

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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

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

Cllr Hinder notified members that she had been lobbied on TA/0012/12 and item 9.2.

**2. Apologies and absences**

All members were present.

**3. Minutes of the Meetings of 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**

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

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2387/4.2 inconsiderate parking Walderslade Village/Boxley Road. **Noted** Cllr Pepper would bring up the issue at the 18th April PACT meeting in Walderslade village. **Noted** a request to also highlight the issue of motor bikes accessing Walderslade Woods via Sherwood Avenue.

4.2 Minute 2387/4.3 marker at Cossington Lane. **Noted** work would be undertaken to locate a sign that could be erected on a way marker post and to establish land ownership.

4.3 Minute 2387/4.4 Cowbeck Wood **noted** the history relating to the recent contact.

4.4 Minute 2388/8.2 PRoW Round Wood valley. **Noted** a response on the request for PRoW definition was awaited.

4.5 Minute 2388/9.5 Lidsing Road. **Noted** request for additional signage etc. had been submitted and a response was awaited.

4.6 Minute 2388/13 empty properties. **Noted** Cllr Pepper was attending a 25<sup>th</sup> April Borough Council meeting to take this issue up.

The meeting was not adjourned as there were no members of the public present

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

5.1 MA/12/0375 erection of a detached 4 bed dwelling at Hillah, Cossington Road.

*Do not wish to object but have concerns about; possible loss of privacy to neighbouring properties; detrimental impact to the visual amenity from Beechen Bank Road as it is further urbanisation of a wooded area; about the amount of glass in the design. Do not require this to go to the Planning Committee.*

5.2 MA/12/0523 application for advertisement consent for illuminated and non-illuminated signage to store and store car park at Tesco, Grove Green.

*Do not wish to object.*

**Agreed** letter to go to Rob Jarman, Development Control Manager, about the fact that this is yet again another retrospective planning application from Tesco.

5.3 MA/12/0524 construction of a timber structure surrounding 'hello' totem; a larch timber slatted 'hello' wall; and replacement timber covered trolley bays at Tesco, Grove Green.

*Do not wish to object.*

**Agreed** letter to go to Rob Jarman, Development Control Manager, about the fact that this is yet again another retrospective planning application from Tesco.

5.4 MA/12/0526 construction of new sports hall with changing rooms at Valley Park Community School, Huntsman Lane, Grove Green.

*Wish to see approved.*

5.5 MA/12/0527 erection of close boarded fence at 26 Olivine Close, Walderslade.

*Do not wish to object.*

5.6 TA/0012/12 TPO No. 2 of 1991 - Application for consent to fell 1 (No) Beech Tree, to remove 5 (no) Sweet Chestnut stools and to cut back all overhanging group to boundary to height of 3m on an annual basis at Woodland adjacent to 14, Exton Gardens, Grove Green.

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

5.7 TA/0049/12 application for consent to reduce the height of 1 no Hornbeam by 40% and 4 no Leylandii by 50% at 8 Bellgrove Court, Walderslade.

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

5.8 MA/12/0405 – Application for removal of condition 9 (the dwelling shall achieve a minimum of level 3 of the code of sustainable homes. The dwelling shall not be occupied until a final code certificate has been issued for it certifying that (at least) Code Level 3 has been achieved) of MA/11/1349 (erection of 1 replacement dwelling with detached garage and associated works) at Glenside, Boxley Road.

**Agreed** a letter to be sent to MBC about the need for Maidstone Borough Council, as it is currently producing its Core Strategy and other documents, to produce clear planning policy setting out requirements and levels for sustainable development.

5.9 Railway mast adjacent to Turkey Mill, Grove Green pre application notification.

**Noted.**

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

Planning rota – Cllr Pepper 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

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

MA/11/2023	GRANTED* (Brooklyn Yard)	MA/11/2140	GRANTED
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MA/12/0114	GRANTED	MA/12/0256	GRANTED
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TA/0001/12	GRANTED	TA/0009/12	REFUSED
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**Agreed** that in future only decisions that were contrary to what the Committee requested would be reported.

## 8. **Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group**

**Received** Cllr Springate's report on the recent work undertaken by the group. The Chairman asked that thanks for the groups' continued good work be minuted.

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

9.1 Cuckoo Wood double yellow lines consultation. Members **welcomed** the consultation but decided to allow the residents to decide on what restrictions they wished to see introduced.

9.2 M20 NAG (Noise Action Group). After discussion it was agreed to respond that whilst very sympathetic to the problems experienced by the parishes and whilst willing to help in other ways the Council could not offer financial support as there would be no benefit to its parishioners.

9.3 Humming article and noise at Walderslade, **noted** it had been thought that there was some progress in identifying and possibly removing the noise nuisance but this may now not be the case. The parish office was asked to monitor the situation, help residents where possible and keep the committee informed.

9.4 Salt bin. After discussion it was **agreed**, Cllr Pepper proposed seconded Cllr Stead, that the spare bin should be placed at the junction of Brownlow Copse/Boxley Road (1 abstention). **Noted** the Chairman has requested 2 salt bins for Lordswood from County Councillor Carter.

## 10. **National Planning Policy Framework and other planning issues.**

**Received** an update on; the NPPF; information concerning NPPF - biodiversity policy under-pinning; and Localism Act regarding Retrospective Planning Applications. Members asked for an update on the current situation regarding the work being undertaken on the Councils Neighbourhood Development Plan. It was **agreed**, due to

the current office workload, that a report would be given to the June meeting and discussion on how to progress the work. **Action June agenda.**

**11. KCC Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Allocation Policy.**

**Agreed** the response was to be that the Parish Council supports the proposal and welcomes its clarity and transparency.

**12. Policy and procedures review.**

Boxley Parish Council Planning Information leaflet. It was **agreed** that the current document was fit for purpose but that it would be returned to the Environment Committee should any amendments be needed due to the new NPPF.

**13. Matters for information.**

13.1 **Noted** Articles: Planning principles and the Localism Act 2011; What councils need to know about rights of way.

13.2 **Noted** CPRE letter New Homes Bonus Scheme.

13.3 **Noted** agenda published: Meeting of Wednesday 18th April, 2012, 5.00 pm, Maidstone Joint Transportation Board

13.4 DCLG: Planning Act 2008 - Proposed changes to the suite of guidance documents for the major infrastructure planning regime - A consultation deadline July 2012. Members asked that a briefing note be produced to allow the Council to respond to the consultation. **Action Clerk.**

**14. Next Meeting.**

Next environment meetings 14<sup>th</sup> and 21st May 2012 (full) at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

No members of the public or press were present but due to the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the Enforcement item about to be transacted, the item was taken in confidence.

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

Discussion took place on 2 separate issues concerning enforcement and the Clerk was advised on the response to go to Bredhurst Parish Council and was asked to refer the other issue to the Enforcement Officer.

The chairman thanked Councillor Pepper and Council Stead for their service to the Environment Committee and for their hard work and support.

Meeting closed 8.56 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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