

**Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 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 P Dengate, Mr B Hinder, Mr K Perry, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, and Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk.

**1. Apologies and absences**

None as all present.

**2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying.**

None declared.

**3. Minutes of the Meetings of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012.**

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

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2407/4.2 marker at Cossington Lane. **Noted** due to height of vegetation in summer it was now considered that a taller post would need to be put in place. **Action** – office.

4.2 Minute 2407/4.4 PRoW Round Wood valley. **Noted** KCC has requested that a formal application be submitted. The parish office will complete and submit.

4.3 Minute 2407/4.5 Lidsing Road. **Noted** request for additional signage etc. has been submitted.

4.4 Minute 2408/8.1 Noise pollution, Walderslade. **Noted** remedial work on the unit causing the problem was planned to start on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

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

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

5.1 MA/12/0529 Amended Plan – submission of a pre-development tree survey and report. Erection of 2 storey classroom block for Invicta Grammar School and new 3 storey classroom block for Valley Park School. *Noted*

5.2 MA/12/0609 erection of a two-storey rear extension and installation of first floor window to the side elevation at 16 Trotwood Close, Walderslade.

*Wish to see refused and reported to the MBC planning committee for the following reasons;*

- *Adverse impact on the neighbours resulting in loss of privacy;*
- *Adverse impact on the street scene due to the odd roof line visible over the garage;*
- *The bulk and size of the extension will, it is felt, over power the original design of the house.*

5.3 MA/12/0711 Erection of a single storey rear extension at 27 Restharrow Road 12/06/12. **Ratified** "do not wish to object" decision taken by members after 11<sup>th</sup> June Parish Council meeting.

5.4 MA/12/0761 single storey front extension at 14 Dogwood Close, Lordswood. *Do not wish to object.*

5.5 TA/0075/12 application to crown lift 1no Silver Birch through removal of 6 lowest branches within boundary of site at 3 Podkin Wood, Walderslade. *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

5.6 TA/0077/12 application for consent to fell 1no Birch at Wents Wood, Grove Green. *Do not wish to object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

5.7 Consideration on how to reply to applications received just before a meeting. After discussion members agreed the following:

- In future when the office receives a major application just before a meeting an extension to the deadline would be requested. It was recognised that this may not be given. The purpose was to allow members to visit the site and to wait to see if any residents' objections were received.
- If members have concerns and, if the deadline allows, they do not have to make a decision at a meeting. Policy exists to delegate the decision to the office, after consultation with the Chair, Chair/Chair and Vice Chair or all members of the committee. If deciding to delegate a decision members should be prepared to give guidance to the office.

It was **agreed** that this information should be included on the yellow planning advisory laminated sheets. **Action** – office.

## 6. **Planning applications and appeals decisions.**

- 6.1 Planning rota – Cllrs Springgate and Waller indicated that they would not be willing to attend the evening MBC Planning meetings. Cllrs Dengate and Perry indicated that they would attend but asked that they be allowed to shadow someone first. Clerk to produce a rota for the next 12 months and supply to members.
- 6.2 MBC Planning Committee 7<sup>th</sup> June, change of use of existing buildings at White Cottage, Grange Lane – County Scouts site, **ratified** Clerk's decision, after contacting Cllr Perry, not to attend as this was supported by the Parish Council and was reported on a technicality.

## 7. **Walderslade Woods and Volunteer Group**

**Received** Cllr Springgate's notified members that bad weather conditions had forced the cancellation of the last task day but one was due this weekend.

## 8. **Highways and Byways.**

- 8.1 Boxley Road/Grange Lane junction. **Agreed** a letter was to be sent to Maidstone Joint Transport Board with Cllr Bob Hinder attending the meeting to request that the start of the 40mph speed limit be moved north of the junction of Grange Lane, it currently being South of the junction.
- 8.2 Walderslade Woods road/A2045. **Noted** County Councillor Paul Carter's update which stated that design work is currently underway with the possibility of installing a series of traffic islands close to each of the five side junctions being investigated.

## 9. **Policy and procedures review.**

Members considered that the yellow laminated Planning Material Considerations list was still fit for purpose. A new set, incorporating the change requested in item 5.7, will be produced. **Action** – office.

## 10. **Matters for information.**

**Noted** MBC Planning Viewpoint May 2012, concern was raised that MBC was considering some development at junction 8 of the M20.

## 11. **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**

**Noted** the Clerk would be submitting the draft documents to the next meeting. She was awaiting the return of an MBC officer to obtain guidance on how to progress any document.

## 12. **KCC Preparation of Kent County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

**Noted** the Clerk could not identify in the documents any impact on Boxley Parish.

## 13. **Next Meeting.**

Next environment meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> (after Parish Council meeting) and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (full) at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

There were no updates available.

Meeting closed 8.24 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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