

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 9 March 2020 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs A Brindle - Chair, Mr I Davies, Mr B Hinder, Mrs P Huntingford, J Willmott, J Constable, D Hollands together with Mrs D Baylis, Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllr L Clarke
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting 9 December 2019, 13 January 2020 and 27 January 2020**
The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
The Clerk was asked to send a letter to MP's Tracey Crouch and Helen Whatley asking for an update on what they have done regarding Junction 3 of the M2. **Action Clerk**
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - 4.1 Minute 3330/4.1 Junction 3 M2. 10 Kent MPs request for action on local infrastructure.
Cllr B Hinder reported that the JTB meeting had been cancelled due to lack of business.
The Clerk was asked to contact David Burton and ask for this to go on the next Strategic Planning Agenda. **Action Clerk**
 - 4.2 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. **None.**

To adjourn to allow members of the public to address the meeting.

Cllr V Davies had attended as a member of the public. He wished to raise Condition 19 on the Popes Field Schools development which required all the amendments to the roads to be implemented before the schools opened. The schools are scheduled to open in September and the roadworks had not been started. This had been raised with Enforcement but as yet there was no breach as the schools had not opened.

Cllr V Davies also raised the matter of the boundary between Grove Green Community Hall and Tescos. Between the Boundary fence and the recycling bins a lot of rubbish had been dumped and there were reports of rats. Cllr Brindle said she would raise the matter with the Manager of the store and the Clerk was asked to report it to Environmental Health.

5. **Planning Applications for Consideration or ratification**
 - 20/500848/TPOA - 11 Sandstone Rise, Boxley, ME5 9DH**
TPO application to cut back group of sweet chestnut trees to fence line to clear from residents property.
Boxley Parish Council Response: Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.
 - 20/500613/FULL – 2 Ploughmans Way, Boxley, ME5 9DE**
Erection of first floor side extension.
Boxley Parish Council Response: Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reason to object to this application.
 - 20/500779/FULL – 77 Lombardy Drive, ME14 5TB**
Insertion of 2no, new first floor side windows.
Boxley Parish Council Response: Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reason to object to this application.
 - 20/500951/FULL – 11 Orache Drive, Weaving, ME14 5UG**
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension with light lantern
Boxley Parish Council Response: Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reason to object to this application.

20/501010/TPOA 5 Sylvan Glade, Walderslade ME5 9PW

TPO Application – Oak tree coppice all remaining stems to fence height due to concerns that the tree can cause damage to properties in a storm/high winds and endanger life. Deadline 26 March 2020.

Boxley Parish Council Response: Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer

20/500959/ADV – Unit 2, Aylesford Business Park, St Michaels Close, Aylesford ME20 7US

Advert Application for 3 No flex faces with overhead LED troughlights (Advert 1,3,4) and 1 No non illuminated flex face (Advert 2). Deadline 26 March 2020.

Boxley Parish Council Response: Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reason to object to this application.

6. Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions

The Planning decisions on the Agenda were noted and the responses made out of meeting ratified.

7. Highways and Byways**7.1 Highways Improvement Plan.**

It was agreed that once projects had been completed they would be put onto a separate list of completed projects.

7.2 Harp Farm Road

There was no further update on any flooding work that has been carried out. The Clerk was asked to chase for an update through Jennie Watson. **Action Clerk**

7.3 Walderslade Woods

An email had been received from Jennie Watson stating that she had found the funding for the works and that work on the speed reduction and island improvements would be done.

7.4 Junction of Yelstead Lane and Dunn Street

There has been another serious collision at this junction and a video was available. It was agreed to put improved signage for his junction on the HIP.

7.5 Installation of double yellow lines on Junctions exiting onto Grovewood Drive South

It was agreed to monitor this until the schools open.

7.6 To consider any issues raised at the meeting

Lodge Road roundabout reports of cars 'drifting'. Cllr John Constable said that he would monitor the situation and report back.

8. Wildfell Close – flooding to Saracen Fields

Recent heavy downpours were resulting in water flowing from Walderslade Woods, through Wildfell Close down to Saracen Fields and pouring out onto Boxley Road. Due to previous flooding to number 2 a French Drain had been installed and the water was flowing out of this. It is thought that this could be due to blocked compartments on Walderslade Woods and this would be reported to MBC for investigation.

9. New Litter Bin for Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard

It was agreed to purchase a new bin.

10. Policy and Procedures

None scheduled for review. **Noted.**

11. Members and Officer's Reports

Cllr Bob Hinder reported that he had not been able to find any update on the Care Home Appeal. No decision had been made yet.

The Planning Committee had decided on the Land to the Back of Cherry Orchard – 19/505949

The applicants would have to submit a site redevelopment plan within 2 months.

11. **Consultations**

MC/18/0556 – Gibraltar Farm, Ham Lane, Gillingham, ME7 3JJ

Application for approval of reserved matters being appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to planning permission MC/18/0556 – Outline application with some matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) for construction of 450 market and affordable dwellings with associated access, estate roads and residential open space (renewal of planning permission MC/14/2395)

Boxley Parish Council response: Boxley Parish council would like to reiterate its previous objections to this application.

The applicant recognises that there are traffic issues on Westfield Sole Road by reason of his proposed improvements. These improvements are only going to be on the stretch of the Road that adjoins land that he owns. The whole road will need improving for it to be safe. An increase of traffic on this road would lead to congestion, crashes and potentially personal injuries.

Boxley Parish Council is very concerned at how the site traffic is going to navigate these very narrow lanes to the site. What is the proposed route for HGV's? There has still been no Safety Audit of Westfield Sole Road and this needs to be done before this application is considered and a decision made.

We object to any development which will increase traffic along Walderslade Woods and the already overcapacity Junction 3 of the M2.

The proposed work will create a fast route away from the development towards Maidstone and the M20 through Boxley Village. In a November 2018 survey Boxley village recorded an average 52,391 vehicular movements per week which is already too many. The single road through the village is unclassified and any additional traffic would have a severe and direct impact on the residential properties that line the road as it is a linear village. The Parish Council has received several reports from pedestrians who have been hit by car wing mirrors whilst using the very narrow pavements. Any increase in traffic through this village would be dangerous.

Boxley Parish Council objects on highways grounds, specifically the impact on the health and safety of other road users and the impact on the local highway infrastructure on Lidsing Road, Forge Lane, Westfield Sole Road, Yelstead Lane, Harp Farm Road, The Street (Boxley village), Walderslade Woods and Junction 3 of the M2.

12. **Volunteer Groups**

No reports received. The chairman of the Walderslade Woods Group is on Holiday but a work day is planned at the end of the month.

The Friends of Weaving Heath did a litter picking day and collected 15 bags of rubbish and 4 pallets.

13. **Items for Next Agenda**

Requests for items to be included on the agenda to be submitted no later than 27 January 2020.

Noted.

14. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 6 April 2020 at Tyland Barn, Sandling following on from the Parish Council meeting commencing at 7.30pm.

15. **Enforcement and CIL/Section 106 updates from MBC.
Received and Noted.**

Meeting closed 8.55 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date