

BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk



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2 March 2015

To All Members of the Council, press and public.

There will be a meeting of the **Environment Committee** on **Monday 9 March 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 9 February 2015** (7.32)
To consider the minutes of the meeting (already circulated) and if in order to sign as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising From Minutes** (7.35)
 - 4.1 Minute 2724/4.1 Boxley Warren gate. Update given at Parish Council meeting 2 March and any further information will be brought to the meeting.
 - 4.2 Minute 2724/4.2 Pilgrims Way/Lidsing Road junction. Work is now commencing in March.
 - 4.3 Minute 2724/4.3 Clearway Sandling. Erection of posts and signage. Update on page 3.
 - 4.4 Minute 2724/4.5 KCCH&T seminar 19/11/14. Received page 3, KCC response to the suggestion that Borough Council representatives are invited to the seminars to deal with cross over issues.
 - 4.5 Minute 2725/7.1 No motorcycle signs Beechen Bank Rd/Cossington Road entrance. The request has been referred to the Walderslade Woodlands Group.
 - 4.6 Minute 2726/8.2 footpath between Wildfell Close and Boxley Road. Ownership to be investigated it is anticipated that information will be available for the supplementary agenda.
 - 4.7 Minute 2726/11.2 KALC Planning Update see report page 3
 - 4.8 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)
 - 5.1 See attached list (page 3-4). For decision.
 - 5.2 Planning procedure reminder. For information.
6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions** (8.02)
MA/14/500485 Occupational manager's dwelling with accommodation on two floors
APPEAL: Dismissed The Nursery, Dunn Street, Bredhurst, ME7 3ND. For information.

7. **Volunteer Groups** (8.04)
To receive any reports from volunteer groups associated with the parish council.
For information.
8. **Highways and Byways** (8.08)
8.1 Clearway Chatham Road. Response from DoT Under Secretary of State
Robert Goodwill MP pages 4-6.
9. **Policy and procedures review** (8.23)
None to review
10. **MBC Local Plan** (8.24)
To receive an update on any progress or issues.
Urban boundary explanation see report page 7.
11. **Matters for information** (8.30)
None received at time of compiling agenda
12. **Next Meeting** (8.31)
Next full environment meeting 20 April 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30
p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 13 April
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.

13. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC** (8.42)
To receive a confidential update.

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:

Jan 2015 Minute 2715/8.3 PROW Round Wood Valley, review the request to KCC PROW for it to be made a PROW in June 2015. Minute 2639/4.1 Grovewood Drive North crossing improvements.

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 9 March 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 4 Matters Arising From Minutes. *Purpose of report:* Information.

Item 4.3 Clearway Sandling. Erection of posts and signage.

Report from Cllr Wendy Hinder (given to 2 March Parish Council meeting).

Report from Cllr Wendy Hinder. Unfortunately the initial installation of the posts and pinch point did not go well with some suggestion that the contractor failed to follow the design and installation brief. This resulted in lorries still going into the village and continuing to park outside the designated HGV area. The wrongly installed entrance also stopped buses from entering the village and so for a time ARRIVA buses were cancelled. As soon as the problem was identified I arranged to have a site visit and for the contractor to be called back to complete the work, this was further delayed as the new bollards etc. did not get delivered by KCC.

It has all been a bit of a mess however the work has now been completed and the buses are now able to service the village.

I am disappointed and embarrassed that the residents are still suffering from the parking of lorries and some drivers are still using the hedgerows as toilets. I have asked Paul Carter for a site visit ASAP as I want to know why this work has not been properly supervised as even now bollards appear to be incorrectly installed.

I visited the site last Monday at 3.00pm and there was no sign of the contractors. I have also been told, by a resident that they told her that they do not work on Friday afternoons, however I cannot confirm that, but I do know there was no one there at 3.00pm on Monday.

Item 4.4 KCCH&T seminar 19/11/14.

Response from KCC

"I am pleased to hear that you felt the seminar was good, and thank you for your feedback, it is much appreciated.

There are many issues where KCC and the local district / borough share a common interest and work closely together to achieve the best results for the residents of Kent. The parish seminars are primarily an update on what KCC is doing, given that at these seminars there are parishes from different districts / boroughs, we focus on those subjects that are relevant to everyone, and they may be concerns that part of the audience may not be interested if the presenter is not speaking about their district / borough.

We do review all the feedback we receive and I will certainly raise this issue in advance of the next meeting".

Item 4.7 KALC Planning Update

Clerk's note: The main point of interest on the update was the availability (copy at the office) of a plain English Guide. A copy will be placed on the council's website.

Item 5 Planning Applications. *Purpose of report:* To consider planning applications. Members' are reminded to consider possible section 106 requests or to suggest any conditions.

Item 5.1.

15/500155/FULL. Single storey side extension at 2 Franklin Drive, Weaving, Kent ME14 5SY. To ratify the Assistant Clerk's decision after consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Do not wish to object.

