

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 8 July 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 Assistant Clerk and a representative for Vinters Valley Nature Reserve.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr Holmes (work) and Cllr Spain (WI meeting).

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.

Cllr Dengate declared that he was pre-determined on planning application MC/13/1549. All Councillors' present had been lobbied on MC/13/1549. Cllrs Brooks, Davies, Dengate and Bob Hinder as members of the estates committee declared an interest in planning application MA/13/1020.

3. Development at Newnham Park.

A presentation on the proposed development was received from David and Alex Hicken of DHA. They had covered points that had been highlighted by the Parish Council as potential issues and these included:

- Increase in traffic
- Parking/park & ride
- Water run-off and stream
- Sustainability/Renewable energy

Arrangements will be made for a site visit. **Action Office.**

The meeting adjourned at 8.30pm to allow DHA to leave.

The meeting reconvened at 8.35pm and the Chair requested that Items 8 and 9 were brought forward and taken at this point.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of 10 June 2013.

The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record. However 3 June were not available for signing and will be taken to the next environment meeting.

5. Matters Arising From Minutes.

- 5.1 Minute 2544/4.1 Maidstone Studios; Members **noted** the clerks report.
- 5.2 Minute 2544/4.2 Quad bike barriers; **Noted** the Clerk's report.
- 5.3 Minute 2544/12 Community Infrastructure Levy; Cllr Wendy Hinder reported that she is still awaiting a response from KALC and will submit a further request if she does not hear anything. **Action Cllr Wendy Hinder.**
- 5.4 Minute 2545/7.1 Neighbourhood Area consultation: deadline for responses 23 July 2013. **Noted.**
- 5.5 Minute 2546/12.2 Changes to Permitted Development Legislation. This has been deferred to the next environment meeting as the information was not available in time for the meeting.

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

6. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

6.1 MA/13/0827 erection of a two storey and single storey rear extension insertion of side and rear dormer windows and installation of a swimming pool (amendment to previous refused MA/12/2149).

In view of the planning officers previous decision and the fact that there has been no real significant changes members wished to see the application refused but not reported to the planning committee.

6.2 MA/13/0931 – An application to vary conditions 2, 3, 8, 14, 16 to allow a further 24 month period for submission and approval of details and to vary condition 5 to allow a further 9 month period for the submission and approval of details of MA10/2185 at White Cottage, Grange Lane, Sandling ME14 3DA.

Do not wish to object.

6.3 MA/13/1088 loft conversion at Glen Isla, Weaving Street ME14 5JR.

Do not wish to object.

6.4 TA/0067/13 application for consent to crown lift to approximately 6m above ground of 4 sweet chestnut and reduce crown by approximately 4-5m of 3 ash trees at 2 Goldstone Walk, Walderslade ME5 9QB.

Defer to the Landscape Officers view.

6.5 TA/0083/13 application for consent to remove 6 Hornbeam trees at 6 The Covert, Walderslade ME5 9JJ.

Defer to the Landscape Officers view.

6.6 MA/13/1086 – proposed single storey rear extension at 29 Shepherds Gate Drive, Weaving, Maidstone Kent ME14 5UU.

Do not wish to object.

6.7 MA/13/1020 – installation of air extraction unit at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Boxley, Kent, ME5 9RU.

Wished to see approved.

6.8 TA/0091/13 Application for consent to crown reduce 1 Oak tree to leave canopy diameter of 6m at its broadest point; to thin its crown by 10% and to remove deadwood and epicormic growth at 12 Iris Close, Walderslade.

Defer to the Landscape Officers view.

6.9 MC/13/1549 Change of use from winter management depot for storage of salt and parking of seven gritters to an asbestos waste transfer station (resubmission of MC/12/3046) at Highways Depot, North Dane Way, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8YE.

Wished to strongly object for the same reasons submitted in an earlier response on 13 February, 2013.

7. **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions**

None submitted.

8. **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**

8.1 Consultation responses: This item was deferred to the next meeting in order for Clerk to produce a summary. **Action office.**

9. **Maidstone Borough Local Plan.**

9.1 Local Green Spaces and historic sites - **Received** the clerk's report concerning a letter from Cllr Fran Wilson asking for information on possible local green spaces and historic sites within the parish. Members **agreed** that the clerk compose a response.

9.2 Land South of Forstal Road - **Received** a report for the submission of land for economic development. It was **agreed** for the Clerk to lobby/brief the Cobtree Park Estate Committee on the status of the land and possible flooding issues. **Action Office.**

10. **Volunteer Groups.**

The Status Report for WWG July 2013 was **received** and **noted**.

The Status Report for FoBW July 2013 was **received** and **noted**.

11. **Highways and Byways.**

11.1 Crash Map. Members **noted** the clerk’s report.

11.2 Junction improvements at Lordswood Lane Members noted KCCH&T’s response and requested further clarification on the terminology used for refusal and a reason why the request had failed. **Action Office.**

12. **Policy and procedures review.**

12.1 Annual Competency review – Members **agreed** for this to be deferred until the next meeting,

13. **Matters for information.**

13.1 Plot 4 Eclipse Site. **Noted.**

14. **Next Meeting.**

Members agreed not to have a meeting in August unless the need arises. Next full environment meeting 9 September 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

As no members of the public and press were present there was no resolution to exclude them however it was recognised that a report to be given in the next item was confidential due to personal details and data.

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

There were none.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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