

**Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 7 November 2022, commencing at 19:30**

**Councillors Present:** Mr C Sheppard - Chairman, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr B Hinder, Mrs P Huntingford, Mrs K Macklin, D Hubbard, V Davies, D Hollands, P Sullivan, A Assester, M Beckwith, P McClean and A Brindle together with one member of the public and Miss L Watt (Assistant Clerk).

**There will be a presentation from the Aldi project team of BECG on the proposed Aldi Supermarket at Newnham Court Way, Weaving. They are travelling from another meeting and will give their presentation when they arrive.**

**1. Apologies and absences**

Cllr P Dengate, Cllr J Willmott - Apologies accepted.

**2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

None.

**3. Co-option of Councillor to fill Casual Vacancy.**

It was proposed by Cllr C Sheppard, seconded by B Hinder and all agreed that P McClean be co-opted onto the council.

**4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 3 October 2022**

All agreed.

**5. Matters Arising From the Minutes**

An update regarding item 4 from minutes was requested.

**Action: Clerk**

It was raised that past agenda items that have been moved to confidential sections are not minuted and as such councillors who did not attend the corresponding meeting are left unaware of decisions made.

It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Macklin and all agreed that going forward confidential items will be minuted using *yellow* paper and sent to councillors only.

A vote was taken with 10 agreed and 1 abstention.

Cllrs also agreed that in order to discuss any matter as confidential, a vote must be taken before proceeding as it may not be in best public interest to do so.

**6. Crime Report and Police Issues**

Noted.

**Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting**

One member of the public was present. The gentleman was offered the opportunity to speak however he wished to be offered the opportunity to ask questions during the discussion in relation to Walderslade Woodlands. This was agreed by the chair.

There was a presentation from the Aldi project team of BECG on the proposed Aldi Supermarket at Newnham Court Way, Weaving. The project team gave a presentation on the store background as well as their proposal for a new Aldi store Newnham park which forms part of the wider development within that area including a nature reserve and new shopping village.

They have a Planning performance agreement with Maidstone Borough Council. It will be a bespoke design using local materials.

A Transport assessment forms part of application – there will be additional trips but many will be add on trips and numbers are not expected to be significant. Transport was not mentioned prior to a Councillors question.

The Current Aldi store overtrades so it is hoped that new store will reduce traffic into Maidstone town. The proposed catchment area is the north part of town, not the motorway.

The Application is to be submitted later this month. 13-week process. New Highway improvement plans are already in place but yet to be started.

## 7. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

The following have been previously circulated:

### 7.1 Environment Committee Meeting 10 October 2022.

Noted.

### 7.2 F&GP Committee meeting 3 October 2022

Noted.

### 7.3 Estates Committee Meeting 17 October 2022

Noted.

## 8. **Finance**

### 8.1 Reminder not to sign blank cheques (Page 5)

Noted.

### 8.2 To consider the External Auditors report (Page 5)

The report from the external auditors was considered.

The question over ownership of the three Village Halls based at Grove Green, Sandling & Weaving was raised.

**Action: Office to investigate**

## 9. **Policies and Procedures**

### 9.1 Financial Regulations – Minor amendments (Page 7)

Accepted pending minor corrections.

### 9.2 Financial Transactions Procedures – Changes made (Page 7-9)

Accepted pending minor corrections.

### 9.3 Parish Councillor Allowances (Page 9)

A discussion regarding the raising of Councillor monthly allowances took place. It was pointed out that some councillors pay out of pocket for taxi companies in order for them to be able to attend meetings and fulfil tasks in service to the community.

The current monthly allowance often does not cover this cost.

Although costs to Councillors were considered it was discussed that given the current financial climate, it may not be appropriate to raise the allowance at this time.

It was proposed by Cllr C Sheppard seconded by Cllr B Hinder that the allowance is not raised and will remain as per the previous year. A vote was taken with 9 in favour, one against, one abstention.

### 9.4 KALC Award Nominations (Page 9-10)

Cllr C Sheppard asked that all nominations for the KALC Award be submitted to him directly by the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and a private vote will take place at the next council meeting.

## 10. **Monthly Website update** (Page 10)

It was proposed by Cllr B Hinder, seconded by Cllr C Sheppard that draft minutes should not be uploaded to the website for public viewing. A vote was taken with 9 in favour and 2 abstentions.

## 11. **Reports from Councillors/Office**

Cllr C Sheppard reported that he attended the 'Elmer On Tour' event held at Beechen Hall. With thanks to Cllr B Hinder, the event was very well received and much enjoyed by the children attending.

## 12. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr B Hinder of MBC (Maidstone Borough Council) reported that waste costs have increased dramatically. There is a new strategy attempting to look at innovative ways to persuade members of the public to become less wasteful. One of these strategies is to link waste with planning applications to ensure waste is dealt with appropriately.

Cllr A Brindle of MBC added that when applications for new developments come in, there is a need to ensure that the width of the road can accommodate waste removal vehicles.

13. **Grant Applications**  
None on this Agenda.
14. **Walderslade Woodlands Trust**  
The report from Cllr C Sheppard was considered and discussed and the member of the public given the opportunity to ask questions.  
Action: Clerk to approach appropriate organisations (i.e. Kent Wildlife Trust) to request submission of expressions of interest in taking ownership/management of Walderslade Woodlands before further discussion takes place.  
Action: Clerk to look into evidence of past motion to dissolve trust.
15. **Cluster Meetings**
16. **Matters for Decision**
17. **Correspondence**
18. **Matters for Information**  
Cllr P Sullivan has requested that he be telephoned in order to be informed of any out of meeting decisions.
19. **Items for Next Agenda**  
KALC Award Vote.
20. **Meetings**  
Next Meeting Monday 5 December 2022 at Beechen Hall.
21. The Chairman to move that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be considered the press and public be excluded from the meeting.
22. **Personnel matters**  
Cllr C Sheppard proposed that personnel matters should be discussed and minuted as confidential, all agreed.
23. **Lidsing Report** (Page 11)  
Cllr C Sheppard proposed that Lidsing Report matters should be discussed and minuted as confidential, all agreed.
- Meeting closed at 21:19

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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