

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 8 December 2014 at  
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Councillors present: Mrs Wendy Hinder, Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr Bob Hinder, Mr A Springate and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk.

**1. Apologies and absences**

Cllr Hinchliffe (Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter training) and Cllr Hollands (family commitment).

**2. Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying**

Cllr Wendy Hinder declared that she had been lobbied on item 8.2. All councillors declared that they had been lobbied on item 6.

**3. Minutes of the Meetings of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

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

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes**

4.1 Minute 2690/4.3 Retention of planning applications. **Agreed** that, except for controversial, complex or for development that is identified as likely to need its application retained, planning applications will only be retained for one year.  
**Action: office.**

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

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

14/504806/FULL. Renewal of planning permission MA/11/0626 to extend temporary use of land for the siting of tents for retail display for a temporary period of time of not more than 80 days between May and August each year for a further five years until August 2019 at Notcutts Garden Centre Newnham Court Farm Bearsted Road.

*Do not wish to object.*

14/502542/FULL. Conversion of garage to living accommodation at 28 Orache Drive Weaving.

*Do not wish to object.*

14/505386/LBC. Listed Building Consent for insertion of new stair case from first floor to attic within bedroom 4, involving creation of a new wall and door in the attic space at The Old Vicarage The Street Boxley.

*Do not wish to object defer to Conservation Officer's views.*

14/504931/OUT. Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of one 4 bedroom dwelling at Medway Cottage Forstal Road Forstal.

*Do not wish to object.*

14/504793/FULL. Replacement of, and extension to rear elevated decking. Construction of retaining wall structures to allow for regrading of rear garden at 11 Round Wood Close Walderslade.

*Do not wish to object.*

14/505697/FULL. Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, including a new window to the existing ground floor flank wall at 11 Harrow Way Weaving.

*Do not wish to object.*

TA/0085/14. Tree preservation order application for consent to:

- Reduce height to 5 metres above ground level and radial spread to 2 metres 3 no. Hornbeam trees indicated T1, T2 and T4 on the plan.
- Cut back branches overhanging garden of number eight Galena Close to boundary fence and crown thin by 15% 1 no Hornbeam tree indicated T3 on the plan.
- Reduce height to 6 metres above ground level and radial spread to 2 metres 1 no. 2 stem Hornbeam tree indicated T5 on the plan.

- Fell the smallest diameter trunk/stem to West. Reduce height to a minimum of 7 metres above ground level and radial crown spread to 2 metres 1 no. 2 stem Birch tree indicated T6 on the plan. At 2 Celestine Close, 7, 8 and 9 Galena Close Walderslade.

*Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

14/505077/ADV. Advertisement consent for 1no. free standing internally illuminated sign to direct customers into car park at Plot 4 Eclipse Park Sittingbourne Road North.

*Do not wish to object.*

14/503150/FULL – Revised details NEW DESCRIPTION for erection of first floor extension to form new first floor to existing single-storey dwelling at Two Elms, Weaving Street, Weaving. *Noted*

14/504888/FULL Change of use of store to 2 x dwellings, 2 storey rear extension to provide 1 x dwellings (3 dwellings total), provision of external stair cases to 3x dwellings and new door way to lower ground floor (front elevation) and raising roof height of store at The Pump House Forstal Road Aylesford. *Do not wish to object.*

## 6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

Notification of Appeal. Outline application with all matters reserved to develop the site for residential (approx. 89 dwellings) with open space, access road and biomass heating plant at Lordswood Urban Extension, Gleaming Wood Drive. The parish council's objections will be automatically forwarded by MBC. **Noted.**

Bredhurst Nursery appeal. Cllr Bob Hinder gave a verbal report on the recent appeal hearing. **Noted.**

## 7. **Volunteer Groups**

Cllr Springate gave a report on a recent Walderslade Woodlands Group meeting and the progress of the KCC, PC and WWG agreement for volunteers to work in the woods.

Cllr Bob Hinder, Chairman Friends of Boxley Warren, notified members that the final task day before Christmas had been cancelled and they may not resume until the entrance gate is replaced. The parish office had written to County Councillor Paul Carter about progressing the parish council's wish to see the road stopped up and the entrance gate permanently locked. **Noted.**

## 8. **Highways and Byways**

8.1 Running Horse roundabout new layout and white lining changes. **Noted** a resident's complaint had been referred to Councillor Paul Carter and a response was awaited. The lack of road lane instructions from Forstal Road to the northbound A229 exit was to be reported to KCC. **Action: Clerk.**

8.2 Clearway Chatham Road, Sandling. **Received** and **noted** Cllr Wendy Hinder's report to the parish council and County Cllr Paul Carter's report to the Environment Committee.

Details on the signage proposed at the lorry layby and the predicted cost was **received**. Cllr Bob Hinder proposed Cllr Dengate seconded that £140 be released from the street maintenance budget to fund the erecting of signage posts. **Agreed.**

Members' requested that a draft letter is submitted to the next meeting. The letter highlighting the issue at Sandling and the fact that foreign drivers do not pay fines, making enforcement of the clearway ineffective, is to be copied to all Kent MPs. **Action: Clerk and Environment Committee.**

8.3 Drainage investigation schedule. The information was **noted**. Members were encouraged to report any flooding or blocked drains that they see.

8.4 Trees The Street, Boxley. The resident's complaints were **noted** and members' were informed that the land owner had stated that the work would be undertaken by Christmas.

- 8.5 KCCH&T meeting 19/11/14. **Agreed** Cllr Hinchliffe's report would be deferred to the January meeting. **Action Environment agenda.**
- 8.6 KCCH, T & W survey. Councillors were reminded to send their thoughts to the Clerk.

9. **Policy and procedures review**

9.1 Funding KCC projects and services. The Clerk's report on the cost soft landscape maintenance was **received and noted**. Discussion took place covering: lack of adequate maintenance; double taxation; cost of additional maintenance and number of complaints received. Cllr Bob proposed **no further action, agreed**. It was **agreed** that there would be no formal policy about allocating funding to ensure KCC projects went ahead. Each project would be judged on its merits and local needs and if necessary an application would be made to the F&GP Committee for contingency funds to be released.

10. **Draft Budget 2015/2016**

Code 109 Street Maintenance amended to £3,500.

11. **MBC Local Plan**

**Received** and **noted** Cllr Bob Hinder's report on the Gypsy and Traveller training.

12. **Matters for information**

None received.

13. **Next Meeting**

Next full environment meeting 12 January 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.51 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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