

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Tuesday 13 December 2016 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present: Mrs Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Ms L Clarke, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr Bob Hinder, Mr D Hollands together with the Clerk.

**1 Apologies and absences**

Cllr Rob Martins (work commitment) and Cllr Radcliffe-Godfrey (work commitments).

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

All members acknowledged that application 16/508263 was a parish council application. Cllr Bob Hinder reminded members that he was Chairman of the Friends of Boxley Warren, item 12.

**3 Minutes of the Meetings of 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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 the Minutes**

4.1 Minute 2930/5.1 Inconsiderate parking Provender Way. Borough Councillor Wendy Hinder notified members that she has also been receiving complaints from residents. County Councillor Carter returns from leave on 13 December so an update will not be possible until the January meeting. This information also relates to items 4.8 & 7.3. **Noted.** The school to be chased for the previously requested supporting letter. **Action: office & agenda.**

4.2 Minute 2930/5.2 Grovewood Drive South yellow lines. The Clerk reported that she was attempting to resolve the problem as MBC had referred the issue back to KCC with a recommendation that the lines be put in for safety reasons and KCC has already refused this request. Borough Councillor Hinder and the Clerk was attempting to find a way to resolve this problem. The committee to review escalating the issue at the next meeting. **Action: agenda.**

4.3 Minute 2930/5.3. Land to the rear of Tesco Grove Green. Work will be undertaken, when time allows, to contact the owners concerning maintenance. **Noted.**

4.4 Minute 2930/5.4 Litter/flytipping signs. It appears that MBC did install the signs by the Impton Lane junctions however they may have been stolen so new ones are being purchased. **Noted.**

4.5 Minute 2931/4.6 Flooding Boxley Road (near Longwood) and Brownlowe Copse. KCC Highways had undertaken work and investigation at both sites. Since the installation of the Springgate pond the water flow down Cossington Lane and into Brownlowe Copse has almost become non-existent. The parish council and WWG have received a thank you e-mail from a grateful resident. **Noted.**

4.6 Minute 2931/5.6 Development Wildfell Close. The planning officer has requested some clarification and a revision to the 25 year Management Plan and it now looks like the planning application will go to the January MBC Planning Committee. **Noted.**

4.7 Minute 2931/5.7. Litter picking and flytipping. Community Payback Scheme has indicated that it can undertake work and the office now must complete all the forms to put forward projects. **Noted.**

4.8 Minute 2931/5.8. Grovewood Drive North Crossing facility. The resident organising the petition is not yet ready to submit it. **Noted.**

4.9 Minute 2932/8.2 Dog Waste Bins. MBC has agreed to install an additional 7 co-mingled bins, including one at Lodge Road. An 8<sup>th</sup> has been requested but MBC will need to investigate the need as this is in East Ward. **Noted.**

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

**5. Planning Applications for Consideration**

16/507993/FULL and 16/507994/LBC (Listed building consent. Retrospective application for change of use garage space to use as teaching space. Boxley House, The

Street, Boxley. *Do not wish to object but the parish council would like it noted that it does not like retrospective planning applications.*

16/507366/OUT Outline application for plots 6, 7 and 8 for B1 office development in relation to extant planning permission MA/13/0389 with all matters reserved for future consideration. Plots 6,7 & 8 Eclipse Park Sittingbourne Road. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the KCC Planning Officers.

*Do not wish to object. Although the parish council welcomes the creation of jobs there is grave concern about the additional 200 vehicles attending these sites. Since the original application the site has been developed with NEXT and a Waitrose will be built in the New Year. The increased traffic from the two retail units will more than take up the slack caused by the closure of the Park and Ride, which on average only contained 300 vehicles per day.*

*A new entrance at Bearsted Rd has been constructed which serves NEXT and will also be used by Waitrose customers but the surrounding highway infrastructure does not support the current vehicular movements let alone any additional traffic. Junction 7 is a major gateway route to Maidstone Town Centre and there is already quite severe congestion on the roads to the town centre and in the surrounding communities. The KIMS site is also due to expand and there is additional concern that there is no cohesion between the planning and traffic authorities to deal with these problems before any additional development takes place.*

16/508119/TPO Fell Sycamore tree or alternatively crown lift for clearance of 5m, thin canopy by 30% and remove dead wood. 20 Spenlow Drive, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the landscape officer.*

16/508295/TPO 1no Hornbeam Tree – Crown reduction by 30% and reduce height by 4 metres at 14 Olivine Close, Walderslade.

