

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 6th February 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, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate and Mr W Stead together with the Clerk, 1 member of the public and Mr Court (who left after item 4).

1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

All members declared that they had been lobbied on item 11.2 and on MA/10/2185.

2. Apologies and absences

Cllr Pepper (holiday), Cllr Perry (holiday) and Cllr Waller (snow bound).

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 9th January 2011.

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

The meeting was not adjourned as no members of the public wished to speak.

4. Cowbeck Woods.

Mr Court agent of the landowners was welcomed to the meeting and he explained that he was there to open a dialogue with the Council to see what the community required (low cost housing, open space etc.) to see if there was a possibility that these needs could be met if any development plans were put forward. Mr Court assured members that there were currently no actual plans being produced as there was a need to explore the situation before this. After discussion, where members identified their general concern, it was agreed that a copy of the Council's wish list and allotments report would be provided to Mr Court and he was asked to provide a map of the area that he was referring to. **Action** – office. Mr Court was thanked for attending and the opportunity given to the Council.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

5.1 Minute 2367/4.2 inconsiderate parking Walderslade Village/Boxley Road. **Noted** a response from Medway Council was still awaited and the Clerk was asked to send a reminder. **Action** – office.

5.2 Minute 2367/4.4 Walderslade Woods road/A2045 the report was **noted** and Cllr Davies **agreed** no further action.

5.3 Minute 2369/9 Double Yellow lines at Orbit Close. **Noted** the next batch of restrictions will be progressed by MBC in the summer. A diary entry will be made to follow this up and if necessary return it to the agenda.

6. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

6.1 MA/10/2185 Change of use of existing buildings from agricultural/equestrian use to educational and leisure use (County headquarters for Kent Scouts) with retention of existing residential use of White Cottages for on-site manager, together with associated operational development including extensions and alterations to the existing buildings, erection of new building to house climbing wall and formation of car parking areas at White Cottage, Grange Lane, Sandling. *Wished to see approved.*

6.2 MA/11/0791 (amended details) erection of 2.4m high green mesh fencing to site boundary and around tennis court and erection of front entrance gates and walls at The Oaks, Westfield Sole Road, Walderslade.

Wish to see refused and reported to the Planning Committee. The Parish Council welcomed the change in the proposed landscaping to hedgerows and ivy however this does not remove the main objection which is that Westfield Sole Road has a rural setting and the impact of this structure (this being a retrospective planning application) due to the height and design is considered detrimental to the street scene.

6.3 MA/11/2023 Erection of B8 storage and distribution..... at Brooklyn Yard, Chatham Road, Sandling. **Ratified** the Clerks decision to respond, after discussion with members, *Noted*.

6.4 MA/11/2023 Erection of B8 storage and distribution..... at Brooklyn Yard, Chatham Road, Sandling. Amended details – bat survey and crested newts report, which deals with the plan to move the newts to Allington Castle. *Noted*

6.5 MA/11/2034 Erection of a conservatory to the south elevation of dwelling and erection of a detached tractor/implement store at Arran Bank Stables, Dunn Street, Bredhurst.

Do not wish to object however there is concern that the site is being developed beyond the original application for a dwelling for a site manager. The building of a detached tractor/implement store is further encroachment into the AONB.

6.6 MA/11/2143 Application for erection of a conservatory at Chandos, Harbourland Close. *Do not wish to object.*

6.7 MA/12/0021 Application to remove condition 2* of planning permission MA/11/0242 at Plot 4, Eclipse Park, Sittingbourne Road, Maidstone.

Do not wish to comment.

6.8 MA/12/0022 Application to remove condition 2* of planning permission of MA/11/0227 at Eclipse Park, Sittingbourne Road, Maidstone.

Do not wish to comment.

6.9 MA/12/0101 Provision of a bunded fuel tank at Travis Perkins Cobtree House, Forstal Road. *Do not wish to object.*

6.10 TA/0001/12 –TPO No.1 of 1969 an application for consent to reduce canopy of 1 oak tree 33% and fell 1 oak tree at The Oaks, 6 Longwood, Walderslade.

Part approved and part refused. Wish to see felling refused due to the environmental importance of Oak trees. If the officer is minded to agree with the felling then wish to see the application reported to the Planning Committee.

