

Minutes of the Environment Committee on Tuesday 4 May 2021 held by Teams due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs A Brindle – Chair, I Davies, L Clarke, D Hollands (from 7.41 due to technical difficulties), P Huntingford, C Sheppard, W Salter, and J Wilmott together Mrs M Fooks, Assistant Clerk.

Members of Public: 0

1. **Apologies and absences**
B Hinder, V Davies – Apologies Accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2021**
The minutes were agreed subject to the following amendments
 - item 8.6 the deletion of 'through the courts' from the penultimate sentence.
 - The addition of 'During item 10 Cllr I Davies left the meeting due to technical difficulties.
 These would be signed when possible.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
Minute 3475/12 Boxley Sign. Further investigation on the ownership of the sign was requested as it appears this is a KCC sign. Members asked for this to be returned to the next meeting for further discussion. **Action Clerk.**

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

As there were no members of the public the meeting was not adjourned.

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

21/501011/FULL Cringles, Boxley Road, Walderslade, ME5 9JG

Retention of garage, erection of single storey side extension below existing canopy and erection of detached single storey annexe ancillary to main dwelling.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object.

21/502193/TPOA 15 Saracen Fields, Boxley, ME5 9DG

Oak (T001) - Reduce lateral growth from E section from 9m length to 5m in length to appropriate growth points reduce weight and potential risk. Reduce lateral growth on South Western and North Eastern sections at 10.5m. from 8m to 6m to appropriate growth points. Reduce height 19m to 14m to reduce height and balance crown. Remove lower branches to clear main stem to 7m. to improve appearance. Remove major deadwood. Sweet Chestnut (T002) - Fell tree and remove arisings. Sweet Chestnut (T003) - Fell tree and remove arisings.

Boxley Parish Council Members are concerned at the request for healthy trees to be felled but defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.

21/501790/REM : Plot 3 Maidstone Innovation Centre Newnham Court Way Weaving Maidstone Kent ME14 5F

Section 73 - Application for Minor Material Amendment to approved plans condition 1 (changes to landscaping) and Variation of condition 5 (landscaping scheme) pursuant to 18/506658/REM for - Reserved Matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline application 16/507292/OUT (outline application with access sought for development of medical campus) for construction of proposed four storey Innovation Centre office building (Class B1) and associated external works.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object.

21/502069/FULL 41 Forestdale Road, Boxley, ME5 9NB

Conversion of the garage into a habitable space.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object.

21/502095/TPOA 14 Macgrory Drive, ME14 5GF

TPO application to remove one tree.

Boxley Parish Council Members are concerned with the felling of a healthy young Oak tree particularly as this is a new estate, but will defer to the views of the Landscape Officer. Cllr Huntingford abstained from commenting on this application.

KCC/MA/0086/2021 Newnham Court Farm, Bearsted Road, Weaving, Maistone, Kent ME14 5LH

Construction of a service road route for HGV and other vehicle deliveries, and concrete apron, with associated landscaping, lighting, and fencing.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object.

21/502139/SUB Castle Vale Castle Dene Maidstone Kent ME14 2NH

Submission of Details to Discharge Condition 3 - Cross-sectional drawings, Condition 4 - Landscape scheme and Condition 7 - Biodiversity enhancement scheme subject to 19/504937/FULL.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object.

6. Ratifications

There were none.

7. Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions

Received and Noted. Cllr Wilmott was concerned that BPC did not send a representative to the Planning Committee meeting on 22 April, 2021 in response to an application being reported. It was agreed that the Clerk contacts the Clerk of the MBC planning committee to ascertain why the Parish Council was not notified and what procedure can be put in place to prevent this from happening in future. **Action Clerk.**

8. Highways and Byways**8.1 Highways Improvement Plan**

No further updates.

8.2 Boarley Lane

Cllr Brindle confirmed that she had not received a response from her letter to County Councillor Paul Carter. She did however confirm that an ancient tile had been found at St Andrew's Chapel and photos have been sent to MBC.

8.3 Junction 3 of the M2

No further update had been received.

8.4 To consider any issues raised at the meeting

None raised.

8.5 Unauthorised work by Dale Court

No further update had been received.

9. Policy and Procedures – Review

None on this Agenda.

10. Walderslade Woods

The Assistant Clerk reported that the Clerk had been in contact with the Solicitor who is drafting the CIO and it is hoped that a draft will be forwarded later this week. **Action Clerk.**

A discussion took place regarding the informal cycle track in the woodlands and clarification has been requested again on the insurance risks associated with this to the Parish Council and the woodland management plan. **Action Clerk.**

11. **Members and Officers Reports**

There were none to report.

12. **Planning Tracker for the website**

Information and cost were circulated out of meeting. Cllr Salter proposed, seconded by Cllr Sheppard with all in favour of accepting the quote of £12.00 per year for this tool to be added to BPC's website which will make it easier for residents to track planning applications in the parish. **Action Office.**

13. **Residents Concerns**

None reported.

14. **Consultations**

None.

15. **Volunteer Groups**

No reports given.

16. **Items for Next Agenda**

The following items were requested to be included on the next Agenda:

- Speeding through Boxley Village including the junction of Sandy Lane.

Safety Audits to be carried out by KCC on the following areas:

- Grovewood Drive South.
- Chiltern Hundreds PH to Notcutts Roundabout.

Clerk to provide update on the outcome of the meeting with Jennie Watson KCC regarding Boxley Village and New Cut Roundabout.

Cllr Sheppard raised a query on the MBC Park & Ride scheme which, once open, was supposed to alleviate some of the parking issues being experienced along Grovewood Drive South. However from Cllr Sheppard's observations, after a recent visit to the site, it appeared this was not working as it was only at 10% occupancy.

17. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting to be confirmed in light of current restrictions and the cessation of remote meetings from 6th May 2021.

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

No updates were available.

Meeting closed 8.29 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date