

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021, at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, ME5 9RU at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr C Sheppard - Chairman, Mr V Davies, Mr M Beckwith, Ms A Brindle, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr B Hinder, Mrs P Huntingford, H Monk, Paul Dengate, Dennis Hollands, K Macklin and Mr P Sullivan, together with the Clerk Mrs D Baylis and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies and absences

Cllrs L Clarke, J Willmott and W Salter

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5 July 2021

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 any other matters arising from the minutes. **None**

5. Crime Report and Police Issues

Noted.

6. Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting

One member of the public asked if there had been any developments regarding the Sandling site on Maidstone Borough Council's call for sites in its Local Plan Review. Cllr Hinder informed her that there would be news on Monday 13th September.

7. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

Received and **Noted** the following draft minutes.

7.1 Environment Committee Meetings 12 July and 9 August 2021. **Noted**

7.2 Estates Committee Meeting 16 August 2021. **Noted**

7.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee 19 July 2021. **Noted**

8. Finance

8.1 Payments made out of meeting 01.8.21 – 26.8.21. **Noted**

8.2 Receipts for the period. 01.8.21 – 26-8.2021. **Noted**

8.3 Account balances report **Noted**

It was requested that the investment of the Walderslade Woodland enabling fund be put on the next F&GP Agenda.

9. Policies and Procedures

9.1 Standing Orders

It was proposed by Cllr P Dengate, seconded by Cllr P Huntingford and all agreed that these Standing Orders be adopted subject to the header being updated and all the sections with 'not used at BPC' being removed.

9.2 Covid-19 Policy

This would be amended to a more general policy regarding pandemic situations and returned to the next meeting for approval.

9.3 Community Engagement Policy

It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed that this policy be adopted.

9.4 Health and Safety Policy

Deferred

9.5 Whole Council Risk Assessment

It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr B Hinder and all agreed that the Risk Assessment be adopted subject to the inclusion of the Franklin Drive Play Area and Walderslade Woodland.

10. Monthly Website update Noted

11. Reports from Councillors/Office

Cllr B Hinder had attended a meeting of the Sandling Village Hall Committee and said that the hall was immaculate.

Cllrs C Sheppard and D Hollands had attended the inauguration of the new vicar for St Mary and All Saints in Boxley village. He would be living at Weaving Street.

Cllr I Davies had attended a recent KALC meeting. He reported that the new leader of MBC, David Burton was most impressive. The Parish Charter was still being worked on. The Parish Services Scheme had been agreed for next year.

12. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Regulation 19, The Local Plan Review's Call for Sites would be made public on the 13th September. Cllr Hinder would report further at the Environment Committee meeting on the same day.

Boxley would be keeping the same PCSO as the planned redeployment was not now happening.

MBC was changing the way it runs from a Committee to an Executive format and this would be in place by May 2022.

Cllr Hinder would be attending the next Strategic and Infrastructure Planning Committee meeting to discuss the divisions between MBC and Medway Council regarding infrastructure for new developments as there is direct conflict between the 2 councils.

13. Grant Applications

None on this Agenda

14. Sale of Wildfell Close

It was proposed by Cllr C Sheppard, seconded by Cllr B Hinder and agreed to ratify the out of meeting decisions to:

1. sign the Grant Agreement and Land Transfer Agreement between BPC and KCC with regard to the Walderslade Woodland transfer.
2. Agree the Completion Statement with revised KCC costs of £178,925.

15. Covid-19 update

It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed to pay £416 for a 2 year quarter page advertisement for the hall with Buttons funeral directors in Chatham. They are designing a new brochure and will feature a few select local businesses for recommendation to clients.

It was suggested that a 'satisfaction survey' be sent to all hirers and the results collated for review annually.

We have one new caretaker who is currently in training. A previous caretaker has been re-employed so we are back to 3 caretakers.

16. Walderslade Woods

It was agreed that the Parish Council would be the only Trustee of the CIO. Others would be invited to be members of the Management Committee that met at least twice a year. It was agreed to ask a member of Kent Wildlife Trust, a resident and a member of KCC to be members of the Management Committee. An initial request would be made to Henry Clark from KCC who knows the woodland well. An advert would be placed on the Website, Community Alert and Facebook to attract an interested resident.

It was proposed by Cllr P Dengate, seconded by Cllr C Sheppard and all agreed to hold a Lantra tree inspection course at Beechen Hall for the woodland volunteers and any interested Councillors to enable them to carry out tree inspections. This would certify up to 10 people at a cost of £975. The Clerk would look into other suitable courses such as formal training in the use of Brush Cutters and Strimmer's and the use of shredders. Public Liability Insurance for the woodland had been added to the Parish Council policy and the Clerk was creating a risk assessment. It was agreed that risk assessments

should be published on the BPC Website.
Currently the Walderslade Woodland Group's insurance was met by their Grant from BPC. It was agreed that in future this would come from the Enabling Fund.

17.Cluster Meetings

The next meeting would be at the end of October.

18.Matters for Decision

None on this Agenda

19.Correspondence

None

20.Matters for Information

None

21.Items for Next Agenda

To be received by the Clerk on or before the 24 September 2021. **Noted.**

22.Next Meeting

4 October 2021

Meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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