Will accept reasonable canopy management of the trees.

6.11 TA/0009/12 – TPO No.1 of 1969 and application for consent to fell No.1 Hornbeam at 8 Orbit Close, Walderslade.

Do not wish to object defer to the Landscape Officer's views

7. **Planning applications taken to Planning Committee.**

7.1 **Noted** Planning rota – Cllr Ivor Davies 8th March and Cllr Pepper 19th April 2012.

7.2 MA/11/1965 erection of 7no dwellings comprising 3no 3 bedded dwellings and 4no 2 bed houses at Penhurst Close, Grove Green. Cllr Brooks report was **received**.

8. **Planning Applications and appeals decisions.**

Noted

MA/11/1349	GRANTED	MA/11/1970	GRANTED
MA/11/1992	GRANTED	MA/11/1976	GRANTED
MA/11/2000	GRANTED	MA/11/2022	GRANTED
TA/0192/11	GRANTED	KCC/MA/0517/11	GRANTED

9. **Strategy for dealing with highway issues not receiving KHS funding.**

After discussion members **agreed** a basis for a strategy and the Clerk was asked to bring a draft to the next meeting. The draft to be based on the street maintenance policy that: the work was relevant; it benefited a number of residents rather than one resident; the gain was commensurate with the expenditure; it was not just a cosmetic issue; it was work that KHS felt was needed etc. Part of the procedure was also to be notification to Paul Carter. **Action** – agenda.

10. **Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group**

Members' **received** a report on the group and the December AGM.

11. **Highways and Byways.**

- 11.1 Highway verge Gleamingwood Drive. After discussion it was **agreed** that the first step would be a letter to residents asking them not to park on the verge and if this persisted then thought would be given to paying for bollards to be installed.
- 11.2 Styles Lane hedge maintenance. After discussion it was **agreed** that the residents letter would be responded to with the information requested but that the Council would not consider paying for or to the costs. Members' asked that the residents be assured that whilst the flailing initially looked terrible this soon passed.
- 11.3 **Welcomed** and **received** the Highway Stewards report on white lining and maintenance work planned.
- 11.4 Cossington Lane/Beechmore Drive private road sign. Members expressed concern that the sign (which was inaccurate) was stopping walkers using the road to get access to Walderslade Woods. After discussion it **agreed** to explore the possibility of erecting a footpath sign/marker on the verge. Any costs to be met from the street maintenance budget. **Action** – office.
- 11.5 Replacement Tree Beechmore Drive. **Noted** that due to site related problems **no further action would be taken.**
Cllr Davies asked whether to commemorate the Jubilee whether a flag pole could be installed at the hall. **Agreed** issue would be referred to Estates Committee. **Action** – Estates Committee.
- 11.6 **Noted** land request: MBC is asking land owners, agents and public bodies if they know of any suitable land or have any land that they wish to sell for Public Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- 11.7 Lordswood alleyways. After discussion it was **agreed** that the Parish Council would consider writing to residents about flytipping issues but would not become involved in the gating and planning issues that were surrounding the alleyways. It was recognised that these were privately owned alleyways and not defined footpaths.
- 11.8 Parking restrictions. **Noted** MBC have received a resident's request that parking restrictions be placed down Chatham Road, Sandling. MBC were undertaking an assessment. Members asked that the Clerk ensure that the Parish Council received consultation on any suggested lines. **Action** – office.
- 11.9 Land ownership Walderslade Woods. The Clerk notified members of a growing issue concerning land ownership at Walderslade. Members **noted** the situation and it was suggested that the Council carry out Land Registry searched if it was felt that it would be helpful.

12. **Policy and procedures review.**

- 12.1 BPC wish list 2012 members **agreed** the list and format but asked that allotments be specifically mentioned under the a general title.
- 12.2 Street Maintenance and policy and pro forma deferred to next meeting. **Action** – agenda.

13. **Matters for information.**

Members were notified that it appeared that the legal work to classify 2 footpaths in the Walderslade Woods as PROW may not have been completed as they were not included on the definitive map. The Clerk would be investigating this with KCC.

14. **Next Meeting.**

Next environment meetings 5th and 12th March 2012 (full) at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

Noted no information had been received.

Meeting closed 9.55 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

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