**Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 13 January 2020 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllrs W Hinder, Ms L Clarke, Mr I Davies, Mr B Hinder, Mrs P Huntingford,

J Willmott, Mrs A Brindle (from item 5) together with Mrs D Baylis, Clerk.

1. **Apologies and absences**

None received

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

None

1. **Minutes of the Meeting 9 December 2019**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

1. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

4.1 Minute 3330/4.1 Junction 3 M2. 10 MPs request for action on local infrastructure. Cllr B Hinder reported that the JTB meeting had been cancelled due to lack of business.

4.2 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. **None.**

**Presentation from Kitewood**

Ben Crozier from Kitewood gave a presentation on his proposed plans for Impton Lane. The proposal is now for 5 houses and he will send the Parish Council detailed reports once they are finished.

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

2 members of the public were present to ask for the Councils assistance regarding increased motorway noise. It was agreed that the Clerk would clarify what work had been done on the A2 and when a noise test had last been done. He was also advised to contact the local MP’s, Helen Whatley and Tracey Crouch.

1. **Planning Applications for Consideration or ratification**

**19/506003/FULL Land adjacent to Jasmine, Boxley Road, Walderslade**

Erection of a detached 4 bed eco-house and carport.

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

The proposed house would be an intrusion on an area of open countryside that provides landscape relief allowing attractive views of the Beechen Bank ancient woodland.

There are very few open areas left amongst the residential frontage along Boxley Road and those that are left perform a vital function by demarcating different areas of housing and preventing their coalescence. It is important that these gaps are maintained to prevent overdevelopment.

As such any building would be an unacceptable erosion of the open space and detrimental to the character and appearance of the locality.

This site has been subject to numerous planning applications with the last one for ‘Three Ashes’ (ref 13/1760) being turned down on Appeal in May 2014 (ref APP/U2235/A/14/2213789). The Parish Council feels that the reasons for refusal in this decision are still valid and should be taken into account with this application.

If the Planning Officer is minded to approve the Parish Council request the application be referred to the Planning Committee for determination.

**19/506306/FULL 75 Lombardy Drive, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5TB**

Proposed first floor extension

**Response:** Boxley Parish Council has no material planning reason to object.

**19/506310/FULL Land adjacent to 1 Boxley Cottages, Ashford Road, Weavering**

Erection of 2no. three bedroom semi-detached dwellings and associated parking.

**Proposed response:**

**Boxley Parish Council** would like to object for the following reasons:

1. The proposal for two semi-detached properties with attached garages, separate gardens and parking arrangements will be overdevelopment of the site which would overwhelm the setting of the listed buildings and cause harm to their significance.

2. The loss of the cottage’s garden and further erosion of its setting would compromise its future viability and upkeep.

3. The proposed development is out of keeping with its setting.

**KCC/MA/0271/2019 Newnham Court Shopping Village, Bearsted Road, Weavering, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5LH**

PROPOSAL: Construction of a new access road into Newnham Court Shopping Village and internal service road, highway improvements and alterations, associated new and replacement car parking, site compound area, installation and relocation of lighting columns, modification of the existing access into the shopping village, realignment of the existing drainage feature, removal and replacement tree planting and associated earthworks and landscape improvements. These works form part of wider highway improvements between Kent Medical Campus and the M20 J7 which do not form part of the application.

**Boxley Parish Council** support this application.

6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

The Planning decisions on the Agenda were noted and the responses made out of meeting ratified.

7. **Highways and Byways**

7.1 Highways Improvement Plan.

The HIP was put into order of importance.

7.2 Harp Farm Road

There was no further update on any flooding work that has been carried out.

7.3 Walderslade Woods

The report on the speed reduction figures was noted.

7.4 Parking Conifer Road and Fir Tree Road

A resident had been into the office to complain about commercial vehicles parked on

the junction causing reduced visibility and obstruction to the extent that the refuse

lorry was unable to collect the household waste. This has been reported to the police

and MBC by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident and see if there

had been any improvement.

7.5 Verge Beechmore Drive

It was decided to add this to the HIP

7.6 To consider any issues raised at the meeting

8. **Weavering Heath**

MBC were repairing the damage to the Heath and trying to find an alternative site for a bike track.

9. **Policy and Procedures**

None scheduled for review. **Noted.**

10**. Members and Officer’s Reports**

Cllr Bob Hinder reported that he had been in contact with the Enforcement team after the refusal of planning permission for the Bethany tree house and the applicants not putting in an appeal on the decision. Enforcement had not taken any action at the time of the meeting.

11. **Consultations**

None

12. **Volunteer Groups**

No reports received.

13. **Items for Next Agenda**

Requests for items to be included on the agenda to be submitted no later than 27 January 2020.

**Noted.**

14**. Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 3 February 2020 at Beechen Hall, Wildlfell Close, Walderslade ME5 9RU commencing at 7.30pm.

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

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

Meeting closed 9.50 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman ……………………………………………….. Date ………………………………………………………..