

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 28 January 2013 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 9.35 p.m.

Councillors present – Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr D Holmes, Mr K Perry, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk.

1. Apologies and absences.

None as all present.

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

There were none.

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

3. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

3.1 MA/12/2074 – Retrospective application for erection of a garden shed, summerhouse and circular tree seat in rear garden at Cartref, Weaving Street.

Do not wish to object but the parish council would like it noted that they do not like retrospective applications.

3.2 MA/12/2096 – Installation of fencing and gates at Units A and GG and HH, St Michael's Close, Aylesford.

Do not wish to object.

3.3 MA/12/2162 – Permanent retention of modular kitchen and canteen unit at Valley Park Community School, Huntsman Lane.

Wish to see approved.

3.4 MA/12/2236 – Advertisement consent for the installation of ten non-illuminated fascia signs and one non-illuminated free standing sign at Travis Perkins Trading Co Ltd, Cobtree House, Forstal Road, Aylesford.

Do not wish to object.

3.5 MA/12/2259 – Retrospective planning permission for the erection of a hot tub house and utility annexe at Ambleside, 4 Greenways, Weaving.

Do not wish to object but the parish council would like it noted that they do not like retrospective applications.

3.6 MA/12/2261 – Outline planning permission for the erection of six detached dwellings with garages with all matters reserved for future consideration at land at High View Farm, Lordswood Lane.

Wish to see refused for the following reasons:

- *Would contravene ENV35 of the MBC Boroughwide local plan and BNE34 of the Medway Plan as development would have an adverse and harmful impact on the character and amenity of the locality as it would restrict views of the prominent local woodland on Beechen Bank. It would also materially damage the current green and undeveloped feel to the west side of Lordswood Lane. The erection of the closed boarded fence (objected to by the parish council) should not be used as a reason to allow this development.*
- *It is considered that the economic and social benefits of this application will not outweigh the local priority to conserve the area's landscape. The properties being proposed for the site are large 'executive style' four and five bedroom dwellings and it is considered that there is no identified local needs for such development in such an area.*
- *High View Farm has not been identified by either Maidstone or Medway as an allocated housing site.*
- *Emerging Local Development Framework plans at Maidstone and Medway offer protection for local landscape character and it is felt that this proposal will contravene emerging policies CS5 of the Maidstone Core Strategy and CS7 of the Medway Core Strategy.*

- *The development of the land would impact on the biodiversity of the woodlands and surrounding areas as flat areas adjacent to woodlands support bats and other animal's and insects.*
- *Concern is raised about the potential adverse impact on the Ancient Woodland adjacent to Lordswood Lane. Urbanisation close to woodlands often results in encroachment and damage.*

It is considered that this application would intensify and urbanise the area thus materially harming the landscape character.

3.7 TA/0213/12 – An application for consent to fell 1 no. silver birch tree, crown reduce 2no Hornbeam trees by 20% and crown reduce 1no Oak tree by 30% being subject to Tree Preservation Order 1 of 1969 at 53 Olivine Close, Walderslade.

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

3.8 TA/0217/12 – Tree Prevention Order, TPO No 1 of 1969, application for consent to crown thin 2no Oak Trees by 10% and to clean trunk to 5m at tree to rear of Bellgrove Court, Boxley.

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

4. Next Meeting.

Next full Environment Committee meeting 11 February 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings

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