

BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk



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11 August 2015

To All Members of the Council, press and public.

There will be a meeting of the **Environment Committee** on **Monday 17 August 2015** at **Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade** commencing at 7.30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:

1. **Apologies and absences** (7.30)
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying** (7.31)
Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.
3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 6th & 13th July 2015** (7.32)
To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order to sign as a true record (pages 3–7).
4. **Matters Arising From Minutes** (7.35)
 - 4.1 Minute 2775/4.1 Installation of hard standing/apron at Boxley Road noticeboard. The Clerk is still attempting to get permission for the work from KCC.
 - 4.2 Minute 2775/4.3 Bike barrier. County Cllr Carter has indicated that he may put some of his devolved budget towards the cost of the scheme and KCC Highways are undertaking the investigative work at a cost of £250, paid for by the parish council.
 - 4.3 Minute 2774/5 Planning Application 15/505391/REM Approval of reserved matters. The term reserved matters was queried please see full definition on page 7-8
 - 4.4 Minute 2775/7.3 Advertising Boards at Roundwood Roundabout and Westfield Sole Road. See report on page 8.
 - 4.5 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.
- To adjourn to allow members of the public to address the meeting** (7.45)
5. **Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration** (7.55)
See attached list (pages 8-9). For ratification and decision.
6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions** (8.10)
To receive any information.
7. **Highways and Byways** (8.12)
 - 7.1 Yelsted Lane request for Not suitable for HGV signs. Cllr Wendy Hinder will give a verbal report at the meeting see report (page 9).
 - 7.2 Street light replacement programme see report (page 10).
 - 7.3 Grovewood Drive North see report (page 10)

- 7.4 PROW Round Wood Valley, review whether to make another request to KCC PROW for the footpath to be made a PROW.
- 7.5 Public Toilets see report (pages 10).
8. **Volunteer Groups** (8.27)
To receive any reports from volunteer groups associated with the parish council
- 8.1 Walderslade Woodlands Group see report (page 11). For information.
- 8.2 Friends of Boxley Warren see report (page 12). For information.
9. **Policy and procedures review** (8.35)
None to review.
10. **MBC Consultation on new Statement of Licensing Policy** (8.36)
To consider the draft document and if agreed make a response see report (pages 12 - 13).
11. **Maidstone Local Plan.** (8.43)
To receive any information.
12. **Matters for information** (8.44)
To receive any information.
- 12.1 Churned up footway adjacent to A229 near Cobtree Golf Course see report (page 13).
13. **Next Meeting** (8.45)
Next full environment meeting 14th September 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 7th September 2015.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the Enforcement item about to be transacted, it is advisable that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of or part of the item.

14. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC** (8.46)
To receive a confidential verbal update.

Pauline Bowdery

Pauline Bowdery
Clerk to Boxley Parish Council.

In accordance with policy the meeting should close no later than 9.30 pm but the Chairman has devolved powers to extend it by 30 minutes.

Items to be returned to agenda:

May 2015 Minute 2757/8.1 HGV parking on roads – return to agenda Sept 2015.

July 2015 Minute 2774/7.1 HGV parking Old Chatham Road – return to agenda Dec 2015.

Legislation allows for meetings to be recorded by anyone attending. Persons intending to record or who have concerns about being recorded should please speak to the Clerk.

REPORTS ATTACHED TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA 17 August 2015

Members are reminded that the Chairman will assume that these papers have been read prior to the meeting.

Councillors wishing to suggest changes to any policy document or procedure in this agenda should notify the office, in writing, at least three working days in advance of the meeting. This will allow details to be circulated at the meeting (or in advance if particularly contentious).

Item 3 Minutes of the meetings of 6th and 13th July 2015 .Purpose of report: To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order sign as a true record.

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 6 July 2015 at the Weaving Village Hall, Weaving Street commencing at 8.30 pm.

Councillors present: Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr A Springate and Mrs M Waller together and the Clerk.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr M Hinchliffe (holiday) and Cllr D Hollands (holiday)

2. Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying

None declared.

As there were no members of the public present the meeting was not adjourned.

3. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration

15/503922/FULL. Gate and footpath leading onto Old Lordwood Lane within Maidstone boundary relevant to proposed detached house within the Medway boundary at plot 6 Highview Farm Lordswood Lane Chatham Kent ME5 8JP. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consultation with Chairman and Vice chairman

Do not wish to object however there is concern that by allowing this gate and access it will encourage future owners to use the Ancient Woodland to dispose of their garden waste which will have a detrimental affect due to the introduction of nutrients, pesticides, diseases and non-native species. There is also concern that if Old Lordswood Lane is not blocked to vehicular access it will ultimately become clogged with parked cars from all the new properties planned for the wider site.

15/504448/TPO. TPO application to 1no. Oak - crown lift to 6m, clear buildings by 3m, thin canopy by 10%. 1no Silver Birch to 6m, reduce height to 15m at 1 Violet Close Boxley Kent ME5 9ND. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consultation with members

Do not wish to object defer to the views of the landscape officer.

15/504430/TPO/NIGA. TPO application to - 3no Ash trees - Fell, 7no Field Maple - reduce in height by 6-7m, 1no Silver Birch reduce by 2m, 1no Norway Maple - crown reduce by 4.5m, 2no Leylan Cypress - Fell at 4 Wents Wood Weaving Kent ME14. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consultation with members

Do not wish to object defer to the views of the landscape officer.

15/503913/FULL. Conversion of integral garage into habitable space and new detached garage to front of dwelling at 7 Wagoners Close Weaving Kent ME14 5SG. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consultation with members

Do not wish to object.

15/504429/FULL. New side dormer to existing first floor level at Bassetts Grove Green Road Weaving Kent ME14 5JT. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consultation

with members
Do not wish to object.

15/502550/FULL- Removal of condition 9 (existing buildings within the site to be removed) of planning permission MA/13/1712 and change of use of building attached to south –western corner of barn into domestic use associated to the barn and associated works including alterations to the barn’s fenestration detail at Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Boxley, Kent ME13 3DX. **Ratified** Clerk’s decision, after consultation with members

Wished to see refused but not reported to the planning committee for the reason set out below:

To prevent overdevelopment of the site which is set within the AONB and to safeguard the character and appearance of the surrounding area. As nothing has changed in this respect since the condition was imposed, there appears to be no good material reason to have it removed.

15/504446/TPO. TPO application to Fell - 1no. Hornbeam at 14 Spenlow Drive Boxley Kent ME5 9JT. **Ratified** Clerk’s decision, after consultation with members
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the landscape officer.

15/504689/FULL – Front porch, first floor front and side extensions and garage conversion at 43 Lombardy Drive, Maidstone ME14 5TB. Do not wish to object

15/504825/TPO – TPO application to fell 1no. Beech at Alexandra Hospital, Impton Lane, Walderslade ME5 9PG.

Objection but do not wish to see reported to the planning committee. The accompanying report states that there should be a six month review however there is no secondary report concerning the fruiting body. It is understood that a fruiting body is quite normal on a Beech tree of this age and up until this date there has been active management and the accompanying report does not indicate that there is immediate danger. The removal of this tree will have an adverse impact on the streets scene.

Next Meeting

Next full environment meeting 13 July at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 6 July 2015.

Meeting closed at 8.36 pm.

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 13 July 2015 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present: Mr P Dengate (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr D Hollands Mr A Springate, Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs Hinchliffe, Bob Hinder and Wendy Hinder (holiday),
2. **Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying**
None declared.
3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 1st & 8th June 2015**
The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

As no members of the public were present the meeting was not adjourned.

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes**

- 4.6 Minute 2764/4.2 Installation of hard standing/apron at Boxley Road noticeboard. **Noted**, permission for the work is being sought from KCC.
- 4.7 Minute 2764/4.3 15/503359/OUT. Land East of Gleaming Wood Drive Lordswood Kent. Members **received** the Clerk's report. They **agreed** that the Clerk could go ahead and submit a report to MBC stating why the trees on this site should be protected by TPO's.
- 4.8 Minute 2765/7.1 Bike barrier at Fitzwilliam Road and Camomile Drive. **Noted**, County Cllr Carter has indicated that he may put some of his devolved budget towards the cost of the scheme and KCC Highways are obtaining costs.
- 4.9 Minute 2765/7.2 Electrical items collection by MBC. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report.
- 4.10 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. There were none.

