

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Councillors present; Mrs W Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr I Davies, Mr M Pepper Mr K Perry, Mr A Springate Mr W Stead and Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk.

**1. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.**

**2. Apologies and absences**

Cllr Mrs A Spain (Holiday)

**3. Minutes of the Meetings of 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.**

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and **signed** as a true and correct record.

The meeting was not adjourned as there were no members of the public present

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2378/5.1 Walderslade Woods road/A2045 the report was **noted**.

4.2 Minute 2378/5.2 inconsiderate parking Walderslade Village/Boxley Road a response from Medway Council had still not been received and neither the Chief Constable of Kent Police replied. Cllr Pepper will escalate the issue by contact Tracy Crouch the MP for Walderslade and to look at drawing up a petition to residents in the local area in support of this issue. **Action** – Cllr Pepper.

4.3 Minute 2380/11.4 Marker at Cossington Lane. **Noted**

4.4 Minute 2378/4 Cowbeck Wood – Members **noted** a map of the area had still not been received for the meeting. Members queried what action should be taken – **Action** Clerk to review.

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

5.1 MA/12/0271 – Retrospective application for the change of use of residential care home to single dwelling at Ruby, Chatham Road, Sandling *Do not wish to object.*

5.2 TA/0020/12 – TPO No 24 of 1987, an application for consent to reduce Conifer by 30% and 2 Conifers by 10% at Ambleside, 4 Greenways, Weaving. *Do not wish to object.*

5.3 TA/0025/12 – TPO No 2 of 1995. An application for consent to fell 2 Cypress trees at Forstal Pumping Station, Forstal Road, Aylesford. *Withdrawn*

5.4 TA/0027/12 – TPO No 1 of 1969, an application for consent to Crown Lift T1 (Maple) to a height of 15 feet, crown lift T2 (Hornbeam) to a height of 22 feet and remove lower branch of T3 (Maple) at 7, Bellgrove Court, Boxley, Chatham.

*Make the following comments but defer to the Landscape Officer's view: Members feel the amount of height to be removed is excessive. These trees are a prominent feature and this will have a detrimental impact to the street scene.*

5.5 MA/12/0230 – Introduction of rear dormer and roof light to front elevation. At 7 Abigail Crescent, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9DZ. *Do not wish to object.*

5.6 MA/11/2140 – Temporary siting of two storage containers (for a 5 year period) 6m long by 2.5m wide and 2.5m high. Replacement of boundary fence and field gate; and construction of post and rail fencing inside the site at Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Chatham Road. *Wished to see approved.*

**6. Planning applications taken to Planning Committee.**

6.1 **Noted** Cllr Ivor Davies report on Brooklyn Yard

**7. Planning Applications and appeals decisions.**

7.1 APP/U2235/A/11/2165169/NWF – MA/10/1627 Land of Beechen Bank, Boxley Road – Dismissed by Planning Inspectorate on 22 February, 2012. **Noted.**

7.2 Application decisions - **Received** and **noted.**

**8. Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group.**

8.1 Members **received** and **noted** the Chairman's report. Cllr Pepper wished to congratulate the Chairman of the group and commend him on his hard work and vision for the future. Cllr Springate gave an account of the WWG task day, held on the 11th March in Round Wood. Eight members turned out, divided into two groups, one using the Grubber cut back the undergrowth around the Picnic bench area, whilst the second group continued with the coppicing and clearing of the created Hazel glade.

8.2 Public Rights of Way – Members **noted** the report and **agreed** that a request should be made for the footpath along Round Wood Valley to be registered as a PRoW. Action - office.

**9. Highways and Byways**

9.1 Old Chatham Road – the request for a deep clean of the area by Cllr Harwood was **noted** by members.

9.2 Double Yellow Lines, Cuckoo Wood Avenue - **noted** that funds have been approved and legal/consultation work will start in March.

9.3 Members' **noted** an update for completed works highlighted at February's meeting.

9.4 Cars parked on Boxley Road opp Beechen Bank Road – **Noted. Action** – office will advise the resident on the situation and what action can be taken.

9.5 Speed Reduction/Crash Statistics, Lidsing Road. Members **agreed** more adequate signage to be installed along this stretch of road, highlighting where the road bends and narrows in places. Action – office to contact Highways.

**10. Strategy for dealing with highway issues not receiving KHS funding.**

This was **received** and **agreed** by members with amendments.

**11. MBC Core Strategy Post Consultation Conference.**

**Received** and **noted.**

**12. Policies and procedures review**

12.1 Terms of Reference – This policy was **received** and **amended.**

12.2 Street Maintenance 'Policy' for budget expenditure was **received** and **amended.**

13. **Empty Properties** – Members **noted** MBC's policy on empty houses. After some discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr Pepper should attend the next MBC full council meeting on 25/4/2012 to ask the leader of the Council, Chris Garland if MBC is supporting the national campaign for empty houses.

**14. Matters for information.**

**Received** and **Noted.**

**15. Next Meeting.**

Next environment meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (full) at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

**Noted** no information had been received.

Meeting closed 9.00 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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