

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 9 January 2017 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 and Mr R Martins together with the Clerk.

**1 Apologies and absences**

Cllr Hollands (charity commitment). Cllr Radcliffe-Godfrey (absent). The Chairman notified members that unless apologies are received prior to the meeting councillors not attending will be marked in the minutes as absent.

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

None.

**3 Minutes of the Meetings of 5<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December 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 2940/4.1 Inconsiderate parking Provender Way, yellow lines. Meeting with County Councillor Carter arranged for 18 January. **Noted.**
- 4.2 Minute 2940/4.2 Grovewood Drive South yellow lines. MBC, as it deems it to be a safety issue, has referred the issue to KCC which has refused to fund the work. Meeting with County Councillor Carter arranged for 18 January and MBC to be approached to ask that their decision criteria be reviewed to allow MBC to install the yellow lines. **Action: Clerk. Noted.**
- 4.3 Minute 2940/4.3. Land to the rear of Tesco Grove Green. The company that owns the land has been contacted about maintenance. **Noted.**
- 4.4 Minute 2940/4.4 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 2940/4.6 Development Wildfell Close. As the planning officer had not receive all of the additional requested information the application has not been submitted to the January MBC Planning Committee. Clarification is being sought from KCC as to when its report will be submitted to MBC. **Noted.**
- 4.6 Minute 2940/4.7. Litter picking and flytipping. Community Payback Scheme has indicated that it can undertake work and the office has started to compose the application and is obtaining the required photographs. **Noted.**
- 4.7 Minute 2940/4.8. Grovewood Drive North Crossing facility. The resident organising the petition is not yet ready to submit it. Meeting with County Councillor Carter arranged for 18 January. **Noted.**
- 4.8 Minute 2941/7.3. Parking at Grovewood Drive North, Shepherd's Gate Drive etc. Meeting with County Councillor Carter arranged for 18 January. **Noted.** The Clerk was asked to book Boxley Parish Council to speak at the MJTB and Cllr Clarke volunteered to attend. **Action: Cllr Clarke and Clerk.**
- 4.9 Minute 2942/8 Parish Maintenance, identification of potential contractor. Action will be taken once draft budget is approved. **Noted.**
- 4.10 Minute 2942/9.1 General Reserve for Highway Safety improvement projects. Action will be taken once the draft budget is approved. **Noted.**
- 4.11 Minute 2932 TPO for Cowbeck Wood, MBC's failure to process the TPO order. After discussion members agreed that every three months the office should send MBC, copies to all landscape officers, a reminder that the TPO Order is still outstanding and stressing that waiting until the trees are in imminent danger is not good practice. **Action: office.**
- 4.12 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

## 5. Planning Applications for Consideration

16/507840/TPO1no. Multi-stemmed Hornbeam - Coppice (maintenance), 1no. Sweet Chestnut - Fell to ground (unhealthy specimen), 1no. Sweet Chestnut - Coppice (maintenance) (previously coppiced). 1 Brockbank Close Walderslade. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting with the committee, *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the landscape officer.*

16/508148/FULL: Minor material amendment to 14/0659 change the roof of the porch extension from the flat roof to a pitched and tiled roof (to match the existing house) with a roof window (velux or similar). 22 Gleaners Close Weaving. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting with the committee, *Do not wish to object.*

16/507793/FULL Side extension to detached garage to provide an additional bay to provide secure storage and workshop and dry storage for bikes.1 Mayfield Close Walderslade. Ratified the Clerk's decision, after consulting with the committee, *Do not wish to object.*

16/508290/FULL. Proposed front entrance gates and boundary wall at Stone House Sandy Lane Maidstone ME14 3DJ. Deadline 5 January 2017. **Ratified** the Clerk's decision, after consulting with the committee, *Do not wish to object.*

16/508452/FULL Demolition of existing dwelling, attached garage, outbuildings and garage and erection of a replacement dwelling and garage. 2 Riverside Cottages Forstal. *Do not wish to object.*

16/508515/FULL Demolition of existing garage, removal of greenhouse, erection of single storey side and rear extension and creation of front bay window. Pen Dean Weaving Street Weaving. *Do not wish to object but members have concerns about the loss of car parking spaces.*

16/508445/FULL Proposed side and rear extensions and loft conversion with internal alterations. 5 Gean Close Walderslade. *Do not wish to object but the proposed development was felt to be unbalanced in appearance and the development is right up to the boundary at one point.*

16/508533/TPO TPO application - 4 no. Goat Willows - fell to near ground level. Goat Willow - cut back growth to boundary or appropriate pruning. points. Goat Willow - remove major deadwood over gardens. Common Ash - cut back growth to boundary or appropriate points. Land Adj 11 - 12 Trotwood Close Walderslade. *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

