

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 3rd September 2012 at
European School of Osteopathy, Boxley commencing at 9.43 p.m.**

Councillors present –Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr K Perry, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk and Mr D Holmes.

1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

Cllr Wendy Hinder notified members that she had been lobbied on item 4.

2. Apologies and absences

Not adjourned as there were no members of the public present.

3. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

3.1 MA/12/1078 Erection of a single storey side extension at 12 Olivine Close, Walderslade. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consulting with Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Ivor Davies, Cllr P Brooks.

Do not wish to object. However members have concerns that this further addition to the original footprint constitutes over-development of the site and also it will have a detrimental impact on the street scene when looking into and out from the cul-de-sac at the side of the property.

3.2 MA/12/1218 Alteration to external appearance at level 3/Roof level of existing building to facilitate conversion of plant/storage areas into office accommodation at The Maidstone Studios, New Cut Road, ME14 5NZ. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consulting with Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Ivor Davies.

Do not wish to object.

3.3 MA/12/1234 Listed building consent to remove feather edge boarding and replace with treated stained boards to same profile at Barn Cottage, Boxley Road, Boxley ME14 3DN. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting with Cllr Wendy Hinder.

Do not wish to object.

3.4 MA/12/1326 Variation of condition 10 of planning permission MA/11/1349 (The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans 1540.PO.11 & 12 received 9/8/11 and 1540.PO.10 Rev A and 14 Rev A received 10/10/11) being alterations to fenestration, enlargement of chimney, finished floor level increased BY 300mm and repositioning of garage at Glenside, Boxley Road, Walderslade ME5 9JE. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting with Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Ivor Davies

Do not wish to object

3.5 TA/0085/12 application to reduce crown by 60% to 5m above ground level of 2 Ash Trees at Sandhurst, Grove Green Road, ME14 5JT. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Perry.

Make the following comments but defer to the Landscape Officer's view; concern about the proposed 60% reduction which seems excessive

3.6 TA/0090/12 application to reduce crown of 3 Hornbeams by 30% at 2 Olivine Close ME5 9NQ. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Perry.

Do not wish to object but defer to the Landscape Officer's view.

3.7 TA/0102/12 - Application to crown lift to 6m and thin canopy by 15% 2 Hornbeam and re-coppice 1 Hornbeam at 8 Round Wood Close, Walderslade ME5 9UL. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Perry.

Make the following comments but defer to the Landscape Officer's view; concern as no reason identified as to why the work needs to be done.

3.8 MA/12/1390 Erection of a single storey side extension at 20 Spenlow Drive, Walderslade ME5 9JT.

Do not wish to object but concerns as the development is right up to the boundary. Do not wish the application reported to the Planning Committee.

3.9 MA/12/1424 Erection of a two storey side extension at 27 Silver Tree Close, Walderslade, ME5 9ST.

Do not wish to object.

3.10 TA/0046/12 - Tree Preservation Order application: TPONo.2 of 1991 an application for consent to cut back all branches of all trees overhanging 11 Wents Wood at 11 Wents Wood, Weaving, ME14 5BL.

Do not wish to object but defer to the Landscape Officer's view.

3.11 TA/0114/12 - An application for consent to prune back to boundary overhanging branches of three Maple Trees, two Ash Trees, one Hazel and Leyland Cypress; all trees being subject to Tree Preservation Order number 24 of 1987 at 4 & 5 Greenways, Grove Green, Weaving ME14 5JU.

Do not wish to object but defer to the Landscape Officer's view. Concern was raised that the application had no indication of the quantity of the work being requested.

3.12 TA/0121/12 - Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No.2 of 2001: an application for consent for works to trees as described in application TA/0121/12 at Heath Wood, Sandy Lane, Penenden Heath ME14 3DJ.

Do not wish to object but defer to the Landscape Officer's view, please note that this area may not be in the parish boundary.

4. KCC vegetation maintenance.

The Chairman notified members of the number of complaints that were being received about the lack of vegetation maintenance by KCC Highways Department. It was a particular problem in the North Ward due to the woods etc. but there were also problems in the South Ward especially in the rural areas. Discussion took place on what could be done and the Clerk was asked to obtain the KCC policy on what was deemed safety critical. Members **agreed** that the Council might have to become more proactive in trying to get extra cuts. It was also suggested that perhaps the Council, being mindful of the current financial situation, could create a priority areas list so that these could be targeted. Cllr Bob Hinder suggested that this could be an issue taken to the Maidstone JTB. It was agreed that this needed to be discussed further

5. Next Meeting.

Next Environment meeting 10th September 2012 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 10.08.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

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