

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 9th January 2012 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.33 p.m.

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

1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

Cllr Ivor Davies reminded members that he was the Secretary of Walderslade Woods Group and that he would not take part in discussions on item 8.

Cllr Pepper notified members that he was predetermined on TA/0209/11 and so would not be voting.

2. Apologies and absences

Cllr Spain (convalescing)

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 5th and 12th December 2011.

The minutes of the meeting, with the addition of Cllr Stead in the attendance list of the 5th December meeting, were **agreed** and **signed** as a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2361/4.1 Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Road speed limit reduction. Members received the 2 updates and **agreed** that the KCC decision that the work would only be programmed after all KCC work had been completed was not acceptable. Members asked that clarification be obtained as soon as possible on the questions raised and that Cllr Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member, be advised of the situation. **Action** – office.

4.2 Minute 2361/4.2 inconsiderate parking Walderslade Village/Boxley Road. **Noted** no further reply had been received from Cllr Brake. It was agreed that another letter, would be sent to the Leader of Medway with the Police also receiving a similar letter. **Action** - Cllr Pepper.

4.3 Minute 2361/4.3 Flytipping letter Lordswood. Parish office will liaise with resident and PCSO concerning delivery of the letter.

4.4 Minute 2364/11.1 Walderslade Woods road reduction in speed limit. **Noted** Clerk was investigating whether Cllr Carter might be interested in allocating some of his devolved highway budget to gradually get the work.

Cllr Ivor Davies suggested that for clarity, the A2045 Walderslade Woods (road) should have its name amended to Walderslade Woods Road, **agreed**. Cllr Davies also requested that in future reports/agenda it is always referred to as Walderslade Woods Road A2045. **Action** – office.

4.5 KIMS development, Grove Green. **Noted the** website would be live when the work was about to commence.

The meeting was not adjourned as no members of the public were in attendance.

5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

5.1 MA/11/1349 Ecological Report regarding the site. Erection of 1no replacement dwelling with detached garage and associated works at Glenside, Boxley Road, Walderslade. **Ratified** the Clerks decision to respond *report noted*.

5.2 MA/11/1965 erection of 7no dwellings comprising 3no 3 bedded dwellings and 4no 2 bed houses at Penhurst Close, Grove Green. **Ratified** the Clerks response, after consultation with Committee members, *Wish to see refused (and reported to the Planning Committee) due to the:*

- *Loss of designated open space,*
- *No identified housing need,*
- *This is a green field site which, contrary to the ecological report, does have reptiles living on it.*
- *The height of the proposed development would be detrimental to the street scene.*

- *Failure to supply adequate off street car parking (there is only one visitor car parking space for 7 dwellings would result in on street car parking which would be a safety issue for pedestrians.*

The provision of the small green area planted with crab apple trees would have no benefit to the community as the site is fenced in.

MBC has been notified that the Parish Council did not receive a formal consultation and a message was left for the planning officer.

5.3 MA/11/2106 Conversion of garage to a habitable room at 53 Harvesters Way, Maidstone.
Do not wish to object.

5.4 MA/11/2110 Outline application for the erection of a building for B1, B2, B8 and or vehicular showroom use with access to be considered at this time and all other matters reserved for future consideration at Travis Perkins Trading Co Ltd, Cobtree House, Forstal Road, Aylesford.

Do not wish to object but concerns regarding additional HGV traffic on Forstal Road.

5.5 MA/11/2111 Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide a new builders merchant trade counter (B1c,B2,B8) units along with vehicular storage, access, service road and parking at Travis Perkins Trading Co Ltd, Cobtree House, Forstal Road, Aylesford.

Do not wish to object but has the following comments:

- *There is concern about the additional HGV traffic on Forstal Road.*
- *There is concern that waste from any work ending up in the River Medway so the Planning Officer is asked to ensure that there are adequate conditions to ensure this does not happen.*
- *Supports the inclusion of a green roof.*
- *Paperwork included with the application states that there is no towpath at the rear of the site however there is a concrete path (adjacent to the river) that is a PROW and it is vitally important that this remains. The plans show that it is not being fenced in but the Planning Officer is asked to satisfy themselves that this is protected.*

5.6 MA/11/2131 single storey front extension at 1 Elm Tree Cottage, Lidsing Road, Gillingham.
Do not wish to object.

5.7 MA/11/2140 temporary siting of 2 storage containers (for a 5 year period) 6m long by 2.5 m wide and 2.5 m high. Replacement of boundary fence and field gate at Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling.