5 **Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration**

14/504291/FULL Part retrospective application for erection of single storey extension to existing dining building, including utility room and installation of decking area with associated balustrading and canopy at The Harrow, Lidsing Road, Lidsing ME7 3NL.
Do not wish to object

15/504202/FULL. Construction of spine road and new bridge over existing stream to enable future development on land at Kent Medical Campus, together with creation of two attenuation ponds for surface water drainage purposes at Kent Institute Of Medicine And Surgery Newnham Court Way Weaving Kent ME14 5FT.

Wish to see refused but not reported to the planning committee. Members have serious concerns about an application to put in infrastructure without being given any information on the nature of possible future development of this site.

15/504669/FULL Demolition of all existing yard buildings. Erection of two chalet style bungalows with detached open side garages at Willow Farm Tyland Lane Sandling Kent ME14 3BL.

Do not wish to object. While members had no material considerations to object, they wish to register concerns over the dominating height of the proposed houses and the loss of an open space within the AONB.

15/505025/FULL Removal of Condition 11 of planning permission MA/12/0529 (Erection of new two-storey classroom block for Invicta Grammar School and new three-storey classroom block for Valley Park School) - Retention of temporary classroom block at Valley Park Community School Huntsman Lane Maidstone Kent ME14 5DT.

Do not wish to object.

15/505240/TPO - TPO application to fell 1no. Cherry tree, coppice 1no. Sweet Chestnut Tree at Beechen House 813 Lordswood Lane Chatham Kent ME5 8JP.

Wish to see refused on the grounds that the Parish Council can see no reason to fell the mature cherry (T9) while the application states that the tree is diseased, the accompanying arboricultural report states the tree to be in good condition. Furthermore, removal from its prominent position in the hill-capped tree line of Beechen Bank would have a detrimental effect on the street scene both in the immediate neighbourhood and from a large part of the Walderslade Valley. There is no environmental argument for felling T9 which from the report just needs some ivy management and a strong case for its retention.

15/505391/REM - Approval of reserved matters (layout, appearance, landscape, scale and access) following outline planning permission 14/50493/OUT (Outline (all

matters reserved) – Erection of one 4 bedroom dwelling) at Medway Cottage, Forstall Road, Sandling ME14 3AR.

Do not wish to object.

15/505160/FULL - Replacement dwelling at Hillview, Old Lidising Road, Lidsing ME7 3NH.

Do not wish to object but members have concerns over the access to the parking spaces to the rear of the property.

15/505390/ADV - Advertisement consent for 1x hoarding sign on Land at Junction of New Cut Road And Bearsted Road Weaving.

Wished to see refused on the grounds of its detrimental effect on the street scene and the distraction it would cause to motorists. Furthermore this land was the subject of a recent planning application refusal that was upheld on appeal partly because the Inspector recognised the value of the "openness of the landscape setting".

15/500349/OUT - Outline application for the development of one detached 3-bedroom house with garage and parking at 22 Goldstone Walk Boxley Kent ME5 9QB.

Wish to see refused for the reasons set out below:

- Overdevelopment. It is still the parish council's opinion that the existing property would be left with insufficient outside space appropriate for a 3-4 bedroom house.
- It is considered there will be unacceptable noise and air pollution at both the new and existing properties due to parking and car movements being in close proximity to these properties.
- Loss of privacy to the occupiers of No.22

The proposed access and egress to the new house is extremely narrow and it appears from the outline application that there is insufficient vision splay to allow safe access and egress.

There are concerns:

- The potential adverse impact on No's 16 & 17.
- Access and egress difficulties for emergency vehicles as the proposed entrance is approximate one garage width wide as well as safety issues for pedestrians.
- Concerns about the run off surface water due to the excessive hard standing.
- The south, south east part of the rear garden of the proposed new property used to be a pond until it was sold by KCC with restricted development covenants.

6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

14/502252 Land at corner of New Cut Road and Bearsted Road, Maidstone. Planning Appeal DISMISSED. **Noted.**

7. **Highways and Byways**

7.1 HGV parking Old Chatham Road, to receive a verbal update at the meeting. This will be reviewed and brought back to the agenda in December 2015.

