

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 15th April 2013 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.32 p.m.

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

1. Apologies and absences

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

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 11th March 2013.

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

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2506/4.7 Maidstone Studios: The chairman updated members with the information that she was in contact with MBC and would also be contacting KCC about using the interactive traffic signs to warn of an event at the studios. It was suggested that Maidstone Studios could contact the AA about event signs. **Action: chairman.**

4.2 Minute 2520/9.2 Quad bikes: Members were notified that this was in hand and a couple of designs for creating a pinch point would be submitted to the residents and MBC to get their opinions. **Action: Clerk.**

4.3 Minute 2520/12 Community Infrastructure Levy: No response to the request to have this on the KAPC Area Committee has yet been received. **Action: Clerk to chase.**

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

5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

5.1 MA/13/0038 – Erection of a single storey side extension (amendments to MA/12/1939) at 12 Olivine Close, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object.*

5.2 MA/13/0369 – Part garage conversion, pitched roofed front porch, and shower room extension with flat roof at 1 Meadowdown, Weavinging. *Do not wish to object.*

5.3 MA/13/0389 – Application for a new permission to replace an extant planning permission for B1 and B2 development to include the renewal of the extant reserved matters approvals for plots 6, 7 & 8 (MA/01/0249/05, MA/01/0249/06 and MA/01/0249/07 respectively) at Eclipse Park, Sittingbourne, Kent. *Do not wish to object.*

5.4 MA/13/0396 erection of steel railings and entrance gates to existing front wall at 5 Bracken Hill, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object.*

5.5 MA/13/0405 First floor front extension at 15 Greensands, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object.*

5.6 MA/13/0409 First floor extension over garage at 1 The Medlars, Grove Green. *Do not wish to object.*

5.7 MA/13/0421 Erection of single storey rear extension at 22 Horseshoe Close, Weavinging. *Do not wish to object.*

5.8 MA/13/0430 Alterations and extensions at Riverside Cottage, Sandling. *Do not wish to object.*

5.9 MA/13/0436 Amendment to MA/11/2111 (demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide a new builders merchant, trade counter units along with vehicular storage, access, service road and parking) being the repositioning of building and parking area and alterations including rearrangement of windows, canopy and entrance ramp at Cleansing Services Group, Forstal Road. *Do not wish to object.*

5.10 MA/13/0452 Erection of single storey rear extension at 14 Forestdale Road, Chatham, Kent. *Do not wish to object.*

Office to send the applicant a construction traffic management information leaflet.
Action: office.

5.11 TA/0028/13 Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No 1 of 1969: application for consent to fell one willow, 3 sweet chestnut and one ash tree, coppice one group of sweet chestnuts and prune back one sweet chestnut by approximately 2-2.5m at 6 Sandstone Rise, Walderslade.

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

5.12 TA/0042/13 Conservation area notification of intention to crown lift 2 Yew over highway to give clearance of 5m and crown reduce 12 Yew by 15% at Yew Trees House, The Street, Boxley.

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

6. Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions

6.1 MBC Planning Committee Chairman response to issues raised by comments at his meeting when application MA/12/1629 was considered: It was **agreed** that the response received did not address certain issues and that a Freedom of Information request would be submitted to MBC to ascertain the cost of the referral to the MBC Planning Committee. **Action: Clerk.**

6.2 Planning responses made by the Environment Committee: Members considered the suggestions in the report and **agreed;**

- If the committee's request for a condition is not included in the planning officer's recommendation then members' of the MBC Planning Committee would be individually notified of the request for the condition and asked to ensure it is included in any permission.
- Whilst each planning application will be considered on its own merits where possible the Environment Committee will try to ensure that residents are fully aware of the strict planning regulations that exist. The parish council's planning leaflet to be reviewed to ensure it provides an accurate explanation.
- MBC will be approached to suggest that as part of the officer and Borough Councillor planning training it would be valuable to have a presentation from a parish council to explain where it fits into the system.

Action: Clerk.

6.3 Bredhurst Nursery application to vary condition 11 [*to allow use by teams other than football teams based in the parishes of Bredhurst or Boxley*] of MA/04/1503. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN BY PLANNING INSPECTORATE, **noted.**

6.4 Proposed construction of 2 classroom extension and internal alteration etc. at St John's CofE Primary School, Grove Green. GRANTED, **noted.**

7. Neighbourhood Development Plans.

7.1 An update on the current situation and Cllr Dengate's report were **received.** It was **agreed** that the site submission land and a questionnaire for committee members to give comments on each site would be issued. Cllr Davies would collate the responses and present the information to the working group. It was **noted** that a meeting of the working group followed after this meeting. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Davies.**

7.2 Erosion of green spaces, ancient woodland, water issues etc. Members' **noted** the problem in getting MBC to agree to consider areas for classification as Local Green Space. Cllr Dengate highlighted the need to get involved in the movement to protect existing areas. It was **agreed** that CPRE and ACRK newsletters would be

provided to committee members so that they could give suggestions for publicity and parish council involvement. **Action: Councillors and office.**

8. **Volunteer Groups.**

Reports were received from;

Rob Burrows, WWG Chairman: including a briefing on KCC's query on the right of the group to work in the woodlands. It was **noted** that the group were working with the Clerk to prove the existence and extent of the previous permission.

Cllr Bob Hinder, Friends of Boxley Warren Chairman: including details of a planned reptile walk and the purchase of more equipment.

9. **Highways and Byways.**

9.1 2013/14 planned highway works: **Noted** no large scale works have been scheduled in the parish.

9.2 The Chairman highlighted the problems of potholes along Harp Farm Road and Cllr Dengate informed members' that the Boxley Village entrance sign had been knocked down again. Councillors were encouraged to report such problems directly to KCCH&T. **Action: All councillors.**

10. **Policy and procedures review.**

10.1 Sale of public Land Policy: **Noted** KCC will be reminded that there is an agreement that no land would be sold without consultation with the parish council. **Action: office.**

10.2 BPC Planning information leaflet: **Noted** the review had been deferred to the next meeting.

11. **Matters for information.**

11.1 KCC street lighting: The proposals regarding switching off lights were **noted.**

11.2 Planning Conference 23/03/13: The report from Cllr Dengate was **noted.**

11.3 **Noted** MBC's approached to Yalding Parish Council for it to take over the cleaning responsibilities for the Yalding recycling centre.

11.4 Noted the office had produced an updated register of listed buildings in the parish.

12. **Next Meeting.**

Next full environment meeting 20th May 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 7th May 2013.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Perry for his sterling work as a member of the committee and wished him well.

Meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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