

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at  
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Councillors present; Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr M Pepper, Mr K Perry, Mr A Springate, Mr W Stead and Mrs M Waller, together with the Assistant Clerk.

**1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.**

There were none.

**2. Apologies and absences**

Cllr W Hinder – family commitment.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011.**

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed and signed** as a true and correct record. Cllr Brooks informed those present that the Minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> July on the website still did not show Cllr Waller and herself as being present.

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2319/4.1 **Noted** PCSO Hawthorne had delivered the flytipping letters.

4.2 Minute 2319/4.2 Boxley Road & Beechen Bank Road speed limit. Members noted the estimate of £3198.83 from Kent Highways for the proposed scheme, however they required more clarification and a breakdown of costs. It was felt that Kent Highways' description was too vague. **Action - Office**

4.3 Minute 2319/4.3 Inconsiderate parking in Boxley Road (Medway). Cllr Pepper confirmed that Cllr W Hinder had e-mailed Cllr Brake of Medway for his support with our concerns, It is hoped that Cllr Hinder and Cllr Brake will soon meet with the PCSOs in Medway who meet on the first Tuesday of every month. **Action Cllr Hinder**

4.4 Minute 2319/4.3 Members **noted** the Assistant Clerk's written report on the KHS Parish Seminar held on 12 July 2011. Members requested that the winter maintenance schedule be returned to the next main meeting for an update including clarification on salt bins. **Action - Office.**

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

**5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.**

5.1 MA/11/0953 erection of 2 rear extension and roof conversion at Wilmarie and Northview, Chatham Road, Sandling. Members **noted** the ratification of the Asst Clerk's decision, after discussion with Cllr Ivor Davies and Cllr Wendy Hinder, *do not wish to object.*

5.2 MA/11/1310 erection of a 2 storey side and rear extension and single storey front extension at 2 Nutwood Close, Weavinging

*Wish to see application refused for the planning reasons set out below but do not request the application be reported to the Planning Committee:*

*The rear extension would be detrimental to the local street scene.*

*If the officer is minded to allow the application to proceed, members requested that the extensive blank side elevation brick wall be softened.*

5.3 MA/11/1370 erection of a single storey rear extension at Buxlee, Tyland Lane, Sandling.

*Do not wish to object.*

5.4 MA/11/1387 erection of first floor extension and conversion of garage into additional living accommodation at 2 Threshers Drive, Grove Green.

*Do not wish to object.*

5.5 TA/0136/11 TPO No 1 of 1960 An application for consent to remove 2 Chestnut Trees and to coppice 30 Chestnut Trees at Woodland adj to No 1 Sandbourne Drive, Boxley.  
*Do not wish to object subject to the views of the Borough Landscape Officer.*

5.6 TA/0142/11 TPO No.1 of 1969 an application for consent to fell 1 Oak at 18 Olivine Close, Walderslade.

*Do not wish to object subject to the views of the Borough Landscape Officer. However members are loath to see the felling of an Oak if it can be saved. If the landscape officer is minded to grant permission, a replacement heavy standard oak has been requested.*

5.7 MA/10/1627 Erection of new dwelling as shown on drawings attached, at Land off Beechen Bank, Boxley Road, Walderslade.  
*Members wish to see the application Refused and request the application be referred to the planning committee for the reasons set out below and given previously:*

*This is a prominent site on Boxley Road with a sweeping wide view of Beechen Bank ALLI. The introduction of a residential property onto this site would result in an unacceptable increase in urbanisation and would also be detrimental to the Beechen Bank ALLI which is contrary to PPS1 and policy ENV35.*

5.8 MA/11/1334 Erection of a garage at garage space r/o 25 & 27 Autumn Glade, Lordswood.

*Do not wish to object, however, members requested that the materials used in this build are sympathetic to the local area.*

5.9 MA/11/1428 Erection of hip to gable end and roof extension and insertion of rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion at Ashdown, Grove Green Road, Weaving.

