

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 9 December 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 Bob Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**

Cllr Holmes (absent)

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

Apart from Cllr Hollands members declared that they had been lobbied on MA/13/1953. Cllr Dengate reminded members that he had attended the public consultation.

3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 4 & 11 November 2013.**

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

Matters Arising From Minutes.

- 4.1 Minute 2590/4.1 Lordswood bike barriers: **Noted** the previous welding had been interrupted by bad weather and so a 'holding' weld, which was what the resident saw, was put in place until the weather improved when a permanent weld was made. A resident had reported that one of the barriers had been removed and MBC located it and will reinstall it with a deeper base.
- 4.2 Minute 2590/4.2 Vegetation removal Grovewood Drive South: **Noted** due to some confusion the Clerk is seeking clarification from KCCH&T on whether they will be designing the verge or requiring the parish council to do so. **Action: office.**
- 4.3 Minute 2590/4.3 Junction improvements at Lordswood Lane/Gleamingwood Drive: **Noted** due to some confusion the Clerk is seeking clarification from KCCH&T on whether they will be deciding where signs would be placed or requiring the parish council to do so. **Action: office.**
- 4.4 Minute 2590/4.5 Pedestrian crossing at Running Horse roundabout. **Noted** the matter has been reported to KCCH&T and a response was awaited.
- 4.5 Minute 2590/4.6 Microchipping for Dogs, no Saturday dates are available until April 2014 so weekday availability is being checked. **Noted.**

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

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

5.1 MA/13/1687 Outline application with all matters reserved for future consideration for a new 12 court sports hall and ancillary accommodation at Valley Park Community School, Huntsman Lane, Maidstone.

Wished to see approved but saddened to see the loss of a significant green area but members understand the need to provide sports facilities for all weathers.

5.2 MA/13/1794 Retrospective application for the erection of a front porch and replacement windows and door at 43 Orbit Close, Walderslade.

Do not wish to object.

5.3 MA/13/1796 Application for an extension and alterations to existing double garage to provide ancillary accommodation and a single integral garage at The Banks, Boxley Road, Walderslade.

Do not wish to object.

5.4 MA/13/1836 Erection of a single storey rear extension and first floor extension above garage, part conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, alterations to front door arrangement and construction of raised terrace at 6 Chequers Close, Chatham.

Do not wish to object however there are concerns about over development of the site and the existing property and the impact on the street scene due to the many facets of the roofline.

5.5 MA/13/1886 Erection of a two storey classroom extension comprising of 6 general classrooms and a single storey extension and refurbishment to provide new kitchen and canteen facilities at Valley Park Community School, Huntsman Lane, Maidstone.
Wished to see approved.

5.6 MA/13/1894 Single storey front extension at 4 Exton Gardens, Weaving.
Do not wish to object.

5.7 MA/13/1931 Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site to provide new retail development comprising food store (A1), general A1 retail units, A3 cafes/restaurants and A3 conversion of existing oasthouse with associated highway works, closing up of existing site access, formation of new access via New Cut Roundabout and Newnham Park spine road, associated earthworks, parking and landscaping at Newnham Court Shopping Village, Bearsted Road, Weaving.

Members **received** the Clerk's briefing report and after lengthy discussion on design, impact on street scene and traffic issues it was **agreed**:

- The Clerk would contact the planning officer for advice.
- DHA would be approached and asked to come to a meeting to discuss various issues.
- The Clerk would produce, from the comments made at the meeting, a draft response for members to consider and approve out of meeting.

Action: office.

5.8 MA/13/1953 Application to remove condition 2 of MA/09/0973 which states No development hereby permitted shall be occupied unless and until completion and opening to traffic of a scheme of improvements or such other scheme of works has been approved in writing by the Secretary of State for Transport at Proposed Kent Clinic Institute, Newnham Park.
Do not wish to object.

5.9 MA/13/1970 Roof extension including insertion of rear dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion at 76 Chatham Road, Sandling.
Do not wish to object.

5.10 MA/13/1985 Erection of a side and rear extension and infilling for front balcony and new dormer window along with a new front porch at Millstream House, Boarley Lane, Sandling.
Do not wish to object.

