

**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 11 November 2013 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 D Hollands, Mr A Springate and Mrs M Waller together with the Assistant Clerk and 6 members of the public.

**1. Apologies and absences**

Cllr Spain (unwell) Cllr Holmes (absent).

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

Members, declared that they had been lobbied on:

- MA/13/1760

Cllr Dengate notified members that he had an interest in MA/13/1797 as a resident living near the site.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 14 October 2013.**

The minutes were, with a slight amendment, **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

As there were members of the public present with regards to the planning application MA/13/1797 the Chairman agreed to bring forward Item 5 and take this application first

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm to allow residents to speak on this application. They thanked the committee for their comments which supported their views. Advice was given for them to set up a petition with at least 100 signatures, a facebook page (similar to LWAAG Lordswood against asbestos group) to gain support not just from Maidstone residents but from those residing in Medway close to the site, who will also be affected by the proposed development.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.05pm when the rest of the planning applications were taken.

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2577/4.1 Lordswood bike barriers: **received** the clerk's report that the barriers had been installed. The Assistant Clerk reported that a resident had sent in photographs showing the installation was not quite the standard it should be. MBC confirmed that due to inclement weather they had encountered difficulties and these would be rectified. A final inspection will be made by an MBC Officer. **Action MBC.**

4.2 Minute 2577/4.3 Vegetation removal Grovewood Drive South: Members noted the clerk's report. An update was not available in time for the meeting. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would chase KCCH&T. **Action office.**

4.3 Minute 2580/10.1 Junction improvements at Lordswood Lane/Gleamingwood Drive: Noted the clerk's report. An update was not available in time for the meeting. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would chase KCCH&T. **Action office.**

4.4 Minute 2580/10.2 Pedestrian crossing at Running Horse roundabout. Matter has been reported to KCCH&T. **Noted.** An update was not available in time for the meeting. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would chase KCCH&T. **Action office.**

4.5 Minute 2580/10.3 Yellow Lines at Provender Way – The situation has been reported to KCCH&T and MBC have sent a parking warden up to the site. The office is still awaiting a response. **Noted.**

4.6 Minute 2580/13.2 Microchipping for Dogs – Dates are to be confirmed for January. **Noted.**

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

5.1 MA/13/1586 Retrospective application for the erection of a field shelter, fencing and

access in connection with the sale of farm produce at the Land West of Harrow Public House, Westfield Sole Road, Boxley.

*Wish to see refused. The development is inappropriate in this location, is likely to exacerbate the existing traffic difficulties on this narrow, winding, heavily-used road and, as this is a retrospective application, can already be seen to be very prominent and detrimental to the street scene.*

- 5.2 MA/13/1797 Outline Application with all matters reserved to develop the site for residential (approx. 89 dwellings) with open space, access road and biomass heat and power plant at Lordswood Urban Extension, Gleamingwood Drive ME5  
*Wished to see the application refused and reported to the planning committee. It was agreed the Assistant Clerk would compile a response based on the reasons given at the meeting and email the committee for final approval before submitting to MBC.*
- 5.3 MA/13/1760 Erection of detached bungalow at The Three Ashes, Boxley Road, Walderslade ME5 9JG.  
*Wished to see this application refused and reported to the planning committee It was agreed the Assistant Clerk would compile a response based on the reasons given at the meeting and email the committee for final approval before submitting to MBC.*
- 5.4 MA/13/1821 Retrospective application for provision of enlarged bin store including pergola and fencing, two cycle stores and replacement paved area at 2 – 12 Orache Drive and 1 – 6 Gentian Close Weaving ME14 5UE.  
*Do not wish to object however the parish council would like to point out that it does not approve of retrospective applications.*
- 5.5 TA/0144/13 Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No 1 of 1969: an application to carry out the following work to trees/hedges H1 (Leylandii Cypress Hedge) removal of regrowth, T2 (Cherry Tree) reduce crown by approximately 30% and reduce tree height from 8 metres to 5.5 metres, T3 (Sweet Chestnut Tree) reduce canopy height by 30%, lift canopy to allow 3 metre ground clearance and reduce tree height from 14 metres to 10 metres at 23 Abigail Crescent, Walderslade, ME5 9DZ.  
*Defer to the views of the Borough Landscape Officer.*
- 5.6 TA/0160/13 To carry out tree maintenance on various trees covered by TPO's at 5 Wents Wood, Weaving ME14 5BL.  
*Defer to the views of the Borough Landscape Officer.*
- 5.7 TA/0157/13 Tree preservation order, TPO No.1 of 1969 application for consent to fell 1 No. Hornbeam at 9 Greensands, Walderslade ME5 9DQ.  
*The parish council does not like to see the loss of a tree, but defers to the views of the Borough Landscape Officer.*
- 5.8 MA/13/1746 – Two storey side extension at Lachute, Chatham Road, Sandling ME14 3AY.  
*Do not wish to object*
- 5.9 TA/0159/13 – Tree Preservation Order application: TPO No.1 of 1969: An application for consent to fell one oak tree at 17 Forestdale Road, Walderslade ME5 9NB  
*The parish council does not like to see the loss of a tree, but defers to the view of the Borough Landscape Officer.*

