

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 7th January 2013 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr Holmes (absent)

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

Cllr Perry notified members that he knew the agent of the application MA/12/1426 but had not been lobbied.

Cllr Spain notified members that she had a non-pecuniary interest on application MA/12/1424.

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 5th and 12th November 2012.

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

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2492/4.1 marker at Cossington Lane. **Noted** a further sign has been erected for restricted access for HGVs and clarification is being sought from KCCHT. A letter to residents has been drafted and agreed by the Chairman and once clarification has been sought will be distributed.

4.2 Minute 2492/4.3 Boxley Road/Grange Lane movement of speed restriction. **Noted** Information on why the Police had refused to support the request to move the speed limit signs were still awaited: as was a response from the police officer who attended the KALC meeting in December. **Action; Clerk.**

4.3 Minute 2492/4.5 Beechen Bank land ownership, **Noted** further information will be sent once a cheque has been raised by the Parish Council. **Action: office.**

4.4 Minute 2492/4.6 Saracen Fields open area. **Noted** a response is still awaited despite further requests, from County Councillor Paul Carter who has asked an officer to investigate. **Action: office to chase for a reply.**

4.5 Minute 2492/4.7. **Noted** A response is still awaited from KCCH&T regarding the overhanging trees along Walderslade Woods Road and other work, would be considered for Cllr Paul Carter's devolved budget.

4.6 Minute 2492/4.9 Salt bins 'use on highways only' signs. KCCH&T had been contacted about whether they had signs that could be purchased. **Noted** a response is still awaited.

4.7 Minute 2493/4.10 Maidstone Studios. **Noted** dates for a meeting were still being awaited from the studio. **Action office.**

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

5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

5.1 MA/12/1426 Erection of single storey building comprising four retail units for uses falling within Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A5 or D1 with associated pedestrian and vehicular access ways, refuse stores, car parking and landscaping at Land at Penhurst Close, Grove Green. Amended details received December 2012. Ratified the Clerk's decision, after consulting with the Environment Committee, The Parish Council wishes to reiterate its previous reasons [not produced for this report as it was a direct repeat of the previous decision], and makes further comments below.

If the Planning Committee was minded to agree the development with the amended details then members asked that the following additional conditions be imposed:

8. Restrictions on the size of delivery vehicles entering into Penhurst Close.

9. Restriction on any take away service offered by restaurants and or cafes.

10. Restrictions on the lighting of the car parking and frontages on Penhurst Close.

5.2 MA/12/1883 erection of a two-storey rear extension and installation of first floor windows to the side elevation (resubmission of MA/12/0609) at 16 Trotwood Close, Walderslade. **Ratified** and **agreed** the Assistant Clerk's decision, after consulting with the Environment Committee, *Boxley Parish Council would like to withdraw its original decision on the above application, after carefully considering all the facts that have been presented to them they have decided they **Do not wish to object**.*

5.3 MA/12/1931 Erection of conservatory at 1 Sandbourne Drive, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2JA. **Do not wish to object.**

5.4 MA/12/2110 construction of a rear balcony at 5 Round Wood, Walderslade ME5 9UL. **Do not wish to object**

5.5 MA/12/2119 single storey rear extension and new pitched roof to existing rear extension at The White House, Tyland Lane ME14 3BH 03/01/13. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after contact with committee members, **Do not wish to object.**

5.6 MA/12/2142 Listed building consent for insertion of 4 conservation roof lights to rear elevation, the handing of the front door and adjacent window, insertion of a window to front elevation, and internal alterations including removal of existing staircase and insertion of new staircase to serve first floor self-contained flat at Barn Cottage, Boxley Road ME14 3DN. **Do not wish to comment and defer to the views of the conservation officer.**

5.7 MA/12/2149 erection of a 2 storey and single storey rear extension insertion of a side and rear dormer windows and installation of a swimming pool (amendment to previously refused MA/12/1458) at Myosotis, Chatham Road, Sandling ME14 3AY. **Do not wish to object.**

5.8 TA/0206/12 application for consent to fell Silver Birch at 15 Ploughmans Way, Walderslade ME5 9DE. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consultation with members, **Do not wish to object** but defer the decision to the borough landscape officer however a replacement tree should be of an indigenous species.

5.9 MA/12/2193 Erection of a rear storey conservatory at 14 The Hedgerow, Weaving, ME14 5TG. **Do not wish to object.**

6 **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions**

MA/12/0693 GRANTED* Tesco application to vary delivery condition. **Noted.**

7 **Neighbourhood Development Plans**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Perry for his work on the Grove Green Neighbourhood plan and confirmed a meeting of the working group will be arranged in February 2013.

8 **Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group**

Cllr Springate gave a brief report on recent work of the group which included developing a link between Cossington Valley and Roundwood Valley.

Cllr Bob Hinder gave a brief report on The Friends of Boxley Warren. A meeting has been arranged with Mike Philips to discuss the purchase of equipment and the next task day is scheduled for Sunday 13th January, 2013.

9 **Highways and Byways.**

Cllr W Hinder notified the meeting that the gutters in Brownlowe Copse and Beechmore Drive needed a sweep because there is lots of detritus due to impacted leaves. Cllr W Hinder also stated the litter bin at the Southern End of Boxley Road needs emptying

Action: Cllr Hinder.

Cllr Dengate reported that a litter pick had been carried out by MBC along Gleaming Wood Drive approximately an hour before the refuse trucks collected the weekly rubbish which caused even more litter once they had left the site. **Noted**

Cllr Springate requested a litter pick along Lordswood Lane. **Action Cllr Springate.**

Cllr Bob Hinder requested clarification from Cllr Paul Carter for the work that is currently being undertaken on the Walderslade Woods Road between Tunbury Avenue and Impton Lane whereby islands have been installed. This area technically falls within Tonbridge and Malling and he would like to know if these islands will be installed further along the Road towards Roundwood Roundabout. **Action: office.**

Members were informed that MBC contact centre have been telling residents who request a litter pick or similar service that there is no money in their budget to carry out these duties and are referring them to their Parish Council. The Clerk has suggested an article is placed in the next issue of the Downs Mail newsletter advising residents on how to request a litter pick. **Action office.**

10. **Policy and procedures review.**

Members **received** and **agreed** to the review and the Clerk's comments.

11. **Examining the Speed Limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on Single Carriageway Roads: A Consultation Document.**

Members **agreed** not to respond to this consultation on the grounds the Parish Council does not have any expertise in this field.

12. **Matters for information.**

12.1 Business rates retention and the local government settlement. A plain English guide is available at www.communities.gov.uk. **Received and Noted.**

12.2 Listed Buildings Register, members were notified the office had compiled a register for listed buildings within the parish based on information supplied by English Heritage. Members requested a copy is circulated once it had been checked and a laminated copy is kept in the environment box along with other useful documents. **Action Office.**

13. **Next Meeting.**

Next full environment meeting 11th February 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 4th February 2013.

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

There were none.

Meeting closed at 8.22 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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