Do not wish to object, would like to see that the containers 'blended' into the landscape to mitigate their impact.

5.8 MA/11/2177 Erection of first floor side extension at 22 Restharrow Road, Maidstone.
Do not wish to object.

5.9 KCC/MA/0517/2011 1 additional floor to approved depot office comprising office rooms and WC facilities at KCC Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close.
Do not wish to object.

5.10 TA/0205/11 TPO No1 of 1969, application for consent to fell 1 Hornbeam and 1 Field Maple at 14 Iris Close, Walderslade.

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

5.11 TA/0209/11 Application for works to trees, to crown reduce G1 (Hornbeam) and G2 (Hornbeam x 2) by 30% at 10 Travertine Road, Walderslade.

Cllr Pepper having been pre-determined answered a question concerning location but made no further comment.

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

5.12 TA/0211/11 – Application for works to trees subject to TPO No 2 of 2001 works being to carry out coppicing of all Sweet Chestnuts in Heath Wood as shown on plan received 19 December 2011.

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

5.13 MA/11/2000 advertisement consent for the installation of 4 internally illuminated fascia signs, 1 non-illuminated fascia sign, 3 flag pole signs and 3 internally illuminated free standing signs at Former Veglios Hotel Site, J6 M20, Forstal Road. Aylesford. Members **agreed** they did not require this application to be reported to the MBC Planning Committee.

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

Noted planning rota, Cllr Stead 5th January 2012. Cllr Spain 26th January 2012, if not available then Cllrs Brooks would cover.

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

MA/11/1572	GRANTED	MA/11/1428	GRANTED	MA/10/1028	REFUSED
MA/11/0203	REFUSED	MA/11/0149	GRANTED	MA/11/0227	GRANTED
MA/11/0242	GRANTED	MA/11/0342	GRANTED	MA/11/0755	GRANTED
MA/10/2065	GRANTED	MA/11/0759	GRANTED	MA/11/0779	REFUSED
MA/11/0953	GRANTED	MA/11/0954	GRANTED	MA/11/1105	GRANTED
MA/11/1759	GRANTED	MA/11/1195	GRANTED	MA/11/1310	GRANTED*
MA/11/0333	GRANTED	MA/11/1765	GRANTED	TA/0169/11	GRANTED

8. **Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group**

Cllr Springate reported that the Group had not recently met but 5 members of the group would be attending, along with Vinters Valley Nature Reserve volunteers, a specifically designed first aid course covering their work needs.

After discussion on the restrictions on expenditure the Chairman proposed **“that the £30 per item ceiling be removed and the group would be allowed to work within their grant allocation. The issue to be returned to the committee if there are any concerns/problems”**. **Agreed** with one abstention (Cllr Davies).

9. **Highways and Byways.**

Double yellow lines Orbit Close junction with hospital entrance. **Noted** MBC would submit the proposal for funding. **Agreed** the office would monitor the situation and if funding was not allocated the issue will be returned to the committee. Clerk to advise members of timetable for awarding funding.

10. **KCC Consultation - Household waste recycling centre service.**

The report was **received** and responses were **agreed**. It was acknowledged that north ward residents would have serious problems if access to Medway sites was removed and it was **agreed** that Cllr Paul Carter should be informed of the concerns. The need to notify residents of the consultation was identified and this would be taken up with the office. **Action** – office.

11. **Policy and procedures review.**

Minute 2364/12 Boxley PC wish list 2012. Members asked for some minor amendments to the spread sheet but agreed in principle to the new format. **Action** Cllr Pepper to resubmit spread sheet to the committee.

12. **Review of 2011/12 Projects.**

Noted all original projects have been completed. An additional project, speed reduction Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Road, had been added and this was still on going. **Agreed** if not completed in this financial year then the cost for the work would be carried over to 2012/13 financial year.

13. **Matters for information.**

- 13.1 Vinters Valley LNR Wardens' report **received and welcomed**. Members requested that a thank you letter be sent for all his and the volunteers hard work. He was also to be thanked for his report which members greatly enjoyed,
- 13.2 **Noted** CPRE Planning e-learning course now available, details from parish office.

14 **Next Meeting.**

Next environment meetings 6th February 2012 (full) at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

Noted no update was received.

Meeting closed 9.05 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

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