

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th December 2020. This meeting was held remotely by Teams due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr V Davies - Chairman, Mr M Beckwith, Mrs A Brindle (from 7.35), Ms L Clarke, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mrs P Huntingford, Mr W Salter, Mr C Sheppard and Mr P Sullivan, Mr J Wilmott together with the Clerk Mrs D Baylis, Assistant Clerk Mrs M Fooks together with Mr A Hume, Mr K Attwood, Mr J Wilde (presenting the plans for the Lidsing Development) and 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies and absences

Councillors T Harwood – no internet at home. K Macklin – prior late running meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllrs V Davies and B Hinder declared they had been lobbied on Item 3.

3. Presentation

A presentation was given by Alister Hume of Hume Planning, J Wilde, Transport Consultant and Mr K Attwood regarding the proposed development of a Garden Community of 2,000 houses at Lidsing. Councillors were invited to ask questions.

- Cllr V Davies requested a copy of the presentation and Mr Hume said that he would supply one. He also said that there was more information of the proposal together with a comment form on the Hume Planning Website.
- Cllr C Sheppard noted that there was plenty of provision for East/West traffic movements towards Medway but none for North South to Maidstone. The only route from North to South would be through Boxley Village which already has traffic problems. Mr Wilde said that it was believed that people would use the new link road to access the M20, M2 and Bluebell Hill junctions but agreed that some additional vehicles would still use Boxley as a cut through. There was no provision in the plans for a Boxley bypass route as the topography was too difficult.
- Cllr P Dengate asked if this development was to facilitate access to the Gibraltar Farm development which was currently on hold due to issues with access. The Gibraltar Farm proposal is directly adjacent to the Lidsing one. There was no definitive answer given to this question.
- Cllr W Salter asked about the number of cars per household the traffic assessments would be based on. Mr Wilde answered that 2 spaces per household would be allocated. It was anticipated that there would be 1,100 car movements during peak hours with 10-12,000 vehicle movements in a 24-hour period.
- Cllr B Hinder noted that all the improvements seemed to be of an advantage to Medway with none for Maidstone even though the development was in Maidstone Borough.
- A member of the public asked 2 questions regarding employment:
 1. Why are more units being built and are you committed to building them?
 2. Do you think these are necessary given the vacant units on nearby industrial estates?

AH explained that the model approach is to provide 1 job per house they are providing a holistic approach to promote the self-containment of the settlement.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and would be **signed** when circumstances allow.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Minute 3407 item 17. There was a site meeting on the 17th November 2020 with Network Rail's Land Agent, the Project Manager, Site Manager and one other, Cllrs V Davies and Sheppard and the Clerk. All aspects of the use of the play were discussed. They will not need to remove any play equipment but will instead fence it off to protect it. The playground will need to be closed. The playground will need to be closed. We have asked for the original gate to be reinstated and if the ivy

damaged fence could be replaced. Network Rail will also look at alternative sites. A draft Licence Agreement will be sent for PC approval before any work takes place.
Noted.

6. Crime Report and Police Issues
Noted.

7. Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting
11 members of the public had joined the meeting. 2 members of the public asked to be invited to the Environment Committee Meeting on the 14th December 2020.

8. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings
Received and **Noted** the following draft minutes.
Environment Committee Meetings 2 and 9 November 2020.
F&GP Committee Meeting 16 November 2020.

9. Finance

- 9.1 Payments made out of meeting 29.10.20–30.11.20. **Noted.**
- 9.2 Receipts for the period. 29.10.20 – 30.11.2020. **Noted.** The Clerk was asked to find out which development the CIL payment was for.
- 9.3 Account balances report. **Noted.**

10. Policies and Procedures
None on this Agenda.

11. Reports from Councillors/Office

Cllr I Davies had attended KALC County Conference which had 104 attendees. Swale put forward a motion for fast food outlets to write the number plates of vehicles on their packaging so that litter could be traced more easily. The motion was passed and would be forwarded to the National Federation.

There would be a 4% increase in subscription rates.

He had also attended a half meeting of the local Maidstone meeting. This had to be switched to Teams halfway through as the Police cannot use Zoom. Many invitees were then unable to join the meeting due to technical issues. The Clerk was asked to circulate the minutes to other Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

12. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllrs Brindle and Hinder were attending meetings virtually but had nothing in particular to report.

13. Grant Applications
None received

14. Sale of Wildfell Close

The Clerk was waiting for an update from the Solicitor regarding the transfer of the woodland. Work on the formation of the CIO was ongoing.

15. Covid-19 update

The report was noted. The Clerk reported that the Assistant Clerk had been successful in securing a business support grant of £1,334 for the closure of Beechen Hall during the second national lockdown.

16. Draft Licence Agreement with Network Rail for the use of the Franklin Drive Play Area.

Both Cllrs V Davies and C Sheppard agreed that vital information was missing from the Agreement put forward. Cllr V Davies recommended not to approve the draft agreement. It was proposed by Cllr V Davies, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed that Cllrs V Davies, C Sheppard and the Clerk be given delegated power to get the Licence Agreement amended and in place.

17. Matters for Decision**Lidsing Garden Development**

It was proposed by Cllr B Hinder, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed that Boxley Parish Council nominate one Councilor to join the Working Group set up by Bredhurst Parish Council to oppose the development.

Cllr W Salter was nominated and agreed to join the Working Party as the BPC representative.

It was proposed by Cllr B Hinder, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed that a sum of £500 be put aside to help, Bredhurst Parish Council, with the publicity costs associated with this campaign.

18. Correspondence

A Lot of correspondence had been received regarding the proposed Sandling developments on the Local Plan Review. These would be dealt with by the Environment Committee.

19. Matters for Information

None

20. Items for Next Agenda

To be received by the Clerk on or before the 15 January 2021. **Noted.**

21. Next Meeting

25th January 2021 **Noted.**

Meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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