

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 12 January 2015 at  
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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

1. **Apologies and absences**

Cllr Hollands (holiday).

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

None declared.

3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

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

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes**

4.1 Minute 2700/7 Boxley Warren gate. **Noted.**

4.2 Minute 2700/7 Pilgrims Way/Lidsing Road junction. **Noted.**

4.3 Minute 2700/8.1 Signage at Running Horse Roundabout. Members **received** and **noted** County Cllrs Paul Carters response which confirmed after monitoring the issues amendments to lane destination markings on Sandling Lane and Forstal Road will be implemented early in the New Year.

4.4 Minute 2700/8.2 Erection of posts and signage at the Clearway Sandling. Members **received** and **noted** the clerk's report however Cllr Dengate expressed concerns that the signage would not deal with all of the issues. Cllr Wendy Hinder explained that the proposed signage would be reviewed.

4.5 Minute 2712/806 KCCH, T & W survey. Members received the response to the survey and Cllr Wendy Hinder thanked those councillors who took part.

4.6 Any other matters arising, not on the agenda. **There were none.**

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

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

14/505593/TPO. Tree preservation order application for consent to remove to ground level 3 no. Chestnut stools at Woodland Adjacent To 14 Exton Gardens Weaving Kent. **Ratified** Clerk's decision, after consultation with Chairman/Vice-chairman, replying *There are strong concerns. It is preferred that the Chestnut stools are not removed unless it is totally necessary. The parish council will defer to the Landscape Officer's views.*

14/506040/FULL. First floor level side extension forming new bedroom over existing garage at 1 Fallowfield Close Weaving Kent ME14 5TW. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consultation with Chairman/Vice-chairman, *Do not wish to object.*

14/504931/OUT. Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of one 4 bedroom dwelling. Medway Cottage Forstal Road Sandling Kent ME14 3AR. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consultation with Chairman/Vice-chairman, *Noted.*

14/506527/ADV. Advertisement consent for the installation of 2 brushed stainless signs mounted on the existing ragstone walls (non-illuminated) at Vinters Park Crematorium *Bearsted Road Weaving Kent ME14 5LG. Do not wish to Object.*

14/506616/TPOTree Preservation order application - 1. Oak (area No 1) - crown lift to give a clearance of around 5m and reduction of the lowest branches by 50%. 2. Oak (area no 2) - shortening of one lower branch by 25%3. Oak (Trees no 75) - remove and replace tree as it is affected by a fungus (*collybia fusipes*) and its condition is deteriorating. 2 x limes (on area 4) lift the crowns to give a clearance of 6m above

ground level to thin the crowns by 20%.- 5. Larch (tree 212) - remove and replace tree as it has died and the trunk appears to be hollowing. It also shows significant fungal growth at ground level at Vinters Park Crematorium Bearsted Road Weaving Kent ME14 5LG. *The Parish Council will defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

## 6. Appeals and Appeals Decisions

There were none.

## 7. Volunteer Groups

7.1 **WWG Report.** Members **received** and **noted** both December and January reports for WWG with Cllr Springate adding the group had their best attended task day ever on Sunday 11 January, which enabled them to make a lot of progress on the footpaths leading to Tunbury School. Cllr Springate also informed members that there was a leak at the crossroads near Tunbury School which Southern Water was looking into.

7.2 **FoBW Report.** Cllr Bob Hinder, Chairman Friends of Boxley Warren, notified members that an extra-ordinary meeting had taken place on Friday 9 January between various agencies including BPC, MBC, KCC, Mid Kent Downs, The Police and Natural England to try and resolve the issues being experienced at Boxley Warren. The actions that were agreed at the meeting were:

### **Pilgrims Way Lidsing Road entrance.**

#### **Agreed:**

- 1.1 Site meeting to design Lidsing Road entrance.
- 1.2 Installation of gates, bollards and signage.
- 1.3 CCTV and fly-tipping penalty signage to be installed.

### **A229 entrance.**

#### **Agreed:**

- 1.4 Installation of sunken low studs and a gate to restrict access, installation to be robust to stop them being pulled out;
- 1.5 CCTV and fly-tipping penalty signage;
- 1.6 Move fence on MBC land (former CTRL landscape compound) southward to narrow the access to the bridge to stop vans transporting motorcycles parking there.

Cllr Bob Hinder also pointed out that since the gate was destroyed there have been problems with the theft of one of the wooden sculptures (Deer) specially commissioned for the site, increased intimidation from illegal bikers, as well as various forms of fly tipping including a burnt out car.

## 8. Highways and Byways

- 8.1 Clearway Chatham Road, Sandling draft letter to MP. Members **received** the draft letter and with a few minor grammatical changes **agreed** for this to be sent to The Rt Hon Hugh Robertson and MP's in Kent.
- 8.2 KCCH&T meeting 19/11/14. Deferred from December's meeting. Members **received** and **noted** Cllr Hinchliffe's report who as a relatively new councillor felt it was both helpful and informative. Cllr Hinchliffe identified that although this was a seminar for KCCH&T there did not appear to be representation from the Borough Councils and on some of the topics there seemed to be some crossover between authorities which created some grey areas as to responsibility. A letter to be sent to KCCH,T& W to suggest that in future representatives from Borough Councils are invited/included at the event. **Action: office.**
- 8.3 PROW Round Wood Valley, review the original request to KCC PROW, and the subsequent refusal, for it to be made a PROW. Members asked for this to be returned to agenda in June together with original paperwork.
- 8.4 Drop kerb near Harvester Inn, Sandling. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report.

9. **Policy and procedures review**

2015/16 Calendar Review. Members **agreed** the review calendar with a few minor grammatical alterations.

10. **MBC Local Plan**

**Received** and **noted** The Clerk's summary of decision taken on individual policies following the regulation 18 consultation.

11. **Matters for information**

None received.

12. **Next Meeting**

Next full environment meeting 9 February 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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