*Do not wish to object defer to the views of the landscape officer.*

16/508324/FULL. Replacement of existing conservatory with single storey rear and side extension at 1 Shearers Close, Weaving. *Do not wish to object.*

16/508263/TPO 1No Sweet Chestnut with 4 stems, fell at Boxley Parish Office, Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade. *Wish to see approved but in the interests of being open and accountable it should be noted that the parish council is the applicant.*

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

None.

## 7. **Highways and Byways**

7.1 Minute 2932/8.1 Flooding and the raised cushion outside of Kings Arms, Boxley Village. Cllr Clarke to monitor the situation and an item to be returned to the agenda when requested. **Action: Cllr Clarke.**

7.2 Westfield Sole Road and Yelsted Lane one way system. Contact has been made with KCC concerning crash statistics and requesting information on any recent investigations being undertaken due to the recent lorry jack knives etc. **Noted.**

7.3 Parking on verges and inconsiderate parking at Grovewood Drive North, Shepherd's Gate Drive and Provender Way. Members were notified that parking on verges could be made illegal with a Road Traffic Order, progressed by KCC. Borough Councillor Wendy Hinder notified members that she had written to County Councillor Paul Carter about the need for partnership working to resolve highway issues within the parish. After lengthy discussion members decided:

- A request for an urgent meeting to discuss all the parking issues was to be made to County Councillor Paul Carter.
- The issues were to be taken to the Maidstone Joint Transport Board if there was no progress via County Councillor Carter.
- If necessary, a meeting with MBC and KCC was to be arranged to try to resolve the yellow lines issue.

- Maidstone Studios to be approached to try to resolve the issue for next year.

**Action: Cllr Hinder and Clerk.**

7.4 HGV Parking Restrictions Old Chatham Road. Arrangements would be made to fill the barriers with water. **Noted. Action: Clerk.**

## 8. Grounds Maintenance

The current Street Maintenance policy for identifying and approving work was, with some minor changes, deemed suitable to be the basis of the new Grounds Maintenance policy. After discussion Cllr Dengate proposed, seconded by Cllr Ivor Davies, **that a pilot scheme for additional grounds maintenance is undertaken in 2017/2018 with £15,000 being included in the budget. Unanimously agreed.** The Clerk to obtain information from potential contractors on a possible retention rate with a view to organising packages of mainly landscaping work. Councillors to identify areas that would need some regular work and the Clerk to produce a list for the January meeting.

**Action: Clerk and councillors.**

## 9. Budget 2017/2018

9.1 General Reserve for Highway/safety improvement projects. Members **agreed** that the current Policy for Dealing with Highway Issues that do not receive KCC Highway Funding was still fit for purpose. After lengthy discussion Members approved a procedure for dealing with such requests which could also be used for other projects. It was **agreed** to pilot the procedure and produce a draft explanatory leaflet for the website. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr Hollands proposed, seconded by Cllr Bob Hinder, that **£40,000 of the Parish Council's General/Earmarked Reserves is identified in the 2017/2018 budget for highway/safety improvements which the Environment Committee felt was necessary but which KCC refused to fund. Agreed** (Cllr Ivor Davies abstaining).

9.2 After making approved changes the draft budget was **agreed.**

## 10. Policy and Procedures

Section 106 wishlist, with some additions, **approved.**

## 11. Members Reports

Cllr Ivor Davies notified members that Sandy Lane had been swept. **Noted.**

## 12. Volunteer Groups

Cllr Bob Hinder's report on the last task day of Friends of Boxley Warren was **received and noted.** He raised concerns about the safety of the volunteers due to the illegal bike activity at the site as the next three task days would be bund building/repairs which would be immediately adjacent to Pilgrims Way. He had raised the issue with the Management Committee however he felt that the situation was not being taken seriously enough. Cllr Bob Hinder to liaise with the Clerk about insurance cover and writing a letter to the management committee. **Action: Cllr Bob Hinder and Clerk.**

## 13. Matters for Information

13.1 Kent Minerals and Waste Sites Plans. Call for sites. **Agreed no further action.**

13.2 Franklin Drive Play Area. The fencing around the play area had accidentally been left in place after the repairs to the bank. MBC would arrange its urgent removal. **Noted.**

13.3 Facebook post on the recent burglaries. Members noted that it had been seen by over 32,000 people but had not gone out on the community alert system. **Action: Office.**

## 14. Next Meeting

9 January 2017 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

As it was 9.30pm the Chairman used her prerogative to extend the meeting for up to 30 minutes.

15. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC**

The Chairman raised the issue of use of the Old KCC site by the M2 motorway. She will try to get the site secured. **Noted.**

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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