

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 8 June 2015 at Beechen Hall,
Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present: Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr M Hinchliffe and Mr A Springate together with the Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs Brooks (holiday), Hollands (work commitment) and Waller (holiday).
2. **Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying**
None declared.
3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 11th & 18th April 2015**
The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

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

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes**

- 4.1 Minute 2753/4.3 Westfield Sole Road Not suitable for HGV signs. Signs were now erected. **Noted.**
- 4.2 Minute 2744/11 Installation of hard standing/apron at Boxley Road noticeboard. Members' **agreed** to allocate £250 to pay for the proposed work. Permission for the work was being sought from KCC. **Noted**
- 4.3 Minute 2753/5 15/503359/OUT. Land East Of Gleamingwood Drive Lordswood Kent. MBC had been contacted about the legal status of the trees in the area but this issue was still outstanding. KCC has been contacted about the traffic reports and a response was awaited. The lorry access and speed issue still needed clarification **Action: office.**
- 4.4 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. There were none.

5 **Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration**

15/503623/FULL - Erection of a single storey rear extension, conversion of roof space to include roof extension with insertion of rear dormers and changes to fenestration. Installation of roof lights to front at Wilmarie and erection of front porch at Northdown at Wilmarie and Northdown, Chatham Road, Sandling.

Objection as this development would result in an unacceptable impact, due to its bulk and mass, on the visual amenity of the AONB.

The parish council previously considered 2 separate applications which when viewed in isolation did not appear to have such a detrimental impact but viewed as a joint application the impact becomes fully apparent.

Do not wish to see reported to the planning committee.

15/503902/TPO – TPO application to reduce 1 Field Maple by approx 50% at 23 Abigail Crescent, Walderslade.

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

15/503922/FULL. Gate and footpath leading onto Old Lordwood Lane within Maidstone boundary relevant to proposed detached house within the Medway boundary at Plot 6 Highview Farm Lordswood Lane Chatham Kent. Members asked for clarification on the need for planning permission for this path. Clerk to liaise with Chairman and vice chairman on planning officer's response.

15/503845/FULL. Amendments to planning permission 14/504888/FULL (Change of use of store to 2 x dwellings, 2-storey rear extension to provide 1 x dwelling (3 dwellings total); Provision of external stair cases to 3 x dwellings, new door way to lower ground floor (front elevation) and raising roof height of store) - Increase the floor area at The Pump House Forstal Road Aylesford.

Do not wish to object.

15/504140/TPO – TPO Application to fell – 1No. Hornbeam at 6 Violet Close, Walderslade.

Do not wish to object defer to the Landscape Officer's views.

15/504189/TPO - TPO application to 1 No. Cherry tree crown reduce by 25-30%, 1 No. Hornbeam – crown reduce by 30%, 1 No. Cherry tree prune back overhang by 1-1.5m at 12 Forestdale Road, Walderslade.

Do not wish to object defer to the Landscape Officer's views.

15/503705 – Construction of garage, stores and wagon shed at Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Boxley.

Do not wish to object.

15/504043/FULL – Change of use of land to incorporate B8 storage and distribution and erection of warehouse building and open storage and continued use of offices at Brett House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford.

Do not wish to object.

6. Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions

14/502252 Land at corner of New Cut Road and Bearsted Road, Maidstone. Planning Appeal DISMISSED. **Noted.**

7. Highways and Byways

7.1 Bike barrier, footpath linking Fitzwilliam Rd & Camomile Drive. Response awaited from County Councillor Paul Carter.

7.2 Household garden waste being tipped on verges. Discussion took place on the issue with councillors identifying problem areas. It was **agreed** that an article would be placed in the Downs Mail with a targeted letter drop on areas identified by councillors. The previous Walderslade Woodlands flytipping letter was to be used as a template. **Action: Councillors & Clerk.**

Cllr Bob Hinder notified the meeting that recently electrical and metal items that appear to have been collected by MBC were then dumped near the salt bin by Brownlow Copse. He had taken the items to the recycling depot but asked that it be investigated. **Action: office.**

7.3 HGV parking Old Chatham Road 6 month bollard scheme. Discussion took place on the temporary traffic restrictions and the Clerk was asked to KCC for clarification on the consultation period. **Action: office.**

8. Volunteer Groups

8.1 Walderslade Woodlands Group. No report received.

8.2 **Received** and **noted** a report from Friends of Boxley Warren Chairman, Bob Hinder reported that the BWAG day had been successful and that the Police would be present at the FoBW AGM when it was hoped to have a discussion about the off road bikes and Police presence at task days. Other local groups had been invited to attend.

9. Policy and procedures review

Training needs. Councillors asked to be notified of future KALC Planning Conference Days. **Action: Clerk.**

10. Matters for Information

10.1 Green and Blue Strategy update and planning meeting. **Received** and **noted** Cllr Ivor Davies's verbal report on the meeting. It was **agreed** that Cllr Davies would liaise with the Clerk to give MBC feedback on the meeting as he had been disappointed in the content covered and the way it was run. **Noted** a form had been returned to MBC which included the issues that the parish council had raised in the Dec 2013 consultation.

10.2 Economic Development Strategy. **Agreed**, after discussion, a response along the lines of:

The EDS provides an overview of issues rather than tackle specifics however the success of this strategy strongly relies on improvements to the transport

infrastructure including walking and cycling. There was concern that the need to utilise and expand the use of existing industrial areas (in the parish at Aylesford and Lordswood) was not identified in the document, this issue and tourism and rural opportunities need to be included.

11. Next Meeting

Next full environment meeting 13 July 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date