

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close,  
Walderslade on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present – Mr M Pepper (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr I Davies, Mr V Davies, Mr T Harwood, Mr B Hinder, Mrs W Hinder, Mrs K Macklin, Mr K Perry, Mr G Smith, Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan, Mr W Stead and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Borough Councillor D Butler, PCSO Hawthorn (left after item 5), Mr M Cheverton KCC (left after item 6), 6 members of the public and 2 member of the press.

**1. Apologies and absences.**

Mrs A Spain (convalescing), County Cllr Paul Carter.

**2. Declaration of Interests or Lobbying.**

Councillors (excluding Cllr Harwood and Cllr Bob Hinder) declared they had been lobbied on Item 6.

Cllr Stead reminded members that he was Vice Chair on KALC Maidstone Area Committee - item 4.1.

Cllr Harwood and Cllr Bob Hinder notified members that due to their connection with the Maidstone Planning Committee that they would take no part in item 6 and would remove themselves from the meeting.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

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

**4 Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2357/4.1 concurrent functions. **Noted** the Chairman had written to Cllr Beerling and the Downs Mail about a front page article on Parish Council reserves which specifically mentioned Boxley Parish Council. The letter, received by members, clarified why the Council had reserves.

4.2 Parking, Grove Green. Members **received** the response from Geoff Miles of Maidstone and discussed the disruption to the residential area. It was **agreed** the Chairman would have discussion with Geoff Miles. **Action** – Cllr Pepper.

**5 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.**

**Noted** and **received** the crime statistics. It was reported that the crime rate was, when compared to last year, down. Cllr Harwood raised the issue of trail bikes on Pilgrims Way. The Clerk was to clarify the situation with the PROW officer as Cllr Harwood was of the opinion that the work to close up the road had been completed. **Action** – agenda.

Cllr Smith reported that the white lines at Orbit Close need repainting. The Chairman notified the meeting that the Bredhurst PCSO position was vacant and that he had been contacted by the Police and that PCSO Hawthorne will have a watching brief over that parish until it was filled.

Cllr Harwood and Cllr Hinder left the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.45 to allow the Chairman of Walderslade Woods Group and members of the public to comment. Comments were made on: the work of the volunteer group; the length of time taken to get Village Green Status and the need for a clear completion date for auctioning the application; need to protect the woodland for future generations; need for the whole of the woodland to receive village green status.

The Chairman notified the public that he was minded to try to take some form of proposal to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 Parish Council meeting to allow members to make decision on future action.

The Parish Council was thanked for the letter supplied to the residents concerning the KCC consultation on household waste management. The meeting reconvened at 7.56 pm.

In view of the confidential nature (financially sensitive) on the item 6 the Chairman passed a resolution for the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the item.

**6. Round Wood.**

Discussion took place on the strategy being suggested by Kent County Council with

members making their views known. The Clerk was asked to provide some further information to KCC and Mr Cheverton was asked, having considered the information and taking legal advice, to come back to the Parish Council in time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 meeting. The Chairman invited the press and public back to the meeting.

The Chairman notified the public that KCC had been asked to come back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April meeting where the Parish Council would consider its position.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.37 pm to allow a question from the public about village green application area. A comment was also made that a path in woodland still needed repair. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting reconvened at 8.40pm.

## 7 **Draft Minutes of Meetings since Previous Parish Council Meetings.**

**Received** and **noted** the draft minutes of

- 7.1 Environment meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Amendment to Environment Committee minutes to add Cllr Stead's name to the list of attendees.
- 7.2 Environment Committee 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- 7.3 Estates Committee 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- 7.4 Environment Committee 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
- 7.5 Finance Committee 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
- 7.6 Financial Scrutiny Committee 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

## 8 **Finance.**

- 8.1 **Noted** payments made out of meeting 06.12.11 – 16.01.12. Appendix A.
- 8.2 **Noted** receipts for the period 26.11.11 – 16.01.12. Appendix B.
- 8.3 **Noted** account balances as at 16.01.12. Appendix C. It was **agreed** that the suggestion for another investment bond could be investigated with members briefed out of meeting and being allowed to make their views known. **Action** – Clerk.  
To consider a short term investment.
- 8.4 **Authorised** payments of accounts. Appendix D.

