

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 13 January 2014 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 Bob Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk.

1. Apologies and absences

CLlr Dengate (work commitments), CLlr Spain (unwell), CLlr Holmes (absent)

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 2, 9 & 19 December 2013.

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

4. Matters Arising From Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2600/4.2 Vegetation removal Grovewood Drive South: KCCH&T has put this work out to tender which closes on 13/1/2014 and the office will be notified of costs by 15/1/2013. **Noted.**

4.2 Minute 2600/4.3 Junction improvements at Lordswood Lane/Gleamingwood Drive: Pedestrian warning signs have been erected on lamp posts by KCCH&T. Members **noted** that it is highly likely that KCCH&T have funded these signs as the Parish Council has not received an invoice for the works.

4.3 Minute 2600/4.5 Pedestrian crossing on Sandling Lane east of the Running Horse public house. Members **noted** KCCH&T's response that evidence shows this location is not suitable for a pedestrian crossing.

4.4 Minute 2600/4.6 Microchipping for Dogs, a date has been set for Saturday 10 May, 2014 between 11am – 4pm at WDJO the Dogs Trust. Members requested this item is brought back to the March agenda. **Action office.**

4.5 Minute 2602/10.2 Inconsiderate parking at Grove Green - Geoff Miles, Maidstone Studios has been informed and the office is awaiting a response. **Noted.**

4.6 Minute 2602/10.5 Grovewood Drive North crossing improvements: **Noted** a response from County Councillor Carter concerning design and costs is awaited.

4.7 Minute 2602/10.6 Sandling Village Hall parking on the verge. **Noted** a site visit by the parish office will be undertaken to ascertain what is required. A request will be submitted to County Councillor Paul Carter for consideration. **Action office.**

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

5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.

5.1 MA/13/2070 Conversion of part of existing garage to living accommodation including new side window at 49 Harvesters Way, Weaving ME14 5SH.

Do not wish to object.

5.2 MA/13/1982 Erection of an extension to existing building for veterinary use including storage of equipment and for clinical examinations at Newnham Court Equine Clinic Newnham Court ME14 5EL.

Do not wish to object.

5.3 MA/13/2090 Planning application for the erection of a single storey rear extension at 9 Ploughmans Way ME5 9DE.

Do not wish to object.

5.4 MA/13/1802 Single storey rear extension at 45 Bargrove Road, Maidstone ME14 5RT.

Do not wish to object.

5.5 TA/0208/13 Tree Preservation Order no. 8 of 1986: An application for consent to fell 1(no) Cedar Tree at land between 50 & 52 Franklin Drive, Weaving ME14

The parish council is loathed to see a Cedar felled but will defer to the decision of the borough landscape officer.

5.6 TA/0209/13 Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No.1 of 1969: an application for the consent to reduce crown of one Hornbeam tree by 30% and prune back overhanging branches to boundary with 11 Olivine Close ME5.
Do not wish to object.

5.7 TA/0210/13 Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No.1 of 1969: an application for the consent to raise crowns to 6m and prune back overhanging branches to grass verge edge to three Sweet Chestnut trees and six groups of young Sweet Chestnut trees at Land off Wildfell Close, Walderslade. *Wished to see approved*

5.8 TA/0211/13 Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No.1 of 1969: an application for the consent to carry out works to 1 (no) Fraxinus Excelsior being make safe hanging birch stem and reduce adjacent birch stem to 3.5m habitat pole (as described within tree report) at land rear of 9 Aston Close, Walderslade.
Do not wish to object.

5.9 TA/0213/13 Tree Preservation Order no. 1 of 1969: An application for consent to reduce crown of 1(no) Oak tree at 14 Quinion Close, Walderslade ME5 9JS.
Do not wish to object but defer to the decision of the borough landscape officer.

5.10 MA/13/2147 – Change of use and conversion of existing building to Class D1 day nursery with outdoor play space and alterations to external appearance of the building, drop-off/pick-up area, turning and parking at Newnham Court Shopping Village, Bearsted Road, Weavering, Kent.
Do not wish to object.

5.11 Lordswood Urban Extension. Members **received** and **noted** County Councillor Paul Carter has replied to the copy of the parish council's letter of objection to the planning application.

6 **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions**

None

7 **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**

Noted contact with companies will be made to arrange a visit, details will be circulated by email to committee members.

8 **Maidstone Borough Local Plan.**

Members **received** the Clerk's report on MBC's Green and Blue Infrastructure Consultation and agreed with the suggested responses; however it was suggested further emphasis was required on some of the answers. It was agreed that this would be recirculated before submission. Members thanked the Clerk for her excellent report on this consultation. **Action office.**

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.

10 **Highways and Byways.**

10.1 Salt Bin, top of Saracen Fields. Members **noted** that KCCH&T has finally recognised that it owns the bin and arranged for it to be filled; unfortunately it has only been filled half way.

10.2 Resurfacing Running Horse roundabout – Members **received** and **noted** the proposed resurfacing and new road marking on the Running Horse roundabout Members requested to see the planned changes. **Action office.**

11 **Policy and procedures review.**

Policies and procedures 2014/15 calendar review. Members reviewed the calendar and **agreed** the following:

- procedures that could be viewed biennial would be split into odd and even years.
- Procedures that are to be reviewed annually would remain so.
- If there were any changes to any of the procedures outside of these times they would be brought to the appropriate agenda.

Action office.

12 **Matters for information.**

Newnham Court Shopping Village redevelopment – members **noted** the websites that can be visited for further information.

New Item

Changes to Planning department operations at MBC – Members **received** the Clerk’s report with regards to the amalgamation of Swale, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils back office (administration and support) planning departments. Members discussed the potential impacts that this and the move towards e-planning would have on the Parish council and members of the public and requested a response outlining the concerns of the committee. It was **agreed** the clerk would draft a response and circulate to members before submitting. **Action office.**

13. **Next Meeting.**

Next full environment meeting 11 February 2014 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

There were none.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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