

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on Wednesday 4th April 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present – Mr M Pepper (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr I Davies, Mr V Davies, Mrs W Hinder, Mrs K Macklin, Mr G Smith, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, Mr W Stead, Mr P Sullivan, and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk, PCSO Hawthorn (left at item 6), 12 member of the public and 2 members of the press.

1. Apologies and absences.

Cllr Harwood (work commitment), Cllr Hinder (Bredhurst PC meeting) and Cllr Perry (work).

2. Declaration of Interests or Lobbying.

All members declared that they had been lobbied on Round Wood (item 6). Cllr Stead reminded members that he was Vice Chair of KALC.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 5th March 2012

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

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2377/10.3 Energy. **Agreed** the issue to be returned to agenda when MBC produced a document for consultation.

4.2 Minute 2385/4.1 concurrent functions. Update **noted**.

4.3 Minute 2385/4.2 Parking, Grove Green. **Noted** due to a recent incident dealt with by Cllr Wendy Hinder the Chairman did not contact the studios. **No further action unless further parking issues are reported.**

4.4 Minute 2385/10.1 Annual meeting of the Parish. **Noted** the cost of hiring the atrium at the ESO. After discussion it was **agreed**, Cllr Smith proposed, Cllr Springate seconding (8 for, 3 against, 1 abstention) that Beechen Hall would be booked for 9th May 2012 with a meeting start time of 8.00 pm. **Action** – parish office.

4.5 Minute 2385/4.7 School crossing dedication. **Noted** it had not proved possible to arrange a mutually convenient date for the dedication and so a press release would be issued. Also **noted** that a photograph and an article had been in the April Downs Mail.

5 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.

Noted and **received** the crime statistics. PCSO Hawthorn notified the meeting that he was trying to organise speed checks on Sandling Road and Lidsing Road. He was monitoring Pilgrims Way/Boxley Warren due to the recent increase in motorbike usage, he was asked to investigate Walderslade Woods which was also being targeted by motorbike riders.

Discussion took place on the issue of speed and lorry access along Westfield Sole Road. PCSO Hawthorn also informed the meeting that he was no longer covering Bredhurst Parish.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.52pm. Members of the public gave further information on the recent appearance of motorbikes in Walderslade Woods. The Chairman explained how item 6 Round Wood would be dealt with and various members of the public spoke in favour of protecting the land with village green status. Clarification was given on the legal status of Voluntary Village Green submission. The Chairman thanked the Walderslade Woods Group for its hard work in the woods.

The meeting was notified by member of the public that there had been a recent incident when a bus did not stop at the A229 bus stop. The issue had been taken up with the bus company and the response had been that a mistake had been made. The village would continue to monitor the situation. The meeting reconvened at 8.05 pm.

In view of the confidential nature (financially sensitive) on the item about to be transacted, a resolution for the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the

duration of or for part of the item was passed.

6 **Round Wood.**

Members discussed the report received from KCC.

Members of the public and press were invited back into the meeting.

Discussion took place on whether to proceed with working with KCC; the length of time that had passed; WWG wish to see village green status; what KCC would do if the Parish Council withdrew from the 'project'; how such a withdrawal should be 'managed' etc. Cllr Springate proposed, Cllr Macklin seconded a resolution "**Unless KCC agrees to submit a Voluntary Village Green application for all of the Walderslade Woods excluding the land adjacent to Wildfell Close (map B The site) Boxley Parish Council will approach the KCC Commons Registration Unit to reinstate its Round Wood Village Green Application, which includes the land at Wildfell Close. Deadline for submission of the application 29th June 2012**". It was **agreed** (9 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions), the chairman to send a letter to County Councillor Carter to explain the decision.
Action – Cllr Pepper.

7 **Draft Minutes of Meetings since Previous Parish Council Meetings.**

Received and **noted** the draft minutes of

- 7.1 Environment meeting 5th March 2012.
- 7.2 Environment meeting 12th March 2012.
- 7.3 Finance Committee 13th March 2012.