Action office.

7.2 Yelsted Lane request for Not suitable for HGV signs. Cllr Wendy Hinder will give a verbal report at the meeting. As Cllr Wendy Hinder was not present at meeting this item has been deferred to the August meeting. **Action office.**

7.3 Advertising Boards at Roundwood roundabout and Westfield Sole Road. The office was notified that advertising boards had been erected at the above area and it was felt these were a distraction to motorists. Members **received** KCC H & T response that as these boards were behind the boundary line and in their opinion not obstructing visibility they were unable to enforce the removal of them. Members requested that clarification is sought from MBC whether planning permission is required for these signs/boards and how long they are allowed to be on display? **Action office.**

7.4 HGVs/Buses in Boxley Village. Cllr Dengate raised the issue of how the traffic travelling through Boxley Village can come to a complete stand still when a large vehicle passing through is blocked by traffic from the opposite direction. After discussion members **agreed** that there was a problem but that it was unlikely a solution could be found in the current financial climate. However, it could be considered as part of section 106 agreement if development ever took place in Boxley.

8. **Volunteer Groups**

8.1 Walderslade Woodlands Group. Report **received** and **noted**. A further update on the task day held on Sunday 12 July indicated that there are cases of Ash Die Back on both of the plateaux the group were working on and advice is being sought from the Forestry Commission.

8.2 Friends of Boxley Warren. As Councillor Bob Hinder was not at the meeting a report will be given at the August meeting. **Action Cllr Bob Hinder.**

9. **Policy and procedures review**

9.1 Responding to Planning Applications. Members agreed that the laminated planning advice sheets were still fit for purpose.

9.2 Annual Competency review/statement Members received and noted the Clerk's report. With regards to training, Cllr Dengate commented that the majority of KALC training tends to be during the day or at weekends which is not ideal for those who work. With regards to improvement Cllr Dengate suggested that instead of reading each agenda item verbatim, just read the item number and a key word this will help speed things up and prevent any unnecessary discussion.

10. **Maidstone Local Plan** – No information had been received.

11. **KCC Consultation on Kent's "Drainage and Local Flood Risk draft Policy Statement"**. Members **received** the Clerks report and it was suggested that if Councillors had any further comments to add to the responses suggested by the Clerk to forward them by email before the closing date of 24 July. **Action Cllrs.**

12. **Matters for Information**

Received

12.1 Highways, Transportation and Waste Survey Results 2014. Document can be viewed on the consultation page of the KCC website and an electronic copy is available from the parish office (e-mail 02/06/15).

13. **Next Meeting**

Next full environment meeting 11 August 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

<p>Item 4 Matters Arising From the Minutes. Purpose of report: To consider planning applications. Members' are reminded to consider possible section 106 requests or to suggest any conditions.</p>
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4.3 Minute 2774/5 Planning Application 15/505391/REM Approval of reserved matters. Clarification on the term *Definition of reserved matters* :
Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Approval
Article 21 Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

The Application for Approval of Reserved Matters form should be used after an outline planning application has been approved.

A reserved matters application deals with some or all of the outstanding details of the outline application proposal, including:

appearance - aspects of a building or place which affect the way it looks, including the exterior of the development

means of access - covers accessibility for all routes to and within the site, as well as the way they link up to other roads and pathways outside the site

landscaping - the improvement or protection of the amenities of the site and the area and the surrounding area, this could include planting trees or hedges as a screen

layout - includes buildings, routes and open spaces within the development and the way they are laid out in relations to buildings and spaces outside the development

scale - includes information on the size of the development, including the height, width and length of each proposed building

The details of the reserved matters application must be in line with the outline approval, including any conditions attached to the permission. If your proposals have changed in any way, you may need to reapply for outline or full planning permission.

Some, though not all, details may have been formally submitted and approved at the outline application stage, if the applicant chose to do so, or the council insisted.

The outline decision notice, issued by the council, will state which matters were reserved for later approval. Permission lasts for two years from the last date that the reserved matters were approved, or, three years from the date that outline planning permission was approved – whichever date is the later.

