

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 9 March 2015 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.**

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

1. **Apologies and absences**

None.

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

None.

3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

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

4. **Matters Arising From Minutes**

4.1 Minute 2724/4.1 Boxley Warren gate. Update from PC meeting **noted**. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the matter was now with KCC and that County Councillor Paul Carter has become involved to progress the installation.

4.2 Minute 2724/4.2 Pilgrims Way/Lidsing Road junction. Update **noted**.

4.3 Minute 2724/4.3 Clearway Sandling. Erection of posts and signage. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's update. Cllr Wendy Hinder confirmed that there have been no reports of any illegal parking by lorries and that local residents were pleased with effect of the barriers.

4.4 Minute 2716/8.2 KCCH&T seminar 19/11/14. Members **received** and **noted** KCCH&T's response.

4.5 Minute 2725/7.1 No motorcycle signs Beechen Bank Rd/Cossington Road entrance. The request has been referred to the Walderslade Woodlands Group. Cllr Davies asked for clarification on why this matter was referred to WWG particularly as he knew the locations where the signs should be installed. **Action Clerk.**

4.6 Minute 2726/8.2 footpath between Wildfell Close and Boxley Road. Ownership to be investigated. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that Richard Emmett, KCCH&T will undertake a site visit during w/c 9 March.

4.7 Minute 2726/11.2 KALC Planning Update **received** and **noted**.

4.8 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. **None.**

**There were no members of the public present.**

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

15/500155/FULL. Single storey side extension at 2 Franklin Drive, Weaving, Kent ME14 5SY. **Ratified** the Assistant Clerk's decision after consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of *Do not wish to object*.

15/501119/FULL. Two side dormers to existing first floor at Brendan Grove Green Road Weaving Kent ME14 5JT.

*Do not wish to object, however concerns were raised over the type of glass used for the bathroom window. If the officer is minded to approve then a condition should be included ensuring obscured glass is used as this window overlooks the neighbouring property.*

15/501334/FULL. Single storey side and part front extension at 20 Forstal Cottages Forstal Road Aylesford Kent ME20 7AH.

*Do not wish to object.*

15/501114/TPO. Tree Preservation Order..2 x Hornbeams (A and C) - 5m crown lift, 30% reduction to leave a height of 10m and a spread of 6m at 10 Galena Close Boxley Kent ME5 9NE.

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

15/501120/TPO. Tree Preservation Order..T1 and 2 - Silver Birch - Fell to approx 2ft above ground. T3 - Leylandii - Reduce by approx 2m. T4 - Clean out Oak and thin by approx 10% at 2 Brockbank Close Walderslade Kent ME5 9US.

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

15/501418/FULL. Garage conversion at 30 Orache Drive, Weaving Kent ME14 5UG.

*Do not wish to object.*

15/501378/TPO. Tree Preservation Order Application - Sweet Chestnut - complete coppicing of the remaining two stems at 10 Greensands Boxley Kent ME5 9DQ.

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

15/501494/TPO/PAHE. Tree Preservation Order to reduce the crown of 3 Hornbeam trees by at least 30% at 2 Olivine Close, Walderslade ME5 9NQ.

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

5.2. Planning procedure reminder, **received** and **noted**.

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

**Received** and **noted**.

MA/14/500485 Occupational manager's dwelling with accommodation on two floors

**APPEAL: Dismissed** The Nursery, Dunn Street, Bredhurst, ME7 3ND.

14/502252/OUT – Outline application for a development of 8no. houses with access considered at this stage and all matters reserved for future consideration at Land at Junction of New Cut Road and Bearsted Road, Weaving. An appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. Representation should be made by 18 March, 2015.

14/500290/FULL – Demolition of a number of disused temporary structures associated with Maidstone Studios and the erection of 77 dwellings together with access, parking and garaging, landscaping and ancillary works on land east of Maidstone Studios.  
**Recommended Approval.**

## 7. **Volunteer Groups**

7.1 **Received** and **noted** the following report from Rob Burrows (Chairman) of WWG;

We met last week to conclude our review of the KWT management advice notes.

We will now meet with them to get all changes approved and the plan finalised.

When that is done+, we can then apply to the Forestry Commission for funding.

The KCC 'agreement to manage' has been reviewed and amended by the Parish, and returned to KCC, hopefully for finalisation.

For our Task Day this month, we continued our chipping and tidying of Cossington valley south. This has included the initial work to create a new glade at this end of the valley. We will now generate a mini-plan so that this glade can be micro-managed on a five year cycle without needing to apply for felling licences each time. We have now chipped from Forestdale Road to within metres of the crossroads. Many thanks to Graham for all his help transporting the chipper..... and everything else on his trailer!

Our next Quarterly meeting will be this month, on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, at Beechen Hall at 7.00pm.

7.2 Friends of Boxley Warren Chairman, Bob Hinder gave a verbal update that the group would be meeting on Wednesday 18 March and it is hoped that work will start soon as there are 3 new volunteers waiting to participate in projects.

## 8. **Highways and Byways**

8.1 Clearway Chatham Road. **Received** the response from DoT Under Secretary of State Robert Goodwill MP. Cllr Dengate stated he was disappointed with the response as it was felt the letter was 'sweeping the problem under the carpet

and pushing back the problem to the LA's or local enforcement/regulatory bodies'. He also stated that at present there is no enforced government legislation to penalise foreign lorries/HGV's.

After discussion members agreed to the following actions:

- Forward the response from DoT Under Secretary of State Robert Goodwill MP to all stakeholders including County Councillor Paul Carter and a representative at MBC.
- Request an agenda item at the next KALC meeting.
- Set up a petition to encourage to encourage the government to review its strategy.

8.2 Grovewood Drive South HGV parking. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report that a resident had reported that HGVs are regularly starting to park overnight and for a couple of days at a time. Lorries are from Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Local councillors and residents have been asked to report what they see so that a history can be built up. It has also been reported today that lorries have been parking on Lodge Road. Cllr Hollands confirmed that he hadn't seen any lorries parked over the weekend.

9. **Policy and procedures review**

None to review

10. **MBC Local Plan**

**Received** and **noted** an update on Urban boundary explanation.

11. **Matters for information**

There were none.

12. **Next Meeting**

Next full environment meeting 20 April 2015 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 13 April 2015.

Meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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