15/501119/FULL. Two side dormers to existing first floor at Brendan Grove Green Road Weaving Kent ME14 5JT. *Deadline 13 March 2015.*

15/501334/FULL. Single storey side and part front extension at 20 Forstal Cottages Forstal Road Aylesford Kent ME20 7AH. *Deadline 20 March 2015.*

15/501114/TPO. Tree Preservation Order..2 x Hornbeams (A and C) - 5m crown lift, 30% reduction to leave a height of 10m and a spread of 6m at 10 Galena Close Boxley Kent ME5 9NE. *Deadline 19 March 2015.*

15/501120/TPO. Tree Preservation Order..T1 and 2 - Silver Birch - Fell to approx 2ft above ground. T3 - Leylandii - Reduce by approx 2m. T4 - Clean out Oak and thin by approx 10% at 2 Brockbank Close Walderslade Kent ME5 9US. *Deadline 12 March 2015.*

Item 5.2. Planning procedure reminder

If members have concerns and, if the deadline allows, they do not have to make a decision on a planning application at a meeting. Policy exists to delegate the decision to the office, after consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair or all members of the committee. If deciding to delegate a decision members should be prepared to give guidance to the office.

Item 8. Highways and Byways. *Purpose of report:* Information.

Item 8.1 Clearway Chatham Road.

Update from KALC. At a meeting in January KALC raised the lorry parking issue with KCCH,T&W and the KCC representatives said they would take it away to have discussions/thoughts and a report will be brought back to the next scheduled meeting in March.

Response from DoT Under Secretary of State Robert Goodwill MP



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Sir Hugh Robertson KCMG MP
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Our Ref: MC/126855

12 FEB 2015

Dear Hugh

Thank you for your letter of 15 January to Patrick McLoughlin, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mrs Pauline Bowdery, Clerk to Boxley Parish Council, Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Chatham, Kent, ME5 9RU, about la orry layby on Chatham Road. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

Some of the issues you have raised are about the way parking restrictions are enforced locally. However you have asked for Government legislation and support to help resolve the problem.

There are very challenging constraints on how far the criminal law can be used to target infringements committed by foreign drivers if the enforcement action is not taken there and then. It can be difficult to establish who was responsible for what and to serve court documents (such as summons to court) to foreign addresses. So there are advantages in using civil enforcement on the spot.

The Department is aware that it can be difficult for local authorities to use civil enforcement mechanisms against foreign-registered vehicles. However, when given the opportunity to pay, we do not believe drivers of foreign-registered vehicles are any less inclined to pay for parking charges than UK motorists. Where a foreign-registered vehicle appears to be a persistent offender, they can be targeted for the strongest possible enforcement to ensure that payment is secured. Local authorities may opt to use their powers to clamp or remove the vehicle to ensure the vehicle operator complies with parking restrictions and pays any fines that are due. This can all be done under civil powers.

Where fines are due from foreign-registered vehicles that have already left the country, parking companies and local authorities can and do use European debt collection agencies to pursue unpaid charges.

We have recognised the need to act on the supply of lorry parking in Kent and also in relation to Operation Stack. My ministerial colleague John Hayes has asked officials to commission the Highways Agency to work with key partners to determine the feasibility of a number of lorry parks and any new or innovative approaches to reduce the impact of Operation Stack. This should include current plans for additional parking capacity being undertaken by Dover Harbour Board, Eurotunnel and other developers to develop a narrative and timeline for the proposed next steps.

Furthermore, a £3m bid by the South East Local Economic Partnership as part of the most has been accepted by Government as part of the recent local Growth Fund tranche on Thursday 29 January for the Westenhanger services parking extension. I hope this is a positive step, albeit elsewhere in Kent, and with the caveat that there is local opposition to that specific proposal from Shepway District Council.

Yours sincerely



ROBERT GOODWILL

Item 10. Local Plan. Purpose of report: Information.

Urban boundary explanation.

Members' raised an issue over information on the last agenda (below). The boundary change should have read **Urban** boundary change which was requested, by Boxley Parish Council, at Lordswood and Walderslade to take Walderslade Woods, Beechen Bank and land to the East of Gleamingwood Drive out of the current urban boundary.

Requested boundary change. Response from MBC "I am not sure how much this matter has been progressed I am afraid. I am not aware of any recent meetings with Medway, although we are still aware that we need to raise this issue with them. I have copied into this email Sue Whiteside, Planning Policy Team Leader so that she is also aware of the need for a discussion on this matter.

In terms of progress with the plan, we will be consulting on additional sites in the coming weeks, and once we have completed assessment of the representations, along with other continuing work we will indeed be looking to pull a revised plan together to move to the 'Publication' stage in the regulations. We will need to ensure that your remaining issue is dealt with before we reach this stage.

In other developments, you may have noted that the eastern by-pass is again being promoted by KCC through the Joint Transportation Board and is likely to be tested in the latest round of updated transport modelling. Whether the scheme is taken forward into the revised transport strategy remains to be agreed given the likely cost, at present un-quantified benefits and uncertainty over exact routes, impact on countryside, listed buildings and so forth. The revised strategy will be subject to public consultation once completed."