

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Tuesday 14 June 2021 held by Teams due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllrs J Willmott – Chair, I Davies, L Clarke, A Brindle, P Huntingford, C Sheppard, H Monk, V Davies and B Hinder together Mrs D Baylis, Parish Clerk and one member of the public

1. **Apologies and absences**

Cllr W Salter.

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

Cllr C Sheppard lobbied on application 21/502420 – 17 The Hedgerows

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 June 2021**

The minutes were agreed and would be signed when possible.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Minute 3491/7. Cllr P Huntingford reported that when there were fallen and part fallen branches on the road outside her house she contacted MBC. The branches were dangerous and obstructing the road. The branches were cleared by her husband and Cllr Hinder later the same day. MBC contacted her the following day to say that this was not their responsibility. She would like information published for residents on who to contact in the event of situations like this. It was agreed that the office would generate a list of who to contact for a variety of situations. This would be circulated to members for comment and then put on the website and on community alert. **Action Office.**

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

The member of the public wished to speak on item 8.4 to raise issues with Weaving Street.

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

**21/502307/OUT The Three Ashes, Boxley Road, ME5 9JG**

Outline application with access matters sought for residential development (matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale are reserved for future considerations).

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

**21/502420/FULL 17 The Hedgerows, Weaving, ME14 5TG**

Erection of a replacement boundary wall.

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

1. It is a change to the street scene and would cause the loss of the current open outlook.
2. It is on a bend and would restrict visibility for vehicles.

**Application: 21/502549/FULL Land West Of Old Chatham Road Sandling Kent**

Creation of a new and replacement vehicular access.

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

1. The application fails to demonstrate that the proposed new vehicular access is reasonably necessary to serve the agricultural needs of the unit .
2. The proposed access is 4.8m wide which is much larger than we deem necessary for the lands current usage.
3. There is already an existing access to the land at its North end and we question the need for another access.
4. this site has insufficient vision splay for safe access and egress from this proposed second access point onto Old Chatham Road.
5. The new access point is much closer to residential houses and might cause a noise nuisance.
6. The purpose of the new access point needs to be established given that this site was recently refused planning permission for a 39 house development.

6. **Ratifications**

There were none.

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

Received and Noted.

8. **Highways and Byways**

8.1 **Highways Improvement Plan**

**Boxley**

KCC would be carrying out a speed survey in 2 previously agreed locations. It was agreed to locate the 3<sup>rd</sup> speed survey just South of Sandy Lane and North of Barn Cottage

**Walderslade Woods Road**

The Report on the start date of the works was noted.

8.2 **Boarley Lane**

The planning permission for a new access road has been refused.

8.3 **Junction 3 of the M2**

No further update had been received. This is now a standing item on Maidstone Borough Councils Joint Transport Board meetings.

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

Borough Councillor Heidi Bryant had attended to discuss road improvements for Weaving Street. The problems were mainly in the middle section which was used as a cut through for traffic accessing the Tesco store. It was agreed that the only 2 viable options would be to either make it a one way street or make it no entry from the Grove Wood Drive South end. A safety audit was needed. The Clerk would put Cllr Bryant in touch with Jennie Watson at KCC. The issues would be put on the HIP for monitoring.

The Clerk was asked to chase the contractor regarding the installation of the motorbike inhibitor in Dale Court and add it to the next Agenda.

8.5 **To request safety audits to be carried out by KCC on the following areas:**

Groveswood Drive South

Chiltern Hundreds public house to Notcutts roundabout.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with KCC Highways and county Councillor Paul Carter to discuss safety issues in the New Cut Road/Groveswood Drive South areas and add both safety audits to the HIP.

8.6 **MBC Park and Ride Scheme**

This was open again but not being used. People are parking on the roads as they are closer and free to use.

8.7 **Speeding Boxley Village**

Covered under 8.1.

9. **Policy and Procedures – Review**

None on this Agenda.

10. **Walderslade Woods**

Verbal report by the Clerk noted

11. **Electric Charging Points for Electric Vehicles**

The Clerk was attending a presentation on 'Electric Charging Points for Village Halls' tomorrow and would produce a report and circulate it to members.

12. **Task List**

Cllr Willmott had asked for this to be generated and produced each meeting so that members were kept up to date with issues raised at meetings. He asked members to submit any open items they thought should be included to the Clerk.

13. **Members and Officers Reports**

The Gibraltar Farm application for 450 houses was being appealed. The Clerk was asked to ascertain if there would be a hearing. Cllr Hinder said that he would be happy to represent BPC.

The same applicant has just submitted another application for 850 houses between North Dane Way and Pear Tree Lane. This would bring the total number of houses in all their applications for this area to 4,000.

Both Cllrs Hinder and Brindle have objected to the Lidsing Development on the Call for Sites by MBC. Their objection included the lack of a transport plan from the North to the South. Medway Council have objected to the proposal. There have been 1,750 objections to the Lidsing development out of a total 3,500 objections received by MBC following the Call for Sites.

Cllr Hinder asked that BPC send a letter to MP Helen Whately asking her views on the development and asking for her support to our objection. It was noted that her newsletters rarely mention the North of the Parish. **Action Clerk**

14. **Residents Concerns**

Cllr V Davies mentioned that rats were being reported again in the area around the bins at Tesco's in Weaving which had a lot of rubbish around them. Cllr Brindle would contact the manager again.

The Clerk reported that a resident in Whatman Drive was having issues with the bin collection area situated next to his garden wall. Neighbours were leaving bins and uncollectable rubbish in the area all the time and not just on collection day. The Clerk was advised to put him in touch with Lucy Stroud at MBC.

14. **Consultations**

None.

15. **Volunteer Groups**

The Friends of Weaving Heath were having their annual barbecue/social gathering on the 27 June at 12pm. Cllrs Brindle and Hinder had been invited.

16. **Items for Next Agenda**

None

17. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 5 July 2021.

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

No updates were available.

Meeting closed 9.40 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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