- 4.4 Minute 2775/7.3 Advertising boards at Roundwood roundabout and Westfield Sole Road. Members requested clarification on whether these boards required planning permission and following extract has been taken from the planning portal and Communities and Local Government booklet

Advertisements Which Need Specific Permission, and How to Obtain it - Express consent

If an advertisement you want to display is not excluded from control, and does not benefit from any of the provisions for deemed consent, you need the planning authority's express consent before you can display it. Some frequently displayed types of advertisement for which you need the planning authority's consent are:

- *virtually all posters*
- *some illuminated signs*
- *fascia signs and projecting signs on shop-fronts or business premises where the top edge of the sign is more than 4.6 metres above ground level*
- *most advertisements on gable-ends.*

<p>Item 5 Planning Applications. <i>Purpose of report:</i> To consider planning applications. Members' are reminded to consider possible section 106 requests or to suggest any conditions.</p>
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15/505514/FULL - Conversion of garage and insertion of flat roof light, raise roof height and changes to fenestration at 9 Pinewood Drive Boxley Kent ME5 8XU. To **ratify** the Clerk's decision after consulting with the committee. Do not wish to object.

15/503913/FULL. - Conversion of integral garage into habitable space and new detached garage to front of dwelling at 7 Wagoners Close Weaving Kent ME14 5SG. To **ratify** the Clerk's decision after consulting with the committee . Do not wish to object.

Street Trading Consent – Application by Mr Jorg Braese to sell German sausages and steaks, soups, chips and hot/cold drinks from his van on Thursday evenings between the hours of 5.00pm to 8.00pm at 100 Chatham Road, Maidstone ME14 3BB. To **ratify** the Clerk’s decision after consulting with the committee. The Parish Council does not wish to object to this temporary licence. However it has concerns about this type of street trading in a residential area. Members requested that although MBC is not legally obliged to consult with local residents that it considers any objections/comments received by them during the period of this license. May we take this opportunity to inform you that we believe street trading has already commenced.

15/504413/FULL – Demolition of garage and outbuildings and construction of an annexe building at Seeburg, Forge Lane, Bredhurst ME7 3JN. To **ratify** the Clerk’s decision after consulting with the committee. Do not wish to object.

15/503845/FULL – Amendments to planning permission 14/504888/FULL (Change of use of store to 2 x dwellings, 2-storey rear extension to provide 1 x dwelling (3 dwellings total); Provision of external stair cases to 3 x dwellings, new door way to lower ground floor (front elevation) and raising roof height of store) - Increase the floor area
The Pump House, Forstall Road, Aylesford ME20 7AH – To **ratify** the Clerk’s decision after consulting with the committee. Do not wish to object.

15/505737/FULL Retrospective - Alterations to workshop and lean-to at 2 Boxley Cottages Ashford Road Weaving Kent ME14 4AA. Deadline 24 August 2015.

15/505739/listed building consent Retrospective - Alterations to workshop and lean-to at 2 Boxley Cottages Ashford Road Weaving Kent ME14 4AA. Deadline 24 August 2015.

15/506218/TPO TPO application to 1no. Hornbeam - Reduce by 4 metres from neighbours roof at 19 Wildfell Close Boxley Kent ME5 9RU. Deadline 26 August 2015.

15/506244/TCA TPO application to 1no Oak - Crown thin by 20% and raise to 4.5m at 26 Spenlow Drive Boxley Kent ME5 9JT. Deadline 26 August 2015.

15/506227/TPO TPO application to fell 1no Sycamore at Woodlands Boarley Lane Sandling Kent ME14 3DE. Deadline 25 August 2015.

15/506182/TPO TPO application to 1no Sweet Chestnut - crown lift to 6 metres at 813 Beechen House Lordswood Lane Chatham Kent ME5 8JP. Deadline 25 August 2015.

15/506283/FULL Erection of first floor and two storey side extension at 3 Maxton Close Bearsted Kent ME14 4QD. Deadline 27 August 2015.

15/506032/FULL Conversion of garage to habitable room at 9 Cobnut Close Weaving Kent ME14 5FS. Deadline 27 August 2015.

MC/15/2778 Construction of a 5-bedroomed detached dwelling with associated parking at High View Farm, Lords Wood Lane, Lordswood, ME5 8JP. Deadline 26 August, 2015.

