

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 10 July 2017 at Beechen Hall,
Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present: Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Ms L Clarke, Mr J Constable, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate and Mr Bob Hinder, together with the Clerk.

1 Apologies and absences

2 Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying
None.

3 Minutes of the Meetings 5 & 12 June 2017.

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1 Minute 3001/4.3. Land to the rear of Tesco Grove Green. Parish office will undertake the work when it is able. **Noted.**
- 4.2 Minute 3001/4.4 Development Wildfell Close. Cllr Bob Hinder has written to County Councillor Carter and a reply is awaited. The gates have been replaced by KCC and the firm responsible for producing the report can now access the site. **Noted.**
- 4.3 Minute 3001/4.7 Seat at Timber Tops Play Area. The seat has been installed by MBC. **Noted.**
- 4.4 Minute 3001/4.8 Community Payback Service. A contract has been received from CPS and this is currently being checked. **Noted.**
- 4.5 Minute 3001/4.9 Lower Thames Crossing. Issue dealt with under item 8.3.
- 4.6 Minute 3001/4.10 Ancient Woodland and TPOs. The issue will be taken by Maidstone KALC to the next MBC liaison meeting. **Noted.**
- 4.7 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. None.

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

5. Pre-application consultation land at Impton Lane.

The representative from Kitewood did not attend.

6. Planning Applications for Consideration

17/503040/TPO PROPOSAL: TPO application to fell 1No Field Maple in rear garden of 14 Iris Close to ground level due to declining condition. 14 Iris Close Walderslade.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

17/502798/FULL Erection of a single storey front extension to existing garage. 39 Coltsfoot Drive Weaving.
Do not wish to object.

17/503264/TPO – TPO application to crown lift 1No Twin Stem Hornbeam in rear garden of 8 Forestdale Road to give a ground clearance of 5m and reduce height and radial crown spread by no more than 2m to balance crown at 8 Forestdale Road, Walderslade.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

17/503265/TPO – TPO application to coppice both stems of Twin Stem Hornbeam due to extensive decay on main stem to south; crown lift single stem Field Maple to give a ground clearance of 5m and reduce height and radial crown spread by no more than 2m to balance crown; fell to ground level 1No Cherry tree at 10 Forestdale Road, Walderslade.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

17/503341/TPO Tree Preservation Order: 1no. Ash (T2) - reduce two Eastern limbs to a radial spread of 1m. 1no. Hornbeam (T3) - reduce canopy by 30% to achieve a height of 6m and radial spread of 3m. 4 Podkin Wood Walderslade.
Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

17/503454/TPO. Application to fell 1 no. Goat Willow. 34 Alexandra Glen Walderslade.

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

7. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

Willow Farm, Sandling – Appeal Dismissed. Cllrs Wendy Hinder and Clarke asked for a copy of the decision. **Action: Office.**

Forge Lane development. The planning officer was liaising with the applicant concerning an amended design for smaller properties and the parish council would be consulted. The office was asked to monitor the situation and to identify any issues highlighted in the Willow Farm decision that might affect the Forge Lane application.

Members **noted** that MBC was deciding where to allocate the Section 106 money from the NEXT development. A discussion took place on Section 106's and legal agreements.

8. **Highways and Byways**

8.1 Planning application 17/501471 for STEM school at land at Valley Park School New Cut Road. KCC Highway's response to the application was **received and noted.**

8.2 Members **received and noted** the results of the survey of committee members on the priority for allocating the £40,000 budget. Lengthy discussion took place on the results of the survey, the need to gain financial support from County Councillor Carter and how to manage the disappointment of some residents.

Cllr Dengate proposed seconded by Cllr Ivor Davies that **the Environment Committee investigate the Safer Crossing Point at Grovewood Drive North as the highway project. Agreed.** It was also **agreed** that;

- County Councillor Paul Carter is approached to pay for the speed count and flows survey at a cost of £1,676. The office to ensure that the survey is not undertaken during the school holidays. If County Councillor Carter was not willing to pay for the survey then the parish council would fund it.
- Tesco be approached about a contribution towards the cost.
- Other sources of funding be investigated.

