

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 3 April 2017 at Tyland Barn,
Tyland Lane, Sandling commencing at 8.21 pm.**

Councillors present: Cllr Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Cllr Clarke, Cllr Ivor Davies, Cllr Dengate, Cllr Hollands and Cllr Bob Hinder together with the Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllr Radcliffe Godfrey (family commitment).
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None.

As no members of the public were in attendance the meeting was not adjourned

3. **Planning Applications for Consideration**

KCC/MA/0049/2017 Planning application for use as Non-Hazardous Waste Recovery Facility at Cleansing Service Group Ltd, Cobtree House, Forstal Road. **Ratified** the Clerk's response after consulting with the committee out of meeting.

The parish council does not wish to object but the location is immediately adjacent to the river and its valuable ecosystem and habitats means that it is a very sensitive location.

Biodiversity, Section 13b of the planning application is incorrectly completed and instead of no should state Yes on land adjacent to or near the proposed site.

Flooding. A search of the Environment Agency Flood Map shows that the site has a Flood Zone 3 category and thus has a high probability for flooding. It is not known whether the current flood defences are still fit for purpose. In view of this the parish council requests stringent conditions regarding what is stored and where it is stored on the site so in the event of a flood the waste is not carried away into the river.

Waste water from the site. The planning application Section 12 (surface water) is not completed but the planning statement indicates that water will go into the main drainage system. KCC should ensure that the proposals for water drainage and waste water from the site and facility do not enter the river or local ecosystem. All facilities, including the proposed tanks should be robust enough to deal with any issues should flooding occur.

17/500789/FULL – Retrospective application for the erection of solar panel support structure with log store under. Land adjacent to Wilhelmina, The Malta Moorings, Sandling, Maidstone. *Do not wish to object however concern was raised that the battery storage compartment was at ground level and should it be flooded then there would be an environmental impact on the river. The parish council would like it noted that it does not like retrospective planning applications.*

17/500969/FULL – Erection of a two storey pitched roof rear extension at Shar Dell, Boxley Road, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object. Due to the proximity of the development to the neighbouring property members wish to see a condition imposed regarding work hours and including acceptable times of delivery.*

17/501264/FULL – Erection of Conservatory at 4 Tyland Mews, Sandling. *Do not wish to object.*

16/506571 The Granary, Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Boxley. Notification of a written appeal. *No further action.*

4. **Paper Planning Applications**

Members were notified that the 11th April Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee would be considering the MBC proposal to stop supplying parish councils with paper copies of planning applications. Members **agreed** that a letter should be sent to the committee’s Chairman stating that they were disappointed that MBC was considering taking away the service. Members identified the problems that were experiencing when accessing MBC site including:

- It can be taken down for maintenance at any time.
- There is difficulty in accessing planning applications in the evening as it cannot cope with the numbers of people trying to access it.
- The site administration is poor with documents missing from planning applications, other unconnected planning application documents being included, pencil or faint sketches being accepted by MBC which cannot be clearly seen on a screen. MBC also doesn’t format the documents so maps can be on their side and it is impossible to rotate them. The use of highlighter pens is accepted and again these cannot be clearly seen especially if the document is scanned in.

Other issues identified were:

- Not all councillors had access to computers.
- Not all venues had or wanted broadband/wifi.
- Impact on smaller parishes.

Action: Clerk.

5. **Next Meeting**

Next full environment meeting 13 April 2017 at St John’s School, Provender Way commencing at 7:00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date