Item 7 Highways and Byways. *Purpose of report:* Information/decision.

Item 7.1. Yelsted Lane request for Not suitable for HGV signs. A letter of objection to the suggested advisory street signs has been received from the Road Haulage Association Limited. Clerk’s note: Clarification is being sought as there appears to be some confusion as the RHA is referring to Yelsted Lane, Lidsing Road and surrounding Roads.

Item 7.2 Street light replacement programme. The programme of works identify that the following areas will have replacement lights with the work being programmed for August: Quinion Close; The Spinney; Spenlow Drive; and Woodlands

Item 7.3 Grovewood Drive North crossing improvements. To seek members' permission to remove this from the return to agenda list (kept at the bottom of the agenda). Members will recall that County Councillor Paul Carter approached the parish council last year concerning a request received from a young parishioner to have a better pedestrian crossing on Grove Wood Drive North. County Councillor Carter was considering allocating some of his devolved highway budget and if the parish council supported the project he would consider requesting a design was put together. At the time the parish council allocated up to £5,000 however despite reminders nothing has been forth coming from County Councillor Carter and so it is assumed that this idea will not be progressed. The issue can be returned to the agenda should the project be resurrected.

Item 7.5 Public Toilets (e-mail 03.07.15). **From KALC.**

Clerk's note: as local authorities' have been closing or off-loading, often to parish councils, responsibility for providing public toilet it is thought that members may wish to register view on this issue.

NALC is currently campaigning on business rates and has asked for member Councils help with specific regards to business rates on toilets as follows:

Help our business rates campaign

- *The Prime Minister has apparently pledged to 'save Britain's public loos', providing a welcome boost to our business rates campaign – but we need your help to keep up the pressure!*
- *A story in The Telegraph reports Mr Cameron told a local radio station he had discussed how toilets are taxed with local MPs in Cornwall during his recent visit and said there is more Government can do on "how public toilets are treated for business rates" and he would examine the case for lifting thousands of pounds of taxes from them every year to try to save them from closure; NALC is campaigning for an exemption from business rates on toilets run by parishes and is backing a proposal by Cranleigh Parish Council under the Sustainable Communities Act.*
- *I want the sector to capitalise on the comments from Prime Minister as I think we have a real opportunity to press this issue to a successful conclusion, so am seeking your help in writing to your local MP (find their address [here](#)) and to the Prime Minister (at 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA). I would ask you to:*

- write to your local MP drawing their attention to the Prime Minister's comments and ask for their support; set out the problems this is causing you, including some hard facts on costs (for example in Cranleigh's case the cost of non-domestic rates is a fifth of the annual running cost of the toilets);

- write to the Prime Minister in support of lifting this burden; again set out the problems this is causing you, including some hard facts on costs (another example is Lakes Parish Council who have calculated that business rates account for a sixth of their annual budget). [Do please send us a copy of your letters too!]

We would encourage all members affected, or potentially affected, by this to write to your local MP and the Prime Minister. If you do write, could you please copy us in as it would be helpful for us to have some hard facts when we write as well.

Item 8 Volunteer Groups. *Purpose of report:* Information.

8.1 Walderslade Woodlands Group.

Our Status Report for end of July 2015.

After a couple of weeks of preparation, the site is now ready for the delivery of the new store. This should happen in the next few weeks. We are also in receipt of our A4A funding, and all the stickers and notices that have to go with it.

Our Task Day this month was spent on the plateaux. We cut the circular paths on Central and North, as well as checking on cuttings from last year, to see what has grown since. The Roundup used on a selection of ash saplings seems to have had no impact.

It was noticed that we have a few cases of ash die back on both of these plateaux, and we will be talking to the Forestry Commission, in order to get their guidance on what, if anything, to do.

On the brighter side, we found quite a few instances of orchids, which we didn't know about. Indeed the cutting from last year seems to have helped them flourish.

Regards.

Rob Burrows (Chairman).

Clerk's report. On 4 August a resident rang in to say that boys were playing with fire in the woods just up from the Cossington underpass. As Rob Burrows was out I attended to find a large and extremely well lit bonfire and called the fire brigade. I spoke to the lads who had been happily carrying logs and brush towards the fire. Having explained how dangerous fire was in the wood I left to guide the fire brigade down from Beechen Bank Road. There was also evidence of an older fire nearby.

