

**Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 held remotely via Teams, commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Present: J Willmott– Chair, I Davies, C Sheppard, V Davies, P Huntingford and B Hinder together with Mrs D Baylis, Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**  
Cllr M Beckwith – unable to connect to meeting.
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**  
None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 December 2021**  
The minutes were agreed and would be signed when possible.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
  - 4.1 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.  
None.

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

No members of the public attended.

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

**21/506718/TPOA 15 Ploughmans Way, Boxley, ME5 9DE**

TPO application to reduce one Ash tree by 5m to a height of 9m. Reduce lowest lateral limb overhanging the garden of no 15 Ploughmans Way by 3m, retaining a spread of 4m.

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

**21/506665/TPOA 20 MacGrory Drive, ME14 5GF**

TPO application to reduce the heights of the recently reduced trees to approx. 11m to match the height of the recently reduced trees at no 12. Shorten lateral growth house side to approx. 2m, overall crown spread will be 6m.

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

**21/506892/TCA Old Barn Grove Green, Weaving, ME14 5PX**

Notification of works to trees in a conservation area T2 and T3 (Silver Birch) – fell to ground level, G1 (silver Birch) – reduce by 30% final height 12mx2m and T1 (Oak) – reduce by 30% final height 12mx3m.

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

6. **Ratifications**

**21/506586/TPOA Valley Park Community School, Huntsman Lane, Maidstone, ME14 5DT**

Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Pine – fell to ground, T2 Goat Willow – fell to ground, T3 Sycamore – fell to ground. Various Elder surrounding the trees above that are dying or in a state of decline.

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

**21/506722/TPOA The Malta Inn, Sandling, ME14 3AS**

TPO Application: 1 x (T1) Willow – remove to 50mm above ground level

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

**21/506480/FULL 2 Forestdale Road, ME5 9NB**

Erection of an outbuilding and replacement balustrade and relocation of garden steps.

**Boxley Parish Council** have no material planning reasons to object to this application.

**21/506390/FULL New Meadow House, Weaving Street, ME14 5JH**

Demolition of conservatory. Erection of a single storey rear extension together with a new roof over existing single storey.

**Boxley Parish Council** have no material planning reasons to object to this application.

**21/505962/FULL Cherry Orchard, Court Lodge Farm, The Street, Boxley, ME14 3DX**

Erection of a three bedroom dwelling house.

**Boxley Parish Council** object to this application for the following reasons:

- The proposal by reason of its design would result in an incongruous and discordant feature detrimental to the Boxley village street scene and conservation area within an AONB.
- If permitted, the scheme would expand the built area of Boxley to the detriment of the character and appearance of the Kent Downs AONB and North Downs Special Landscape Area.
- The development would represent an undesirable extension of the built up area of Boxley contrary to the aims of the Strategic Gap policy.
- Access is via the village green which is narrow and then a narrow access road both of which are unsuited to increased traffic.
- The proposal is not sustainable as it would encourage the use of the private motor vehicle to access services.
- It is development of a greenfield site.
- If the officer is minded to approve the Parish Council request the application be referred to the Planning Committee for determination.

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

Noted.

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

The Boxley roadworks to install a bund next to the village green were due to start on the 17<sup>th</sup> January for up to 3 days. A Community Alert email had been circulated to residents.

8.2 **Junction 3 of the M2**

This was due to be discussed at the JTB meeting to be held on Wednesday 12 January. Cllr Hinder would forward the Agenda to members as it contained a full report. Option 3 has been discarded so only options 1 and 2 are now being considered.

8.3 **A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project**

Mr Shorted has been invited to the next Parish Council meeting but has not replied yet. There was more information on the scheme and the delays on the JTB Agenda being circulated by Cllr Hinder. He was angry that the report states that delays are due to issues raised by local members when in fact they were raised by Cllr Tony Harwood who is not the local representative.

8.4 **Harp Farm Road – flooding**

This is on the Agenda for the JTB meeting. The KCC report states that soakaway is inadequate and that a redesign is being considered. The temporary warning signs mentioned in the report have been removed and need replacing.

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

None.

9. **Policy and Procedure - Review**

None on this agenda.

10. **Task List**

Members were unhappy with the format and design of the list and a suggestion of forming a working party to redesign and go through it was put forward. Cllr Hinder offered to produce a design template and this was agreed. It would now become a document for members of the public to see and be able to understand rather than a list of actions from meetings for committee members to keep track of.

**Draft letter to residents regarding Walderslade Woodlands**

This had not been sent out yet and a final draft would be sent to members for approval.

11. **Members and Officer's Reports**

Cllr Hinder was still waiting to hear when the meeting between Councillors and the Traffic designers for the Lidsing Development would be arranged.

12. **Boxley Village Green**

The Clerk was still waiting for the quotation for the reinstallation of the granite sets and would chase for this. The Heras fencing was still on the green. The Clerk was asked to contact a scrap metal dealer to see if they would collect it.

13. **Residents' Concerns**

None on this Agenda.

14. **Lidsing Garden Settlement**

No update. Cllr Sheppard said that 2,000 and 2,250 responses had been received by MBC for the Regulation 19 consultation but it was not possible to determine which ones were for Lidsing.

15. **Consultations**

None on this Agenda.

16. **Volunteer Groups – INFORMATION**

No update for this Agenda.

17. **Items for Next Agenda – DECISION**

18. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 24 January 2022.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the item about to be transacted, it is advised that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of or part of the item.

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

No additional CIL money had been received.

The Clerk was asked to report the burning of waste at the Downs View Farm building site in Boxley to Enforcement for action.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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