

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 13 November 2017 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present: Mrs Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Ms L Clarke, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr Bob Hinder, together with the Assistant Clerk and Mr John Edwards, Maidstone Borough Council (until 8.30).

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs Constable and Hollands (work commitments).
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None.
3. **Minutes of the Meetings 9 October 2017**
The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.
Item 5 was taken at this point.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - 4.1 Minute 3034/4.1 Development Wildfell Close. Awaiting Planning Officer's report.
 - 4.2 Minute 3034/4.2 Ancient Woodland and TPOs. The issue was to be taken to Maidstone KALC to the next MBC liaison meeting. It was **agreed** that Cllr Bob Hinder would escalate this matter by writing to the Chairman of this committee. **Action Cllr Bob Hinder.**
 - 4.3 Minute 3034/4.3 Traffic Impact North Ward - Helen Whately MPs. Awaiting response.
 - 4.4 Minute 3034/4.4 Milestone Chatham Road. Sandling Village Hall Association has agreed a donation of £300.00 and the clerk is in communication with the group concerning commissioning the work. **Action office.**
 - 4.5 Minute 3034/4.8 Boxley Road, Walderslade. KCC maintenance will take place after UK Power Networks have repaired electric cables scheduled for 14 November.
 - 4.6 Minute 3036/8.1 Traffic Speeds, Boxley Road/Beechen Bank Road. Members **received** and **noted** the clerk's report. It was **agreed** that Cllr Bob Hinder would write to the Leader of Medway Council to see if there is any support they can give to help reduce speeding and to stop cars from driving on the pavement outside the garages on Boxley Road towards Walderslade Village. Action Office/Cllr Bob Hinder.
 - 4.7 Minute 3036/8.3 Chatham road design, Sandling. The clerk's report that further information was awaited from KCC regarding costs was **received** and **noted.**
 - 4.8 Minute 3030/7.3 Bulbs. 2000 daffodil bulbs have now been planted in locations around the parish and the Maidstone Rotarians are liaising with St John's School Gardening Club to plant the crocuses at the school. **Noted.**
 - 4.9 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. **John Edwards, Maidstone Borough Council, Street Cleansing.**
A discussion took place between members and John Edwards on issues affecting the parish including problems due to the removal of dog waste bins and the general cleansing of the area including litter and fly tipping. It was acknowledged that MBC has been working hard to keep the borough clean and tidy however the rural parts of the borough do not receive sufficient attention. It was confirmed that MBC would only install new co-mingle bins when there are new housing developments and only have a budget for 25 new bins a year. Previously enforcement against fly tipping and litter dropping was outsourced but due to costs this has been brought back in-house. At present there is only 1 enforcement officer to cover the whole borough, but it is planned that a further 3 officers will be recruited, and the borough will be split into 4 areas and each area will have a crime waste and cleansing team including an enforcement officer. A new state of the art sweeper is being purchased

which will have more features than the existing sweeper. It was confirmed the schedule for when the sweeper is in the area will be forwarded to the PC so that it could notify residents.

6. Planning Applications for Consideration

17/505437/FULL. Erection of a pitched roof first floor extension above existing garage. 3 Ploughmans Way Boxley Chatham Kent ME5 9DE. *The parish council has no material reason to object.*

17/505399/FULL. Garage/Store (works started). The Stables Street Farm, The Street Boxley Kent ME14 3DR. *The Parish Council wishes to object to this application and reported to the planning committee. The original development on this site was granted in 2010, with the permission emphasising the importance of retaining the character including the 'traditional courtyard' and open nature of the original farm. At the time of granting MBC imposed conditions on materials to ensure this happened. The developer has ignored previous conditions and has now erected a structure that does not resemble or reflect the buildings that exist around it. The new structure has cedar shingles and not clay tiles used in the other buildings. It is therefore considered not in keeping with the character of the immediate area, and it will have a harmful effect on the visual impact as viewed from the AONB. The Parish Council is appalled to see this application submitted when the applicant has not complied with the conditions on the two previous applications which has resulted in an appeal.*

The Parish Council does not approve of retrospective applications.