16/508568/FULL Erection of a single storey side extension with proposed chimney stack. 27 Franklin Drive Weaving. *Do not wish to object.*

16/508685/TPO Oak Tree in front garden - cut off all branches from the main trunk that are within 5 metres of the ground and trim tree canopy by 25%; Hornbeam in rear garden - trim tree canopy by 30%. 6 Cinnabar Close Walderslade. *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

16/507292/OUT – AMENDED DETAILS. Outline Application with access matters sought for development of medical campus comprising up to 98,000 sqm of additional floorspace (including additional hospital facilities, clinics, consultation rooms and a rehabilitation centre (classes C2/D1); education and training facilities with residential accommodation (class C2/D1); keyworker accommodation for nurses and doctors (class C3); pathology laboratories (class B1); business uses (class B1); ancillary retail services (class A1, A2, A3); and up to 116 bed class C2 neuro-rehabilitation accommodation; internal roads and car parks, including car park for residents of Gidds Pond Cottages; hard and soft landscaping including creation of a nature reserve (to

renew existing consent 13/1163). KIMS Newnham Park, Bearsted Road, Weaving.  
**Noted.**

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

None.

7. **Highways and Byways**

7.1 Westfield Sole Road and Yelsted Lane. Members gave examples of recent situations that they had experienced when travelling along the local rural roads. Cllr Bob Hinder notified members that Councils attending the KALC Maidstone Area Committee meetings were raising similar complaints concerning HGVs on rural roads. Discussion took place concerning possible options: restricting lorries for access only; introduction of a one way system etc. After discussion it was **agreed** that the issue would be taken to the next Maidstone Joint Transport Board with a request "Boxley Parish Council would like to bring to the MJTB's attention that there is a major safety and congestion issue caused by HGVs using Westfield Sole Road and Yelsted Lane. BPC requests that the MJTB arranges for an investigation and identifies action to deal with the issue". **Action: Clerk and Cllr Clarke.** On receipt of the response to the investigation the public to be informed of the situation.

Cllr Dengate asked whether it could be investigated whether it is possible to obtain insurance company reports to identify the shunts and crashes that are occurring but going unreported to the Police.

7.2 Walderslade Woods Road. KCC Officers have been instructed to proceed with the reduction in in the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph. No timescale for the work has yet been received. **Noted.**

8. **Parish Maintenance .**

It was **agreed** to change the title to read Parish rather than Grounds Maintenance. The Clerk was notified of other areas that would require additional maintenance and councillors were asked to contact the office with any additional areas. **Action: All councillors.**

9. **Budget 2017/2018**

The amalgamation of the Grounds Maintenance and Street Maintenance (code 4800) budgets was, with a budget of £15,000, **agreed.**

10. **Policy and Procedures**

10.1 Funding for KCC Highway Projects, introduction to the leaflet. **Approved.**

10.2 Policy and Procedures Review calendar. **Approved.**

11. **Members Reports**

11.1 Boxley Village Springclean. Cllr Clarke had been approached by a resident about undertaking a springclean around the village and it has been highlighted that something like a skip will be needed to dispose of the large amount of soil and vegetation that would result. Cllr Clarke to be supplied with a Street Maintenance Application to submit details to members for funding. **Action: office and Cllr Clarke.** The office to liaison with Cllr Clarke about any other support needed.

12. **Volunteer Groups**

Cllr Ivor Davies notified members that the WWG had undertaken work in the hall car park as a thank you for the parish council's annual support. The Chairman asked that the thanks of the parish council is formally minuted.

13. **Matters for Information**

13.1 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Local Plan. The Clerk's report on the planned Reg 18 consultation was **noted and received.** The Clerk was asked to produce a briefing note on the potential impact on the parish from the proposed development adjacent to the boundary. The focus to be on impact on local

resources including schools, health etc. housing and traffic impact on current infrastructure.

13.2 Medway Council Local Plan. The Clerk’s report on the planned Reg 18 consultation was **noted and received**. The Clerk was asked to produce a briefing note on the potential impact on the parish from the proposed development adjacent to the boundary. The focus to be on impact on local resources including schools, health etc. housing and traffic impact on current infrastructure.

13.3 Maidstone Local Plan. The Planning Inspectors interim report was **noted**.

13.4 Volunteer litter picking Sandling Village. The loan of the hi vis jackets and the liaison between the residents and office was **noted**.

14. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting to be rearranged as it clashes with the KALC Maidstone Area Committee. Members to be contacted to organise and alternative date.

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

The MBC’s update on the local issue was **noted**. Cllr Bob Hinder requested permission to take the issue of lack of enforcement to the KALC Maidstone Area Committee. **Agreed**. Clerk to supply a briefing note on all the outstanding enforcement issues.

Meeting closed at 9.14pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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