Our Status Report for August 2015.

The new store is being delivered on the 14th August at 8am.

We need to decide how best to split storage across the two units, and at the same time review the equipment we have, in order to replace anything that needs replacing.

The work group felled a dead tree, by Kissick's Glade, and used it to create a seating area. This glade is used by the Forest School classes from Tunbury, and the seating was created at their request. For pictures of this, please see our Facebook page – and like it of course!

The Task Day mowed the circular path of the East plateau, which now means all paths in this area are clear. A future project for this area will involve signs with maps of paths, plateau names and 'you are here' stickers.

A catalogue of wild flowers in this area, has been started, which will eventually be published.

Regards.

Rob Burrows (Chairman).



8.2 Friends of Boxley Warren Report August 2015

It is sad to report that still no work has been done at the entrance to the Warren. No information is available despite the best efforts of the clerk.

A meeting of the FOBW committee was held on Tuesday July 26th where the only item discussed was the ongoing saga of the entrance and the letters sent to the MP, leader of KCC and the PCC.

No response had been received at that time to any of the letters which was extremely disappointing, however I have now received one from Ann Barnes the PCC in which she thanks us for bringing the problems to her attention and has forwarded it to an appropriate source within the police for a response which she assures me I will get – I await with baited breath.

Following the meeting, acting on the instruction of members of the committee, I contacted the KM and gave details of the problems we have encountered. It appears to have set wheels in motion because Pauline received a call from KCC press office asking what it was about and who was the officer dealing with the issue. That, said Pauline is the problem – we cannot find out who is dealing with it to enquire as to any likely dates (I suspect now that, like other members) the work will not be done. If that is the case I feel there is a strong possibility that the group will fold. As it stands we have identified a date in October to start work but we are not holding our breath!

Bob Hinder

Update on entrance work.

The officer responsible for drawing up the safety work (chevrons etc.) will be back from leave on 10 August and once the design is done it will take 28 days for the contractor to implement. At the same time as doing the safety work design KCC will also be looking at the entrance work and I have reminded them that something needs to be done at the Chatham Road end of Pilgrims Way.

I have stressed that there is a need to keep us informed of the work and also that it would be nice to see the design of the entrance etc.

Pauline Bowdery, Clerk.

Item 10. MBC Consultation on new Statement of Licensing Policy (e-mail 26.06.15). <i>Purpose of report:</i> action.
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Note. The terms of reference for both the Environment and Estates committees do not specifically relate to which one deals with Licensing and so the Clerk has placed this on the Environment Committee agenda as it deals with consultations on planning, street trading and the local plan. A note has however been included on the Estates Committee agenda in case members of that committee wish to make comments which can then be brought to the Environment Committee.

Under the Licensing Act 2003, Maidstone Borough Council has to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy. This policy is used to guide the Licensing Authority when considering licence applications and the control of licensed premises as required by the Act.

Before determining its policy, Maidstone Borough Council must consult with Responsible Authorities (including parish councils), representatives of holders of premises licences and club premises certificates, residents and businesses within the area of the Council.

The Council has reviewed its existing policy and is now seeking comments on the new draft which can be viewed at www.maidstone.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/current-consultations/licensing-policy-consultation.

When administering licensing matters the council as the Licensing Authority will promote of the four Licensing Objectives set out in section 4 of Part 2 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The four licensing objectives are the:

- Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance

- Public Safety
- Protection of Children from Harm

The Clerk has reviewed the draft document and considers that it is easily navigated, uses clear and plain English and is sufficiently clear in its explanations and layout to make the reader aware of: the reasons the legislation exists; how the legislation is handled and enforced; how to apply for licences; what needs to be in place for a premises to conform to the legislation etc.

Suggested response: The parish council welcomes and supports the document.

Item 12. Matters for information

<i>Purpose of report:</i> information.
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Churned up footway adjacent to A229 near Cobtree Golf Course

12 months and two weeks after the first request for the footway to be repaired and barriers put in place to stop lorries parking there overnight the work was completed.