

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 10 March 2014 at  
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Councillors present: Mr P Dengate (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr Bob Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mr A Springate and Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk.

**1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying**

There were none.

**2. Apologies and absences**

Cllr W Hinder Cllr Spain (convalescing).

**3. Minutes of the Meetings of 10 March, 2014.**

The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2620/4.2 Improvements to crossing on Grovewood Drive North. Members **received** the Clerk's updated report from County Cllr Carter asking members to consider contributing towards the cost of a pedestrian crossing. After lengthy discussion members **agreed** that a zebra crossing incorporating methods for reducing speed would be the most appropriate choice. Members also **agreed** to recommend to the Finance and General Purposes committee the release of £5,000 from the contingency fund as the Parish Council's contribution. This motion was proposed from the Chair, seconded by Cllr Hollands with five in favour and 1 abstention. **Action Clerk/Cllr Carter.**

4.2 Minute 2620/4.3 Sandling Village Hall parking. Members **received and noted** the Clerk's report and it was **agreed** to wait for costs for installing approximately 10 bollards beside the driveway until the next meeting to see if this work was still necessary. **Action Office.**

4.3 Minute 2621/10.1 Wildfell Close embankment. KCCH&T will visit the area to see if there are any health and safety issues that might affect the public highway. **Noted. Action KCC.**

4.4 Minute 2621/11.1 Verge work at Grovewood Drive South. Members **noted** the order for the work had been placed but due to the weather it was unclear when the work would start. KCC has agreed to take over grass maintenance after the work. **Action Office/KCC.**

4.5 Minute 2622/11.2 Verge bollards Boxley Road near junction of Travertine Road. Members **received** and **noted** the clerk's report that the PCSO had been involved and had identified the vehicle's owner. County Cllr Carter will be approached for a grant for erecting the bollards and reinstating the verge, the office is attempting to obtain costs of the work. **Action Office/County Cllr Carter.**

4.6 Minute 2622/11.4 Inconsiderate driving Pinewood Drive. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report. **No further action required.**

4.7 Minute 2622/15 Humming in Walderslade. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report. The office will continue monitor the situation.

4.8 Minute 2609/4.4 Dogs Trust Micro-chipping, Sat 10 May 2014, at WDJO. Members **agreed** not to have a presence at this event. **No further action.**

As there were no members of the public present the meeting was not adjourned.

**5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration.**

5.1 MA/13/0709 – Alterations to existing building in connection with use as a residential annexe at Broad View, Blind Lane, Boxley, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3NH.  
**Do not wish to object.**

5.2 MA/14/0018 Amended plans of an application to vary condition 11 of MA/12/1629 for the erection of a detached four bedroom dwelling at Hillah, Cossington Road, ME5 9JB. **Noted.**

5.3 MA/14/0259 application to change the garage door to a bay window AT 31 Forestdale Road, Walderslade ME5 9NB. **Do not wish to object.**

5.4 MA/14/0281 Demolition of single storey rear conservatory and erection of part single part two storey rear addition. Erection of 1<sup>st</sup> floor above existing single storey side addition at 12 Golden Wood Close, Boxley, Chatham, Kent ME5 8XA. **Do not wish to object.**

5.5 Maidstone Studios. Public exhibition on the proposal to build 77 dwellings. Members **received** and **noted** the reports from Cllr Wendy Hinder and Dennis Hollands.

Concerns raised were:

- *Lack of Parking*
- *Access to the Studios and parking on event nights*
- *Lack of school places*
- *Impact of additional traffic to an overloaded area.*

5.6 Pre application letter. Members **received** and **noted** the contents of a letter from an agent concerning land adjacent to Weaving Roundabout. They **agreed** not to make any comment at this moment in time and would wait until a formal planning application had been made.

## 6 **Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions**

6.1 Appeal to Planning Inspectorate from The Three Ashes, Boxley Road, Walderslade.

**Noted** - the parish council's original response will automatically be forwarded to the inspectorate and members **declined** to add any further information to the original response.

6.2 MC/14/0324 – Request for Screening Opinion for the erection of up to 500 market and affordable dwellings, provision of access and estate roads and incidental open space at Gibraltar Farm, Chatham, Kent. Members **accepted** and **noted** the Clerk's comments.

## 7 **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**

Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report.

## 8 **Maidstone Borough Local Plan.**

8.1 Draft Local Plan consultation – Members **received** the Clerk's report and **agreed** to co-opt Dennis Hollands onto the working group to represent the south ward. Members also **agreed** the working group would attend a presentation by the Clerk. **Action Office/Working group.**

8.2 Green and Blue Spaces Provision. The Clerk's briefing note was **received**. The suggested responses, with some additions, were approved to be submitted to MBC. **Action Clerk.**

8.3 MBC additional call for potential development sites for housing Gypsy and Traveller pitches or Travelling Showpeople plots. It was **noted** that previously submitted sites under SHLAA will only be considered if there has been significant change to the original application.

## 9 **Volunteer Groups.**

Reports were **received** from:

- Vinters Valley Nature Reserve quarterly report.
- Walderslade Woods Group on their recent task day.
- Friends of Boxley Warren on their recent task day.

## 10 **Highways and Byways.**

None.

## 11. **Policy and procedures review.**

Street maintenance policy and pro forma. Members **agreed** to amend the time limit from 7 days to 10 working days when reporting issues and to remain at 3 working days

when there is a health and safety issue. A couple of minor alterations to the policy were also **agreed. Action Office.**

12 **Matters for information.**

12.1 Notification from MBC that coppicing has now begun in Five Acre Wood and lasting 2-3 weeks. **Received and Noted.**

12.2 Newnham Court Shopping Village Newsletter – **Noted** due to public feedback the company is amending proposals taking into account the following:

**REDUCE** the amount of total floorspace in the proposed new retail terraces by 25%.

**BEEF UP** the “no poaching” clause precluding occupation of the new retail units by any retailer already trading in the town centre unless they trade at both sites

**RESPOND** to concerns about the products to be sold at Newnham Court.

Shopping Village by entering into negotiations with Maidstone Borough Council on the subject.

13. **Next Meeting.**

Next full environment meeting 14 April 2014 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

As no members of the public and press were present there was no resolution to exclude them however it was recognised that a report to be given in the next item was confidential due to personal details and data.

14. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC.**

Members’ were notified that a breach of planning had been reported to MBC who did not consider it serious enough to enforce. MBC have invited the applicant to submit a retrospective planning application to regularise the breach.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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