

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 12 April 2021 held by Teams due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs B Hinder – Chair, I Davies until item 10 when he left due to technical difficulties, V Davies, L Clarke, P Huntingford, C Sheppard, W Salter, A Brindle, and J Wilmott together Mrs D Baylis, Clerk and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies and absences**
D Hollands
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
Cllr A Brindle – member of MBC’s planning committee
Cllr V Davies – Vinters Valley Trust Chairman
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 April 2021**
The minutes were agreed and would be signed when possible.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

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

6 members of the public were in attendance and wished to speak on Item 8.6 when it came up.

5. **Planning Applications for Consideration – Decision**

KCC/MA/0071/2021 County Transport Workshops, Forstal Road/Beddow Way, Aylesford

Erection of new build facility for provision of digital autopsy services to Kent County Council/Coroner's Service. Facility comprising: Main Building containing cold storage, staff amenities and administrative space; Ancillary building containing CT Scanner suite with covered link to the Main Building; external canopy & screening to loading area. Associated landscaping comprising new hardstandings to parking and loading areas; secure compound fencing, gates etc.; external refuse & plant enclosures; soft landscaping adjacent to parking & entrance; demarcation of access road on existing hardstandings. Relocation & upgrade to existing substation

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning objections to this application.

21/501502/TPOA Vinters Valley Nature Reserve New Cut Road Maidstone Kent ME14 5PS

TPO Application - All three trees are mature oak trees. (T1) - Adjacent to footpath. We wish to remove all side branches (totem pole the tree) and allow it to recover and probably re-sprout new side growth. Reason: Tree keeps dropping branches and has caused damage to school fence, suspected root damage/tree is stressed and is now dropping branches. (T2 and 3) Both trees have a noticeable lean in the direction of the buildings. Should they fall they would damage the neighbour's buildings. We have monitored the trees since 2014 and now wish to remove the larger branches on the lean side of the two trees to reduce the gravitational 'pull' of these larger branches and allow the trees to grow away from the direction of the lean. Thus helping to reduce the likely hood of any collapse of the tree onto the buildings.

Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.

21/501576/TPOA22 Whatman Drive Maidstone Kent ME14 5FZ

TPO Application for 1 x Oak to reduce height from 12m to 9m.

Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.

21/501167/TPOA East Wing, Weaving House, Grovewood Drive South, ME14 5BX

TPOA application: 1 x Holly Tree – picture 2 shows that the tree we estimate when trimmed will be approximately 5 metres in height and 4 metres in width at its maximum point whilst picture 3 shows that we are looking to trim the depth of the tree by approximately 1.5 metres to the edge of the building to prevent it overhanging the roof.
Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.

21/501590/FULL 2 Parchment Close, ME14 5GB

Erection of a rear conservatory

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning objections to this application.

6. **Ratifications**

The planning responses made by the Clerk after consulting with the members were ratified.

7. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

Noted

8. **Highways and Byways**

8.1 **Highways Improvement Plan**

No further updates.

8.2 **Boarley Lane**

There had been more correspondence between MP Helen Whatley and residents. Residents were very unhappy that nothing was being done.

8.3 **Junction 3 of the M2**

No further update.

8.4 **To consider any issues raised at the meeting**

Cllr V Davies reported that The Fox and Goose in Weaving had cut down hedges alongside the lane leading to the village hall, possibly creating a new entrance to the Car park. This lane is also a bridleway and footpath and the new entrance would be dangerous to all users due to visibility issues. The Clerk was asked to report it to Enforcement at MBC.

8.5 **Unauthorised work by Dale Court**

The Contractor was waiting for the motorbike inhibitor to be delivered and then would be able to give a date for the work to be done.

8.6 **PROW Exton Gardens**

6 Members of the public had attended to discuss this matter. One resident had provided evidence of a Deposit which although it expired in 2015 prevents the 20 year rule regarding access being used to create a PROW. KCC have confirmed to residents that there has never been a PROW on this land and have recommended that the 'No public access' signs are sufficient and another Deposit is not needed. Cllr Hinder said that while he has sympathy with both sides it is not the place of the parish council to become involved in what is a civil matter. It would be up to residents to take the matter further if they so wished. This was agreed by members.

9. **Policy and Procedures – Review**

None on this Agenda.

10. **Walderslade Woods**

1. It was agreed to leave the track as it is while the Clerk looked into the issues of public liability and how it would affect the Woodland Management Plan. If it were

to be kept permanently members would like to see it properly constructed and it would be the responsibility of the CIO to manage it. Members agreed that signs should be put up.

2. Members felt that it was unlikely that Kitewood would be interested in selling the land for a price that BPC could afford and would not be looking into the matter at this time.

11. **Members and Officers Reports**

Cllr Hinder reported that he had received a brochure from the Royal British Legion who make things to sell to raise funds. The brochure had commemorative items for VE day on the 8th of May. There were street furniture items and stand alone. Members agreed that they would like to support this organisation. The Clerk would send out a copy of the brochure to members for a decision.

Cllr V Davies had received a complaint from a resident in Grovewood Drive North regarding the play area. This is managed by MBC who have replaced most of the fences but removed the one adjoining these properties. The residents would like it replaced as they now get balls kicked directly into their properties with people coming to retrieve them.

Cllr Sheppard expressed concern about the number of potholes in the parish. This is the responsibility of KCC and residents should report them online.

12. **Residents' Concerns**

Boxley Warren. Noted

Boxley Sign

Members agreed to get the sign restored. Cllr V Davies would get some detailed photographs for the Clerk who would then look into getting it restored. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Royal British Legion for a quotation as they can do this sort of work.

13. **Consultations**

None

14. **Volunteer Groups**

No reports

15. **Items for Next Agenda**

Requests for items to be included on the next Agenda.

16. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 4 May 2021 commencing after the Parish Council meeting starting at 7.30pm.

Cllr Slater left the meeting.

17. **Enforcement and CIL/Section 106 updates from MBC**

Meeting closed 8.38 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date