

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Environment Committee Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 6 February 2023, commencing at 21:25.

Present: B Hinder – Chairman, C Sheppard, P Mclean, M Beckwith and I Davies along with Mrs D Baylis (Parish Clerk) and 8 members of the public

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs P Huntingford, A Asseter and J Willmott – apologies accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 January 2023**
Agreed.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
The Clerk had not yet received a reply from Aldi regarding the rationale for the number of car parking spaces on the planning application for the planned new store at Newnham Court.

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

One member of the public had concerns over building works at no 3 Wentwood.

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

22/500253/TPOA 9 Burleigh Drive, ME14 2HY

TPO application to fell to ground level two sycamore trees, multiple undesirable self set saplings and large standing dead stems (mainly sweet chestnuts). Also to re-coppice multiple old coppice stalls (mainly sweet chestnut but some Sycamore Trees).

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

23/500269/FULL 8 Cobnut Close, ME14 5FS

Conversions of garage to habitable space, including alterations to fenestration.

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

6. **Ratifications**
None on this Agenda.
7. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**
Noted.
8. **Highways and Byways - DECISION**
 - 8.1 Highways Improvement Plan
The detailed report from KCC was noted. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge receipt with an expression of disappointment at the contents of the report. Action Clerk.
 - 8.2 Junction 3 of the M2/Bluebell Hill
A meeting had been held on the 3/2/23 with MP Helen Whately, County Councillor Paul Carter, Peter Phillips from National Highways, Simon Jones KCC Highways, Cllrs C Sheppard, B Hinder and Alan Asseter from BPC and others.
The meeting was very encouraging. A programmatic approach was being taken. KCC were currently bidding for 200 million pounds to fund their planned improvements but would have to fund 15 percent of this total. It was acknowledged

that these improvements would only provide 3-5 years improvement on the junction before it was over capacity again. It was generally agreed that Bluebell Hill should be part of the Strategic Road network. Helen Whately would be meeting with the Ministry of Transport to discuss the outcomes of the meeting and would provide an update after the meeting.

8.3 **A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project**

No further updates. Several planned meetings had been cancelled.

8.4 **Boxley Village Traffic Improvements**

Members of the Boxley Village Society (BVS) had attended the meeting to discuss this item. Concerns were expressed over the volume and speed of traffic. BVS requested a lorry watch scheme and it was agreed that BPC would support this. Action Clerk.

The installation of average speed cameras was discussed and the Clerk would look into costs and feasibility. Action Clerk

The Clerk would look at costs for speed gateways and more speed roundels. Action Clerk.

BVS had already spoken to the Nuventure bus company and bus drivers were being advised to drive more carefully through the village.

There was extensive discussion over the proposed Lidsing Development of 2,000 houses and the potential effects this would have on Boxley Village. Cllr Hinder recommended that BVS register with the Planning Inspector so that they could speak at the Stage 2 hearings in May. The Clerk/Cllr Hinder would send them the information needed. Action: Clerk/Cllr Hinder.

8.5 **Boarley Lane Flooding**

The Clerk had heard back from KCC and the issue is with a pump managed by National Highways. The Clerk will contact them to get more information/maintenance records. Action Clerk

9. **Policy and Procedure – Review**

None on this Agenda.

10. **Task List**

Noted.

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

Reports under Agenda headings.

12. **Residents' Concerns**

The condition of Impton Lane

Cllr Hinder would check the complaint and if the condition of the road was bad it was agreed to report it to KCC as needing repair.

Litter in the Parish

The emails from the resident and the reply from MBC were noted. The Clerk would contact MBC and see if more litter picks could be done. Action Clerk.

13. **Consultations**

None on this agenda.

14. **Volunteer Groups**

No updates.

15. **Items for Next Agenda**

16. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 6 March 2023.

In view of the confidential nature of the item about to be transacted, it is advised that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the following items.

17. Enforcement and CIL/Section 106 updates from MBC

Cllr Hinder had noticed that BPC was showing an increased amount of CIL. The Clerk had not received any notification of additional CIL money being received. Clerk to investigate and report back. Action Clerk.

18. Lidsing Garden Development

The Stage 2 Hearings had been scheduled for 15-18 May, 23-26 May and 5-9 June.

Meeting closed at 20.50.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date