

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Thursday 1 August 2013 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 P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr A Springate and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk and two representatives from Kitewood.

1. **Apologies and absences**

Cllr Holmes (work) and Cllr Spain (holiday).

2. **Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.**

There were none.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 3 June and 8 July 2013.**

The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

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

4. **Land of Impton Lane.**

The Chairman invited the representative of Kitewood to address members on the ideas that they had for developing their land at the West junction of Impton Lane and Walderslade Woods Road.

It was explained that the original idea of a Scout Hall or Community Home were now not considered feasible and so Kitewood was investigating the possibility of a smaller development, perhaps age restricted, of bungalows. Two plans were shown to members and general discussion took place on various issues including:

- Whether there was a need for gardens.
- The need for adequate parking provisions.
- Whether an age restriction on property ownership was good or unfair and the need for mixed or starter homes for young people.
- Protection of trees and gifting of parcels of land to the parish council.
- Access to or the lack of local facilities.

It was **agreed** that it was a good exchange of views and that the parish council would await further information. The Chairman thanked Kitewood for attending.

5. **Matters Arising From Minutes.**

5.1 Minute 2553/5.1 Maidstone Studios: **Noted** Maidstone Studios had confirmed that they will use the electronic signs to warn of events and congestion but declined the request to place a board at the entrance.

5.2 Minute 2553/5.2 Quad bike: **Noted and agreed** five entrances at the open space can have measures put in place to slow down bikes. The parish council will cover the cost of installation (£1,679) with MBC purchasing/supplying materials etc. (£2,092). As the cost to BPC was within the budget of £1,800 the work has been authorised.

5.3 Minute 2553/5.3 Community Infrastructure Levy: **Noted and agreed** Maidstone KALC will be taking this up with MBC. This item will be returned to the agenda as the situation develops or changes. **Action - office.**

5.4 Minute 2545/7.1 Neighbourhood Area consultation: **Noted** this closed on 23 July and a report is now produced for an MBC Committee to consider adopting the Neighbourhood Area.

5.5 Minute 2546/12.2 Changes to Permitted Development Legislation for businesses. **Noted** a summary will be included in the September agenda. **Action - office.**

5.6 Minute 2554/9.1 Local Green Spaces and historic sites. **Noted and agreed** details of the parish council's concerns had been sent to the Opposition Party at MBC and Maidstone KALC was also investigating the issue. This item will be returned to the agenda as the situation develops or changes. **Action - office.**

5.7 Minute 2554/9.2 Land south of Forstal Road: **Noted and agreed** the Cobtree Trust Committee agreed in principle to the submission of the land as a potential

development site. This item will be returned to the agenda as the situation develops or changes. **Action - office.**

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

6.1 MA/13/0274 An application for the conversion of church hall to dwelling at Boxley Church Hall, The Street, Boxley. *Do not wish to object.*

6.2 MA/13/0857 Erection of a garage roof extension and installation of rear dormer window at 3 Mayfield Close, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object.*

6.3 MA/13/0910 An application for a side extension to ground and first floors including conversion of part of existing garage to living accommodation at 18 Olivine Close, Walderslade.

*Do not wish to object, but concern raised about the design of the rear windows which appear out of keeping with the design of the surrounding properties.*

6.4 MA/13/1143 Variation of Condition 6 of MA/09/1569 to allow generator testing to be carried out on the third Saturday of each month for a period of four hours between 0900 hours and 1300 hours only and at no other time, for a temporary period of 18 months at Computer Sciences Corporation, Pegasus Place, Lodge Road.

*Wish to see the application **refused** for the planning reasons set out below but **do not request** the application is reported to the Planning Committee.*

*Reason for refusal: The impact on the surrounding residential properties and to the public using Vinters Valley Nature Reserve. The original condition was put in place due to the adverse impact on the local area and it is considered that 18 months is too long a period to be termed temporary.*

6.5 MA/13/1158 Erection of a single storey rear conservatory at 78 Chatham Road, Sandling. *Do not wish to object.*

6.6 MA/13/1163 Outline application for the development of a medical campus comprising up to 98sqm of additional floor space (including additional hospital facilities, clinics, consultation rooms and a rehabilitation centre (classes C2/D1) education and training facility at Newnham Park, Bearsted Road, Weaving.

*Do not wish to object however the parish council has concerns over;*

- *The increase in traffic and the ability of the local area to cope with this.*
- *Insufficient on-site parking provision in the outline plan.*
- *Water run-off and any adverse impact on the stream that runs through the site and which serves Vinters Valley Nature Reserve.*

*It also wishes to highlight*

- *The impact on the park & ride and the need to improve public transport to the area.*
- *The need for sustainability and the lack of renewable energy suggestions for the site.*

6.7 MA/13/1251 Erection of a first floor extension and porch and conversion of part of garage to habitable accommodation at 8 Grey Wethers, Sandling.

*Do not wish to object.*

6.8 TA/0099/13 Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No.1 of 1969: an application for consent to reduce height by 30% and reduce crown spread by 30% of 3 Hornbeams, 1 silver birch, 1 crab apple and 1 maple tree at 6 Travertine Road, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object, defer to the Landscape Officer's views.*

6.9 TA/0100/13 Application for consent to lift canopy by removing trunk suckers to a height of 4m from ground level to 1no Hornbeam, to remove trunk suckers to the first main fork at 5m from ground level, remove three lowest branches overhanging the garage roofs and crown thin 1no English Oak by 15% and to re-coppice Hazel at 22

Spenlow Drive, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object, defer to the Landscape Officer's views.*

6.10 TA/0105/13 Application for consent to fell one Hornbeam at 26 Alexandra Glen, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object, defer to the Landscape Officer's views.*

7. **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions**

None submitted.

8. **Matters for information.**

Street Farm, The Street, Boxley. **Noted** development has started but a number of non-compliance issues have come to light and these have been reported by the parish office to the relevant authorities and the situation will be monitored. **Action - office.**

9. **Next Meeting.**

Next full environment meeting 9 September 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 30 August 2013.

Meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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