difficulties. It was discussed that we have "Ready Call" which is a voluntary organisation but their principal function was providing transport to hospitals etc. It was generally considered a good idea to looking into such a team.

She also said that she had been in contact with SEEDA who were looking into partnerships with other local business associations on how they could provide every opportunity to provide advice and possible funding for new businesses. Cllr Barsley replied that Paddock Wood Business Association had made an approach but the bureaucracy made worthwhile issues very difficult. He also asked Mrs Callow to bring to the attention of TWBC the appalling way the pavements were dealt with by KCC Highways during the recent bad weather. Highways had advised people to stay off the roads wherever possible but the people who took to walking were in considerable danger because the footpaths received little attention at the time by way of gritting.

#### **Matfield Village Shop/ PO**

Cllr Mrs Cornford reported that a grant had been sought from LEADA for 75% of the start up costs of the shop/PO. These were in the order of £30000. However because of time pressure the owners had already started to gut the interior of the premises, which,

because a grant could not be retrospective for work done, meant this part could not be funded. The owners of the premises were away on holiday and unable to sign all the paperwork, which potentially give rise to a delay in the opening date. The 18<sup>th</sup> of March is still aimed at but this is unsure. Cllr Cornford agreed to contact Charlotte Martin who has been asked to open the venture to see if she can be flexible at this stage with her dates. The matter of the PC's support towards the event was discussed and it was agreed that if it were within the remit of the PC to do so it would contribute up to £500 to support what was agreed by all to be a vital and very beneficial issue to the community.

**SLP**

Cllr Woodley raised the issue of the Strategic Local Plan. Potential new legislation could change the role of the PC and in order to give a considered response to the proposals we need to allocate some time to it. The principle of the PC's involvement was important. This was unlikely to be possible within the course of a regular meeting. The PC discussed this, considered it a good idea and agreed to provisionally replace the planning meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> September with an informal meeting to this effect.

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be a planning meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February in Brenchley Memorial Hall