5.11 TA/0133/13 TPO No. 1 of 1969: An application for consent to cut back overhanging branches of one tree to boundary with 17 Iris Close at 15 Iris Close, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

5.12 TA/0169/13 intention to coppice Beech Tree to 1m in height at woodland (Wents Wood) r/o, Exton Gardens, Weaving.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

5.13 TA/0189/13 conservations area notification of intention to reduce height of 28 (no) conifer trees by up to 50% at Street Farm Cottage, The Street, Boxley.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

5.14 TA/0190/13 TPO No.1 of 1969 an application for consent to undertake a crown reduction of 30% to 1. No. Silver Birch at 24 Round Wood Close, Walderslade.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

6. **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions**

Noted MBC notification of the removal, due to decay, of a Copper Beech tree at 48 Bargrove Road.

7. **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**

Noted contact with companies will be made to arrange a visit early in the New Year.

8. **Maidstone Borough Local Plan.**

Agreed Cllrs Bob Hinder and Ivor Davies would attend the Maidstone Borough Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy meeting on 16 December 2013. **Noted** this will launch the public consultation which will last 6 weeks. **Action: Cllrs Bob Hinder and Ivor Davies.**

9. **Volunteer Groups.**

Reports were received from:

- Friends of Boxley Warren on their recent task days and new management plan.
- Walderslade Woods Group on their recent task day and their thanks for the parish council grant.

10. **Highways and Byways.**

10.1 Yellow Lines at Provender Way: **Noted** the response from KCCH&T that the situation will be monitored but the request for yellow lines would not currently be progressed. A copy had been passed to St John's School with a reminder that County Councillor Paul Carter had a devolved budget for highway issues.

10.2 Inconsiderate parking at Grove Green caused by events at Maidstone Studios: After discussion it was **agreed** that Geoff Miles would be contacted to request permission for Borough Councillor Wendy Hinder and representatives of the parish council to visit the site during a production so as to witness and understand the issue. **Action: office and councillors.**

10.3 KCC Highway Survey response: **Received** the draft responses from Cllr Vic Davies and Cllr Dengate. After discussion the response to the survey was **agreed** for submission to KCCH&T. **Action: office.**

10.4 Public Right of Way, Round Wood valley: After discussion it was **agreed** to review in 12 months whether to again apply for PRow status for this pathway. It was recognised that although KCCH&T faced financial constraints it was important to have this pathway designated a PRow. **Action: office.**

10.5 Grovewood Drive North crossing concerns: Members **received** County Councillor Paul Carters request for support to fund an improvement to a pedestrian refuge on Grovewood Drive North. After consideration members **agreed in principle** that a financial contribution may be made but that they required further information on design and costs before they could formally decide. **Action: office.**

10.6 Sandling Village Hall parking on verge: After discussion it was **agreed** that the parish council would consider approaching County Councillor Paul Carter for funding for bollards to be placed on the verges to stop cars parking there. Prior to any approach members wished to be notified of the cost of such work and the number of bollards involved. **Action: office.**

10.7 Speeding vehicles Boxley Road, 29/11/13. **Noted** a report to the office that vehicles were speeding along the road. Further information was being sought and councillors agreed to notify the office of any incidences that they witnessed or heard. **Action: Councillors.**

10.8 Parking etc. Old Chatham Rd, Sandling. Borough Cllr Wendy Hinder's report on KCCH&T proposal for a Clearway Traffic Regulation Order that will stop lorries parking to the rear of residential properties. Cllr Hinder was still trying to progress the issue of drivers using the lorry park using the verge and countryside to relieve themselves.

11. **Policy and procedures review.**

There are none.

12. **Matters for information.**

12.1 MC/13/1549 Asbestos First: **Noted** an appeal against Medway Council's refusal had been lodged with The Planning Inspectorate.

12.2 Medway Draft Core Strategy: **Noted** the submission for approval has been withdrawn by Medway Council.

13. **Next Meeting.**

Next full environment meeting 13 January 2014 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

Noted unauthorised tree surgery on trees at a property had been reported to MBC.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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

DRAFT