## 9 **2012/13 Budget and Precept. Business plan?**

- 9.1 Members **received** the Chairman's narrative report on the budget and also the Finance Committees recommendation. The Chairman proposed "**The 2012/13 budget is agreed and a precept of £81,916 be set**". **Unanimously agreed.**
- 9.2 Vision and Business plan. Members considered the draft and it was **agreed** to place the document on the website and invite comments for the Council to consider. **Action** – office.
- 9.3 £10,000 Community Project. Members considered the draft and Cllr Macklin requested an addition to exclude any applications for grants for activities that were Statutory Obligations for Local Authorities e.g. education. She also requested a more exciting title than Community Project. It was **agreed** to place the document on the website and invite comments for the Council to consider. **Action** – office.
- 9.4 Precept referendum, members **noted** the update on the Governments response to the consultation.

## 10 **Matters for Decision.**

- 10.1 2012 Annual Parish Meeting. After discussion it was **agreed** that the Council should consider arranging a social event with some wine and small snacks. It was suggested that the event would be held at the European School of Osteopathy. **Action** – Chair and office.
- 10.2 Crossing point Provender Way. After discussion it was **agreed** that a formal opening/dedication could take place in March, to allow County Councillor Paul Carter and the Chairman to attend. However Parish Councillors were to attend on the first day it was in use by the schoolchildren and the Chairman and office would put together a communications programme **action** – Chair and Clerk.
- 10.3 Energy. Cllr Smith's report was **received** and after discussion it was **agreed** that the Council would become more involved by
  - Writing to the MP to lobby the Government to keep the need for action high on its agenda.

- Open dialogue with MBC about the countryside outside of the AONB as a suitable place for alternative energy structures.
- Encourage MBC to actively work with farmers/business producing alternative energy.
- Include links on the PC website to the Carbon Trust and other relevant organisations to help conserve energy etc.

The Clerk was asked to bring back to discussion the Parish Council's Carbon Footprint review. **Action** – Clerk and office.

10.4 Localism Act, Code of Conduct. Members considered the MBC letter and **agreed in principle** to the adoption of an MBC produced Code of Conduct. The issue of advertising Councillors contact details on the MBC website would be cleared with individual members. It was **noted** that in certain circumstances information on the Register of Interest could be redacted and this would be discussed with councillors who had concerns about releasing their home address.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would have a statement on the MBC website and a draft would be submitted to members for consideration. **Action** – Clerk.

10.5 KALC The Localism Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> January at Lenham. Cllr Stead asked to attend.

10.6 Police Forum, Headcorn Village Hall (Longmeadow) on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 at 7.30pm. Apologies to be sent as no one could attend. **Action** –office.

## 11 Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

**Received** the written report from County Councillor Carter.

Cllr Butler gave a report on matters affecting the parish including Locality Boards. Members noted that 2 meetings had been held but no minutes released and members agreed that they would like to see minutes and terms of reference. **Action** – Clerk. Cllr Butler would be taking up with the Conservative Group the possibility of forming a Transport Board.

## 12 Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Project.

It was **agreed** (with 2 abstentions) that the area would be named Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard. Members **noted** that 2 interpretation boards would be included at the site giving a history of the area and these would include the Boxley Parish Council name.

As it was 9.30 pm the Chairman used his discretionary powers to extend the meeting until 10.00 pm.

## 13 Policies and Procedures Review.

13.1 **Agreed** the review of the Policies and Procedure Review list.

13.2 Members numbers for committees. **Agreed** current numbers to be retained.

## 14 Reports from councillors/office.

Cllr Pepper notified members that he had been interviewed by Radio Kent about the KCC Waste Consultation.

## 15 Matters for Information.

15.1 Report and thank you from Vinters Valley Park Trust.

15.2 Consultation Business Rates retention – update on the Government's response to the consultation.

15.3 Maidstone KALC reply to Borough Councillor John Wilson concerning the Corporate Services & Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Concurrent Functions.

15.4 CPRE Planning e-learning course now available, details from parish office.

15.5 KWT report and Wild Kent Winter 2011/12.

15.6 Thank you letter from Samaritans for the PC grant.

15.7 Kent Downs Orchid – Autumn/Winter. E Bulletin Dec 2011.

15.8 Countryside Voice and CPRE Field Work – Winter 2011

15.9 Kent Downs AONB E Bulletin Dec 2011.

15.10 Kent County Playing Fields Assoc. Dec 2011 newsletter.

15.11 Kent Forum Briefing Edit 4, next meeting Feb 2012.

- 15.12 Medway Neighbourhood Watch Winter 2011
- 15.13 [www.bigenergyweek.org.uk](http://www.bigenergyweek.org.uk)- new website with tips on how to cut energy bills.
- 15.14 Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership e- bulletin.
- 15.15 Boxley Warren Report January 2012.

16 **Next Meeting.**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Weaving Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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