

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 12 July 2016 at Beechen Hall,
Wildfell Close, Walderslade on commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present: Mrs Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Ms L Clarke, Mr I Davies, Mr Bob Hinder, Mr Rob Martins and Mr M Radcliffe-Godfrey together with the Clerk (until 9.30pm), Assistant Clerk and three members of the public.

1 **Apologies and absences**

Cllrs P Dengate, D Hollands (work commitments).

2 **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

Cllr Wendy Hinder declared she had been lobbied on planning application 16/506229/FULL.

3. **Minutes of the Meetings of 4th and 11th July 2016**

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

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

4.1 **Item 4.1** Minute 2893/4.1 **HGV parking.** Members received the FOI request response from HM Treasury which was noted. As this subject has been debated in the House of Commons recently by our MP Helen Whately and Helen Grant members agreed to monitor the progress of this on a 6 monthly cycle but no further action at the present moment.

4.2 Minute 2893/4.2 Installation of hard standing/apron at Boxley Road noticeboard. Nine KCC approved contractors were approached but none tendered for the work. In view of this KCC has been approached about the parish council appointing its own contractor to undertake the work. A site meeting with a contractor has been scheduled for Wednesday 14 September, 2016. **Action office.**

4.3 Minute 2893/4.3 Inconsiderate parking Provender Way. The parish office has not been able to obtain any information on the possible progress of this work and it was agreed that it is escalated to the Chairman/Borough Councillor. Members did agree that yellow lines would be the best option at the junctions of all roads leading off Provender Way and at Grovewood Drive South it was suggested that double yellow lines at the junction with New Cut Road and then a possibility of waiting restrictions in other parts however further investigation was needed. **Action Office/Cllrs Wendy Hinder.**

Action: Clerk/Cllr Wendy Hinder.

4.4 Minute 2893/4.4. Bollards. *Minute 2882/4.4. Bollards. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report. Some general discussion took place, however as a majority of the committee were not present at the meeting it was **agreed** that this item would be deferred to the next meeting for decision. Members commented that health and safety was paramount at the junction especially as sight lines could be compromised by parked vehicles and so the four installed bollards will remain. They requested a draft policy concerning parking on verges in the parish is submitted at the next meeting. **Action Office.** This item was **noted** and the parking policy was considered at item 11.1.*

4.5 Minute 2882/4.6. Land to the rear of Tesco Grove Green. The office is still investigating who owns and manages the Land. **Noted.**

4.6 Minute 2882/4.8 Litter/flytipping signs. **Noted** the signs are on order. **Action MBC.**

4.7 Minute 2884/7.2 Flooding Boxley Road (near Longwood) and Brownlowe Copse. Boxley Road has been dealt with and the KCC Inspection of Brownlowe Copse has been closed stating the issue has been dealt with, however a site visit has revealed that 2 of the 3 reported drains are still blocked the office is waiting for a response from KCC drainage. **Noted.**

4.8 Minute 2894/7.2 Bus shelter and bus service Grove Green. Cllr Wendy Hinder confirmed she had received a letter from Helen Whately who had contacted Arriva Bus service. They were considering trialling a bus service after 6pm but deemed it not viable financially. The parish council will continue to monitor the situation.

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

The meeting was adjourned to allow the members of the public to address the meeting.

Issues raised included the amount of litter and flytipping occurring in the area. Two of the residents regularly litter pick Wildfell Close and Parts of Walderslade woods road and Boxley Road but feel no sooner have they done it, it returns. They asked the council to help tackle the problem.

Members thanked the residents for their litterpicking and were very sympathetic to their frustrations. It was agreed that they would attend a Full Council Meeting at Maidstone Borough Council next week to ask them how they

5. **Planning Applications for Consideration**

16/505026/FULL Proposed single storey side extension with internal alterations. Sandhurst Grove Green Road Weaving Kent ME14 5JT.

Do not wish to object.

16/505429/FULL Construction of 2 storey side extension. 31 Franklin Drive Weaving Kent ME14 5SY.

Do not wish to object.

16/502179/FULL Raise roof to create second floor with attic conversion and rear dormer. Excavate area in front of property to create parking (revised landscaping plans) at Bethany, Boxley Road, Walderslade ME5 9JD.

Noted.

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

None to report.

7. **Highways and Byways**

7.1 Highways England Route Strategies Consultation. **Ratified** the Clerk's response after consultation with members to the Highways England Route Strategies Consultation.

7.2 Bus shelter and bus service, Grovewood Drive North. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report and sympathised with the residents. They **agreed** that this issue should be monitored and that residents keep a log of any further incidents and submit to the office. The Assistant-Clerk informed members that Cllr Wendy Hinder has contacted MP Helen Whately and will be meeting with her and Arriva to discuss this issue. Members asked for this to be returned to the next meeting for an update. **Action office.**

7.3 Bearsted Road Complaint. **Received** and **noted** the Clerk's report.

7.4 New Highways Maidstone Area Manager is Susan Laporte. **Noted.**

7.5 PROW Steps at Grove Green Noted a few issues have been raised by residents over the design and have been dealt with by the management company and a letter of thanks has been sent.

7.6 Flytipping in Boxley Road area. **Received** the Clerk's report and draft letter. Members felt that it was too wordy and not strong enough and asked for it to be re-drafted stating that it is illegal and that there are penalties if residents are caught flytipping with the relevant information being passed to the authorities to action. They **agreed** that it should be distributed in the vicinity of where the flytipping has been reported. **Action office.**

8. **Members Reports**

8.1 Feedback from members who attended the MBC planning training on 28 June. Cllr Clarke attended and found it very informative.

8.2 Feedback, specifically on the planning module training, from members attending the KALC Councillor Conference 7th July. Cllr Clarke attended and benefitted but found the planning training good but long and very involved.

- 9. **Empty Houses**
Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk’s report and **agreed** with the suggested approach for advertising. Action Office.

- 10. **MBC Play Areas**
 - 10.1 Timber Tops Play Area – Members welcomed the new play equipment and **agreed** that a request is sent to MBC to include a sign on the perimeter fence to inform residents who to contact in case of vandalism, injury etc. **Action office.**

 - 10.2 Grovewood Drive North (new play area) Members **noted** the Clerk’s report but felt that the offer for the PC to manage Shepherds Gate Drive play area should be referred to the Estates Committee for its August meeting. **Action office.**

- 11. **Volunteer Groups**
Cllr Ivor Davies’s verbal report on the Walderslade Woodlands Group recent quarterly meeting, looking at installing all weather paths in the woodlands and first aid courses was **received and noted.**

- 12. **Policy and Procedures**
 - 12.1 Annual Competency Review Statement. Deferred until next meeting after liaising with new Councillors who have undertaken recent training. **Noted.**

- 13. **Maidstone Local Plan** (This item was taken after item 4 whilst the Clerk was still present) Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk’s report and having learnt that MBC had not taken on board the issues highlighted in the parish council response **agreed** to employ a professional to act on behalf of the PC at the public examination.

- 14. **Next Meeting**
8 August 2016 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

- 15. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC**
Updates were **received** and **noted** on three enforcements in the north of the parish.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date