Any underspend on the project could go towards another project.

Grovewood Drive South yellow lines. Members had placed this as the second priority and confirmed that they were unwilling to pay for any yellow lines whilst the planning application for the STEM School was outstanding as if permitted a Section 278 agreement would fund the yellow lines.

8.3 BPC/KCC meeting 27 June 2017 members **received and noted** the report. Discussion took place on outstanding highway issues:

- Changes to the design of Chatham Road. Members liked the design but expressed concern about the planned 8m gap between the bollards. KCC to be contacted for assurances that if these bollards do not stop HGVs parking that more will be installed and should any bollards be damaged that they would be promptly replaced. **Action: Office.**

The Sandling Resident's Association had now declined to pay for a village gateway. **Noted.**

- Speed reduction Walderslade Woodlands Road. Members **noted** that County Councillor Carter's promise to arrange for the speed limit to be reduced had not received funding. It was proposed from the Chair, and **agreed**, that **County Councillor Carter is approached to fund the reduction of the speed limit. Action: office.**
- Lidsing Road Crash Data 01/01/14 – 31/12/17 **received and noted.** KCC to be contacted to request that chevrons be painted on the road before any junction to warn drivers to take care. **Action: Office.**
- Junction 3 of the M2. KCC were investigating the possibility of a free flow slip onto the M2 London bound to see if this would improve capacity. KCC hoped to take a decision in the Autumn. **Noted.** The office to continue to monitor. **Action: Office.**
- Westfield Sole Road/Yelsted Lane/Harp Farm Road. Members' asked that this issue is monitored and returned to the agenda if there are any changes. **Action: Clerk.**
- HGVs using unsuitable roads, meeting with Kent MPs 4 July 2017. Update from KALC. **Received and noted.**

- Tree issues Boxley Road and adjacent closes. The Chairman informed members that she had arranged a site meeting with UK Power to discuss the tree problem.
 - Congestion issue, development and lack of funding for improvements. Helen Whately MP to be approached about attending a meeting to discuss the problems within the parish. **Action: Clerk.** Cllr Dengate notified members that the Government was allocating funding for highway improvements.
- 8.4 Management of residents' requests for the parish council to seek improvements to the highway. The Clerk received guidance from members.
- 8.5 Reporting highway and vegetation issues. Members were reminded that they should report any issues.
9. **Policy and Procedures**
Response comments that are available in responding to planning applications. **Noted.**
10. **Members Reports**
Cllr Bob Hinder notified members that he had attended a meeting on the AONB and future management plans but had benefited more from the networking than the actual meeting.
11. **Volunteer Groups**
Cllr Ivor Davies notified members that Walderslade Woodlands Group had undertaken its first task day using the tractor which proved very useful.
12. **Matters for Information**
Cllr Dengate reported that when he had recently reported cases of flytipping to MBC they had been cleared quickly.
Bulb planting. Members were reminded to submit locations for possible bulbs. Areas identified were New Cut Road, Grovewood Drive North, round Wood Roundabout and Boxley Village Green and a verge at Spenlow Drive.
13. **Maidstone Borough Council Consultation Low Emission Strategy**
Members **received and noted** the briefing report. The parish council's response would be that it strongly agreed with the proposed action plans and strategies. An additional comment to be made was that the Current Air Quality Management Area is and has been for 8 years focused on Maidstone Town and the M20 and members wished to point out that the areas in the North of the Borough which border the M2 and A229 should be monitored for Air Quality. **Action: Office.**
14. **Next Meeting**
After discussion members agreed that unless anything urgent came up the August Environment Committee meeting would be cancelled. Clerk to liaise with the Chairman should any issues arise and responses to planning applications will be decided out of meeting.
15. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC**
Members **received and noted** the update on five outstanding issues. Members were concerned that property owners appear to blatantly ignore planning regulations and requests from enforcement officers and that there was a general failure by MBC to take decisions and action against people who breach planning regulations.
Guidance on the action that the office should take was provided to the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date