8 **Finance.**

- 8.1 **Noted** payments made out of meeting 06.03.12 – 27.03.12. Appendix A
- 8.2 **Noted** receipts for the period 28.02.12 – 27.03.12. Appendix B
- 8.3 **Noted** account balances as at 27.03.12. Appendix C
- 8.4 **Authorised** payment of accounts. Appendix D.
- 8.5 **Noted** members are reminded that they should not sign blank cheques or authorisation letters; when signing cheques they are required to check invoices against cheque details and cheque stubs need to be initialled by both signatories. They must also keep their register of interests updated.

9 **Matters for Decision.**

- 9.1 **Noted**, but no action, KCC Parish Council Legal Scheme.
- 9.2 Members **received** the request to consider being proactive in land purchasing. **Agreed** issue to be deferred to Estates Committee. **Action** – Estates Committee June agenda.
- 9.3 MBC Civic Parade Sunday 20/05/12. Interested Councillors to contact the parish office. **Action** – Councillors.

10 **Powers of competence.**

Agreed defer to another meeting. Members asked for a fuller briefing note. **Action** – parish office.

11 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**

Cllr Hinder notified that the meeting that due to election rules she would not give a report.

12 **Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard.**

Members **received** an update on the situation concerning ordering of equipment etc. **Noted** the opening would be on the 31st May 2012 and the Clerk was suggesting the setting up of a small focus group with other councillors being asked to be on working groups. The Clerk would be sending out a briefing note concerning the arrangements etc. **Action** – Clerk.

13 **Policies and Procedures Review.**

- 13.1 **Approved** Vision and Business plan.

13.2 Standing Orders, Terms of Reference and Financial Regulations. The Chairman proposed that the minor amendments (dealing with Councillors Allowances being paid by Standing Order) be adopted, **unanimously agreed**.

14 Reports from councillors/office.

Members **received** and **noted** the reports.

14.1 Cobtree Park, report from Cllr Smith. Clerk to clarify situation with regards to the plaque. **Action** – Clerk.

14.2 Kent Police Liaison meeting report from Cllr Stead.

14.3 KALC meeting, report from Cllr Pepper.

14.4 Lord Lieutenants' Civic Service, report from Cllr Smith.

14.5 Vinters Valley Nature Reserve 21st Birthday celebrations, report from Cllr Victor Davies.

14.6 Sandling VH Committee. Report from Cllr Stead. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Stead concerning Deed and Constitution. **Action** – Clerk.

As it was 9.30 pm the Chairman used his devolved power to extend the meeting for a further 30 minutes.

15 Parish Council Carbon Footprint

It was **agreed**, as most of the impact was made by Beechen Hall, to defer the report to the Estates Committee. **Action** – Estates Committee agenda.

16 Matters for Information.

16.1 Spring edition of the Watchout newsletter, West Kent NHWA.

16.2 ACRK Rural News 144.

16.3 Open Space magazine for Spring 2012.

16.4 Olympic torch. The torch's movement from Maidstone to Medway will be via convoy so it won't be 'in' the parish.

16.5 KWT March newsletter.

16.6 Stakeholder Newsletter issued by the Kent Police Authority.

16.7 Heart of Kent Hospice – thank you letter.

16.8 CPRE Countryside Voice Spring 2012 edition.

17 Next Meeting.

Monday 14th May 2012 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close at 7.30 pm.

18 Chairman's report.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and the parish office for their support in the past 10 years. He extended best wishes to everyone for the elections. Cllr Stead notified members that he had decided not to stand for re-election and also gave his thanks for everyone's support.

In view of the confidential nature (tenders) on the item about to be transacted, a resolution for the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the item was passed.

19 Orchard tenders.

After consideration of the tenders it was proposed by Cllr Stead seconded by Cllr Vic Davies that the lowest tender (Maidstone Borough Council) be accepted **agreed** (with Cllr Wendy Hinder abstaining).

Meeting closed at 9.43 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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