17/505454/FULL Change of use from D1 to C3 residential dwelling. Linden Lea, Weaving Street Weaving Maidstone Kent. *The parish council has no material reason to object.*

17/505524/FULL Demolition of rear conservatory. Erection of rear extension with extension to existing roof and side dormers and Juliet Balcony. Ruby Chatham Road Sandling Maidstone Kent. *The parish council has no material reason to object.*

17/505748/TPO: TPO application for 1no. Hornbeam - Lift to 6m to clear vegetation within 2m of the property, 1no. Hornbeam - Lift to 6m to clear vegetation within 2m of the property, 1no. Birch - Fell to just above fence height, 1no. Cob Nut - Coppice to 1m above ground level. Land Adjoining Brownelow Copse & Aston Close, Walderslade Kent. *Do not wish to object.*

7. Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions

7.1 **Noted.** A written appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate Proposal: Variation of Condition (02) of planning permission MA/13/1348 - Demolition of redundant cattle shed and other structures and conversion of traditional courtyard buildings to provide 2 no. dwellings with access, parking and landscaping (to allow the use of handmade clay tiles in place of Kent peg tiles) Location: Street Farm, The Street Boxley. No action required as MBC has provided previous responses.

7.2 Review of recent decisions that did not correspond with BPC Responses. Deferred to next meeting, **Noted.**

8. Highways and Byways

8.1 Seetec Justice (Community Payback). Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report and have **agreed** to put forward areas for consideration. **Action Cllrs/Office.**

8.2 KIMS Enterprise Zone. New signals at A249 Bearsted Road and New Cut Road roundabouts for traffic from the Kent Medical Campus Enterprise Zone. DoT has agreed to provide £4 million to pay for the scheme. **Noted.**

8.3 Response to query on impact of Lower Thames Crossing. Members **received** the Clerk's report and asked for clarification of what percentage did the 22,000-24,000 of additional daily traffic by 2025 represent. **Action office.**

- 8.4 Safer Crossing Point Grovewood Drive North survey results. Members **received** the clerk's report and the statistical information and decided that it required further analysis as the case for the crossing has not been substantiated by the survey. Members asked for this item to be returned to the January meeting for decision. They asked for the resident driving this request to provide further information and evidence for that meeting. Members **noted** that DHA have also been invited to visit the area and provide a report (item 10.2), which will also be available for the meeting. **Action office/DHA/Resident.**
- 8.5 Community Infrastructure Levy. Members **received** and **noted** the clerk's report on the CIL which has been adopted by MBC and will come into effect from 1 October 2018.

9. Policy and Procedures

- 9.1 Boxley Parish Wishlist. Members considered the list and asked for 3 additions:
- Provision of pedestrian and cyclist facilities at the Gleaming Wood Drive/Lordswood junction.
 - Missing footway from Cossington Road – Woodlands Road on the west side.
 - The provision of, if not included in the section 106 agreement for the development at Maidstone Studios a crossing point on New Cut Road.
- Members also asked for the wish list to be numerically ordered. New items will have the date for inclusion added onto the spreadsheet. **Action office.**

10. Members Reports

- 10.1 KCC Highways Parish and Town Council Tracker Survey. As Cllr John Constable was not present at the meeting this has been deferred to the December meeting.
- 10.2 Cllr Wendy Hinder update of meeting with Nick Yandle, Gallagher's. Cllr Wendy Hinder and the Clerk met with Nick Yandle to discuss two projects that could benefit from funding, the possible refurbishment of Franklin Drive play area and a safer crossing point at Grovewood Drive North. He confirmed that funding and manpower would be given provided the Parish Council takes over maintaining the area currently owned by MBC. In principle members liked the idea however they requested a breakdown on the annual cost of taking on the responsibility. The Safer Crossing Point would be subject to a report from DHA. **Action Cllr Wendy Hinder, Clerk and DHA.**

11. Volunteer Groups

- Received** reports from Rob Burrows, Walderslade Woods Group on:
- Old Chalk, New Downs Lottery Heritage Fund Initiative.
 - Kent County Council – Gen 2, Tree Surveys.
 - ADAFOR – LHF Initiative between Mid Kent Downs Partnership and Hadlow College.

12. Matters for Information

- 12.1 Programmed tree works on highway verges. **Noted.**
- 12.2 Roadworks New Cut Road. **Received** and **noted** the KCC response to the complaint.

13. Budget 2018/2019

There were no further projects identified.

14. Next Meeting

Next Environment Committee meeting 11 December 2017 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

15. Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC

There were none.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date

DRAFT