



Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 June 2022 held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, ME5 9RU commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs B Hinder – Chair, I Davies, K Hill, A Aseter, C Sheppard, and M Beckwith together with Mrs D Baylis, Clerk.

1 To Elect a Committee Chairman

Cllr I Davies proposed Cllr B Hinder as Committee Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr C Sheppard and all agreed.

As Cllr Hinder was Committee Vice-Chairman a replacement needed to be elected.

It was proposed by Cllr Alan Aseter that Cllr Beckwith be elected as Committee Vice-chairman. This was seconded by Cllr B Hinder and all agreed.

2 Apologies and absences

Cllrs P Huntingford and J Willmott.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2022

The minutes were agreed.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

4.1 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

22/502216/FULL Lower Grange Farm House, Sandling: Application for an outbuilding in the rear garden. It was agreed to make a comment of no material planning reasons to object.

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

No members of the public attended.

6. Planning Applications for Consideration – Decision

22/502488/FULL 29 Harvester Way, Weaving, ME14 5SH

Erection of a two store side and rear infill extension with 3no roof lights. Demolition of conservatory and replacement with the erection of a single storey rear extension with roof lantern.

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

7. Ratifications

None on this agenda.

8. Planning Decisions, Appeals, and Appeals Decisions – Information

The Decisions on the Agenda were reviewed.

9. Highways and Byways - DECISION

9.1 **Highways Improvement Plan**

No further updates.

9.2 **Junction 3 of the M2**

The letters to 3 local MP's requesting help getting the A229 added to the strategic road network had been sent. Tracey Crouch's aide had replied favourably with a formal statement being sent shortly.

9.3 **A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project**

Cllr Hinder reported that he was awaiting formal notification of the Working Group for the lagoon. All other issues had been dealt with. KCC were submitting a bid for the signalisation of Junction 7 to be done. MBC were arranging a meeting to decide on the allocation of Section 106 and CIL money received to see if some of this could be allocated for the work.

9.4 **Harp Farm Road – flooding**

Work due to be done shortly.

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

None raised.

9.6 **STEM school drop off area.**

Cllr Hinder had raised the closure of the drop off area at his recent meeting with MBC Enforcement as it was a breach of the planning conditions imposed when the school was built. He was advised that BPC should write to the school pointing out that the planning conditions were not being adhered to. Once a reply has been received the Borough can get involved. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chair of the School Governing Committee.

9. **Environment Policy**

It was agreed that Cllr Assester write a draft policy for discussion at the next meeting. Members would put forward suggestions and ideas for inclusion.

10. **Policy and Procedure - Review**

None on this agenda.

11. **Task List**

Noted.

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

Cllr Hill had attended the Lower Thames Crossing consultation at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel. Part of the environmental mitigation was to create a large area of woodland within Boxley Parish. It would be good to make this an amenity area with car parking facilities etc. The access would be from Bell Lane.

The Clerk was asked to invite Lower Thames Crossing to give a presentation at a Parish Council meeting. Once a date was set it was agreed that neighbouring parishes could also be invited.

Cllr Hinder reported that the original designation of only medical on the KIM's site was not working as no further medical developments were coming forward. There might be an application to change the restricted designation to allow further development.

13. **Residents' Concerns**

Missing manhole covers in the woodland opposite Podkin Walk had been reported by the Lordswood Litter picking group. This was the land owned by the developer Kitewood. The Clerk had been in touch and they were sending someone out to make the repairs.

A lot of enquiries were being received about trees. It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a tree policy for inclusion on the Estate Committee Agenda for the 20th June.

14. **Rota for Attending MBC Planning Committee Meetings**
Amendments were made and a revised list would be circulated.
15. **Lidsing Garden Settlement**
A briefing paper had been sent out for the meeting being held on the 15th June.
16. **Consultations**
None on this Agenda.
17. **Volunteer Groups – INFORMATION**
Cllr Hinder said that he had invited the Friends of Weaving Heath to join BPC on their stand at the St John's Fete in July. He had not yet had a reply.
18. **Items for Next Agenda – DECISION**
None put forward.
19. **Next Meeting**
Next Environment Committee meeting 4 July 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.

20. **Enforcement and CIL/Section 106 updates from MBC**
No additional CIL money had been received.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date