## 6. Planning Applications and Appeals Decisions

MA/13/1160 retrospective application for the installation of two windows to the side elevation and erection of a marquee to rear of Fox & Goose Inn, Weaving Street – GRANTED subject to conditions. **Noted.**

7. **Neighbourhood Development Plans.**

Due to annual leave, contact with companies will be made during late November. **Noted.**

8. **Maidstone Borough Local Plan.**

Members **received** and **noted** a press release from MBC outlining the first tranche of adopted new policies of the local plan. It was suggested that Policy DM8 could be used in the response to MA/13/1797 Lordswood Urban Extension.

9. **Volunteer Groups.**

9.1 WWG report was **received** and **noted**. Cllr Springate mentioned that the end of the footpath to Impton Lane which is heavily used by mums with pushchairs taking their children to school was covered in leaves and quite dangerous.

**Action office/WWG.**

9.2 Cllr Bob Hinder gave a verbal update for FoBW. The group met on Sunday 10 November and transferred tools and equipment to the newly erected shed at Beechen Hall. The next meeting on Monday 18 November at Beechen Hall will have a guest speaker from the County Archaeological Society.

10. **Highways and Byways.**

10.1 New Cut Road, entrance to playing fields: Cllr Waller requested the footpath is reported as being dangerous and a safety issue for pedestrians due to overgrown brambles and encroaching grass. The footpath is believed to be used quite heavily by school children as a short cut across the playing fields to the nearby school. **Action office.**

Cllr Wendy Hinder reported to KCCH&T a leaning tree opposite The Spinney in Walderslade which appears to have become more dangerous after the storm at the end of October. **Action Cllr W Hinder.**

10.2 Parish & Town Council Highways Survey 2013 – Cllr Dengate (north ward) has completed the survey and has suggested that a Councillor from south ward should also complete it to give a balanced view of the parish. He stated that if there is a conflict in any of the responses these should be brought back to the committee to agree the response. It was suggested that Cllr Vic Davies is approached to see if he was willing to complete the survey with the help of Cllr Hollands if necessary. **Action office/Cllr Vic Davies.**

10.3 Fly tipping Tesco's Car Park, Grove Green – Members **received** the Assistant Clerks report regarding the re-appearance of fly tipping by the recycling and bottle banks at Tesco's car park. Both the office and Cllr Wendy Hinder had notified the enforcement team at MBC, who in turn have spoken to Tesco's. If the problem persists MBC have said they might be able to assist with cameras. It was **agreed** that this would be monitored. **Action office.**

10.4 Street Cleaning –The office had received a complaint from a resident in Sandy Lane with regards to the upkeep of the lane. The office has requested that Sandy Lane is added to MBC's scheduled route for the Mechanical Sweeper. It is next scheduled for Boxley this week and depending on the amount of leaf fall will dictate how long it spends in the parish. **Noted.**

11. **Policy and procedures review.**

11.1 Section 106 wish list, **received** with the addition of the following: Improvements to Gleaming Wood Drive junction with Lordswood Lane by way of appropriate speed restrictions and a pedestrian /cycle track crossing. **Action office.**

- 12. **2014/15 draft budget.**  
Members' considered the draft budget. No future projects were put forward and there were no changes to the budget.
- 13. **Matters for information.**  
There were none.
- 14. **Next Meeting.**  
9 December 2013 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.
- 15. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC.**  
None.

Meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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

