

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Environment Committee Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 9 October 2023, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: B Hinder – Chairman, M Beckwith, I Davies, S Mayes, A Brindle, P Mclean and H Bryant along with Mrs D Baylis (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs P Huntingford and C Sheppard – apologies accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2023**
Agreed.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
None

Public Session at the discretion of the Chairman. Parishioners may address the meeting with regard to any item on the Agenda (time limited to 3 minutes per person). Items not on the Agenda must be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Non-parishioners are only able to address the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman.

The members of the public were from Boxley village and reported that the overgrown vegetation had been cleared which had left a lot of litter exposed. The white lines and pot holes were on the list for repair.

Cllr Hinder told them about the KCC agreed highway improvements following the meeting in the village with KCC Highways officers, residents, Councillors and the Clerk.

They were not getting anywhere on getting the drains cleared. The Clerk was asked to write to KCC about the blocked drains.

They also raised on behalf of the Parochial Church Council the yew tree that needs the branches overhanging the entrance path trimmed and the defibrillator. The Clerk would add these to the Estates Agenda for action and contact the Conservation Officer about the siting of defibrillator cabinets in conservation areas for advice.

Minute 3766 item 13.2. The Clerk was asked for an update on the lack of bicycle racks at Tesco. She had not yet written to Tesco as the resident had spoken to a manager. The bicycle racks had been removed due to vandalism. The resident had used the ones at Grove Green hall. These were damaged but useable. The rack had been damaged by reversing cars and needed repair, relocation or protection.

5. **Planning Applications for Consideration – DECISION**

23/504101/FULL Unit 7, Aylesford Business Park, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, ME20 7US

Creation of a new external secure generator compound and extension to existing Heras fencing on eastern elevation. Erection of raised gantry and installation of 4no. new mounted condenser fan units on southern elevation and associated works.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object to this application.

23/504049/TPOA 5 Forestdale Road, Walderslade, ME5 9NB

Tree Preservation Order application: T1 (Silver birch, Betula Pendula) to be removed. T2 (Silver birch Betula Pendula) to be reduced by approx. 3m to a height of approx. 8m. T3 (Silver birch Betula Pendula) to be reduced by approx. 3m to a height of

approx. 8m. T4 (Common Birch *Fagus Sylvatica*) to be removed. For the tree to be removed a planting schedule could be undertaken to replace them.

Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.

23/504396/TCA The Old Vicarage The Street Boxley Kent ME14 3DX

Conservation area notification to pollard a group of three Sycamore (G1) back to previous established cut levels - 7m from ground level.

Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.

23/504515/TPOA 6 Cinnabar Close, Walderslade, ME5 9PF

Tree Preservation Order Application: Oak (T1) – prune secondary branches to achieve 5m ground clearance. Thin canopy by 10%. Remove dead wood. Prune to clear street light by 2m.

Boxley Parish Council defer to the views of the Tree Officer.

23/504311/FULL Vinters Park Crematorium, Bearsted Road, Weaving, ME14 5LG

Erection of an open walkway linked extension. Conversion of an existing Agricultural building into a café and florists.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object to this application.

23/504172/LAWPRO Amber House Cossington Road Boxley Kent ME5 9JB

Lawful Development for the Proposed erection of a gazebo, a front open porch and a new dormer side extension.

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

1. It is too large for a Lawful Development Certificate and should be re-submitted as a full planning application.
2. It is overdevelopment of the site.
3. It would be an incongruous addition to the street scene.
4. There is already a part built extension that is not shown on these plans that did not have planning permission and is being looked at by the planning enforcement team.

If the Case Officer is minded to approval then Boxley Parish Council would like the application determined by the Maidstone Borough Council planning committee.

6. **Ratifications**

The planning responses made out of meeting were ratified.

7. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

Noted. The Clerk would tighten up office procedures to ensure that planning responses were submitted after meetings in her absence.

8. **Highways and Byways – DECISION**

8.1 **Highways Improvement Plan.**

A joint parishes group to look at joined up HIP requests was discussed at a recent KALC meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr V Springett for more details.

8.2 **Junction 3 of the M2/Bluebell Hill**

No further updates.

8.3 **A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project.**

This was now due to start before the end of October.

8.4 **Boxley Village Society**

This was covered under public session.

8.5 Lower Thames Crossing

The letter received was noted. The Clerk had signed up for updates.

8.6 Any Highways issues raised at the meeting

Correspondence had been received from a resident unhappy with the folding of the Walderslade and Lordswood litter picking group due to Medway Council's lack of co-operation. It was agreed that the Clerk would send letters to Tracy Crouch and Helen Whately asking for their help.

9. Policy and Procedure – Review

None on this Agenda.

10. Task List

Clerk asked to chase for a date for the installation of the motorbike inhibitors for the footpath adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage.

It was agreed to put a watching brief on the white van late night activity in Tesco's car park.

Cllr Bryant reported that following several conversations/reports to the police and the company they had agreed to stop using local roads for parking their skip trailers and transferring of skips.

The Clerk was asked to put a post on the Sandling Matters page regarding a site for a playground.

The Clerk was asked to contact the footpaths officer about a motorbike inhibitor for the path off Impton Lane.

The Clerk was asked to chase National Highways for the maintenance information for Boarley Lane and the Nuventure passenger information.

11. Street Furniture

It was proposed by Cllr P Mclean, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed that a new bench be purchased for the Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard with funds coming from the Street Furniture Budget.

It was proposed by Cllr P Mclean, seconded by Cllr H Bryant and all agreed that a new noticeboard be purchased for Boxley Village with funds coming from the Street Furniture Budget.

Both items to be further approved at the Estates Committee meeting being held on the 16 October.

12. Members and Officer's Reports

None

13. Residents' Concerns

13.1 At the request of the resident the parking at Autumn Glade would be added to the next Environment Committee Agenda for discussion.

13.2 The issue of a lack of bicycle racks at Tesco in Grove Green was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Tesco's and ask about the lack of provision..

14. Playground for Sandling

The Clerk was asked to put a post on the Sandling Matters Facebook page and ask if anyone knew of any suitable land.

15. Consultations

None on this Agenda

16. Volunteer Groups

No reports received.

17. **Items for Next Agenda**

None put forward.

18. **Next Meeting**

Next Environment Committee meeting 6 November 2023.

In view of the confidential nature of the item about to be transacted, it is advised that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the following items.

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

No CIL received.

20. **Medway Council's Regulation 18 Consultation**

Cllr Hinder would meet with the Clerk to draft a response to the consultation.

21. **Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan Review**

The Clerk would arrange a meeting of the working party to draft the BPC response.

Meeting closed at 20.45.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date