*Wish to object but do not request the application be reported to the planning committee. Members noted that this is the proposed conversion of a hipped roof to a gable at only one end of a pair of semi-detached houses. This would leave the building very asymmetrical and thus detrimental to the street scene.*

#### 6. **Planning applications taken to Planning Committee.**

Planning rota – Cllr Pat Brooks 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011. **Noted.** Members requested that 2 consecutive planning rota dates are reported on the agenda in future. Cllr Spain confirmed that, provided she was free, she would attend the planning committee meeting that includes application MA/10/1627.

#### 7. **Planning Applications and appeals decisions.**

There were none.

#### 8. **Walderslade Woods Group .**

Cllr Springate informed members that the group had increased the frequency of task days since the last meeting and the group have carried out many tasks, including licensed ring barking, clearance of footpaths including from Forestdale to Impton Lane, cutting back vegetation on the plateau and erecting a noticeboard in Forestdale.  
**Noted.**

#### 9. **Highways and Byways.**

9.1 **Received** a request form MBC for comments on congestion in Maidstone. Members agreed the following response: The council has frequently complained about heavy traffic on Bearsted Road and New Cut Road, and the continuing development in the Newnham Court area which is exacerbating the problem. The congestion along New Cut Road extends back into Grove Green as traffic becomes trapped. Another area for concern is Boxley Road through the Village

- towards Penenden Heath roundabout, generally at peak hours. The northern end of the Parish does not suffer from congestion within the MBC area.
- 9.2 Grovewood Drive North. **Noted** the planned resurfacing has been postponed but some potholes have been filled.
  - 9.3 Members **agreed** the following name **Cobnut Close** as the new street name for the development of 9 dwellings in Franklin Drive, Grove Green.
10. **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**  
**Received**, for comment on format only, an initial draft of the Working Party's proposal for the Walderslade and Lordswood sections of the Plan. Members, who were very satisfied with the content and layout, expressed their thanks to the Clerk for her excellent work on this project. **Agreed** this format should be rolled out for the other areas of the Parish. **Action - Office.**
  11. **Strategy for dealing with highway issues not receiving KHS funding.**  
Members **received** suggestions for a strategy and **agreed** (with 2 abstentions) to defer this item for 6 months and in the meantime take each case on its own merit.
  12. **Local Planning Regulations Consultation**  
Members **agreed** the Clerk's suggested response with minor typographical amendments. Deadline 7 October, 2011.
  13. **National Planning Policy Framework.**  
Members **received** and made amendments to suggested responses for this consultation. **Agreed** a working group comprising of Cllr Hinder, Cllr I Davies and Cllr Pepper will look at amendments made to responses and will be responsible for signing off the consultation. Deadline 17 October, 2011.
- At 9.35 p.m. the Chairman used his devolved power to extend the meeting until 10 p.m.
14. **Policy and procedures review – Pre-application discussions with Boxley Parish Council Environment Committee**  
Members **agreed** that no change was necessary as this policy was still fit for purpose.
  15. **Review of 2011/12 Projects.**
    - 15.1 **Grant for benches at Weaving Heath** – Members **refused** to agree to increasing the grant by £200.00 until an itemised quote was received. **Action – Office.**
    - 15.2 **Trees Cobtree Country Park** – Members **noted** that MBC has been reminded that trees must be purchased and planted this season otherwise the grant will be withdrawn.
  16. **Budget 2012/2013**
    - 16.1 Members **noted** the reminder for notifying the parish office of any projects they want included in the budget for 2012/13.
    - 16.2 Members were invited to consider Cllr Smith's suggestions for signs to be installed along Westfield Sole Road to slow traffic down and inform drivers of narrowing roads. Members **agreed** they were not in a position to erect signs that Kent Highways do not agree with.
  17. **Matters for Information**  
Members **noted** the response from the heritage, landscape and design team leader at MBC regarding the recently auctioned land at Bearsted Road/New Cut. They asked that the office investigate the possibilities of protection for the wildlife, flora and fauna on this land as suggested in that letter. **Action - Office**
  18. **Next Meeting**

Next environment meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 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.

19. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC.**

Members **received** and discussed enforcement information.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

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