

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 10th October 2011 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present; Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mr Ivor Davies (left during item 8 and returned item 4.2), Mrs P Brooks, Mr M Pepper, Mr K Perry, Mr A Springate, Mr W Stead and Mrs M Waller, together with the Clerk.

1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

There were none.

2. Apologies and absences

Mrs A Spain (unwell). Mr Ivor Davies apologised as he would have to leave at 8.00 pm to attend a school governor meeting but hoped to return fairly quickly.

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 5th and 12th September 2011.

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed and signed** as a true and correct record.

Item 8 was taken at this point.

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2332/4.2 Boxley Road & Beechen Bank Road speed limit. **Noted** a detailed costing for the work had been requested.

4.2 Minute 2332/4.3 Inconsiderate parking Walderslade Village/Boxley Road. **Noted** a response has been received from Cllr Brake and Cllr Pepper suggested that a site meeting be arranged to discuss the issue with the Councillor and PCSO. **Action** – Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Pepper.

4.3 Minute 2334/10 Neighbourhood Development Plans. **Noted** office time had not been available to complete the other plans but it is hoped to do this for the November meeting.

4.4 Minute 2334/17 land adjacent Weaving Roundabout. **Noted** MBC had confirmed that the trees that are the backdrop to the site were protected but under current legislation there was little more MBC could do. A protected species had recently been identified at the site and its existence was notified to the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre and Maidstone Borough Council. **Agreed** office to continue to monitor the situation.

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

5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

5.1 MA/11/1070 Amended details (technical report regarding traffic movements) at The Kent Clinic, Bearsted Road. Members **noted** the ratification of the Clerk's decision, after discussion with Cllr Ivor Davies, *noted*.

5.2 TA/0147/11 application for consent to crown thin and crown reduce one Hornbeam tree by 20% at 17 Forestdale Road, Walderslade.

Do not wish to object subject to the views of the Borough Landscape Officer.

5.3 Land at Penhurst Close. Contact from Wards. **Agreed** that MBC would be contacted to see the reason for referring Wards to the Parish Council and the office would arrange for the developers representative to attend an Environment Committee. **Action** – parish office.

6. Planning applications taken to Planning Committee.

Planning rota – Cllr Spain 13th October 2011 and Cllr Pepper 3rd November 2011.

7. Planning Applications and appeals decisions.

None submitted for consideration.

8. **Core Strategy consultation.**

Members **received** the briefing note on the MBC Core Strategy. After lengthy discussion the response to the Core Strategy was **agreed** (appendix to the minutes). Members **noted** that a number of other strategies would be produced by MBC and members identified their wish to respond to these consultations. Members were especially interested in the Blue and Green Strategy draft document as their discussions had raised concerns about the poor design of the current buildings on the river and they did not wish to see this repeated. They were also concerned about development of areas liable to flooding.

9. **Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group**

Cllr Springate's report on the poor condition of the steps leading from Tunbury Bottom to Tunbury Avenue was **received**. After discussion members agreed that the group should report any issues it had concerning health and safety direct to KCC and it did not need the permission of the Parish Council to do so. The Clerk clarified that the group had its own insurance and was required to undertake risk assessments prior to any work, should not undertake any work that was unsafe or that left unsafe conditions.

As it was 9.30pm the Chairman used her power to extend the meeting to 10.00 pm.

10. **Highways and Byways.**

10.1 Meeting with Bryan Sweetland (KCC Cabinet Member for Highways) and Carol Valentine (Highway Manager West Kent). Cllr Pepper gave a verbal report on the recent meeting and he summarised it as a useful meeting. The Council would now give KHS time to meet the service improvements that had been identified as being implemented.

10.2 Winter Maintenance Update. The Asst Clerk's update on the KCC winter maintenance programme was **received**. Cllr Ivor Davies reported that the Woodlands salt bin had not been filled **action** – parish office. Members were notified that a list of the roads being cleared by the farmers in bad weather had been requested and members requested sight of this, **action** – next agenda.

11. **Policy and procedures review.**

None due for review.

13. **Review of 2011/12 Projects.**

13.1 Grant, benches at Weaving Heath. **Noted** no detailed information had yet been received on how the costs for the purchase/installation was reached. Cllr Pepper was meeting with MBC about an issue related to open spaces and will raise this issue. **Action** – Cllr Pepper.

13.2 Trees Cobtree Country Park. **Noted** trees and plaque are being purchased by MBC and an invoice was awaited.

14. **Budget 2012/2013.**

Members **noted** that they should notify the parish office of any projects that they wished to see included in the draft budget.

15. **Matters for information.**

15.1 Cuckoowood auction woodland, **noted**.

15.2 CPRE booklet how to respond to planning applications – an 8 step guide. An e-learning course on *How to respond to planning applications* will shortly be available at www.ntselearning.co.uk.

16. **Next Meeting.**

Next environment committee meetings were 7th & 14th November 2011 (full) at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) of the following item the chairman passed a resolution to go into confidential discussion.

17. Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC.

Members were notified of issues relating to Bredhurst Nursery. **Noted** the update requested on the other outstanding issues had not been received.

Meeting closed 9.45 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

Chairman.....Date.....