

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Environment Committee Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 11 March 2024, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: B Hinder – Chairman, I Davies, C Sheppard, A Brindle, S Mayes and P Mclean along with Mrs D Baylis (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs P Huntingford, M Beckwith and H Bryant – apologies accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2024**
Cllr I Davies said that his request to amend item 9 on the Highways Improvement Plan had not been minuted. It was agreed to sign the minutes after this had been added.

It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle seconded by Cllr P Mclean and all agreed to exclude members of the public from the Confidential section.

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.

No members of the public were present.

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

24/500729/FULL Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, ME5 9RU

Erection of replacement entrance gates and height restrictor.

Boxley Parish Council fully support this application.

24/500728/FULL Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, ME5 9RU

Siting of a new storage container.

Boxley Parish Council fully support this application.

24/500769/FULL Appledore, Weaving Street, Weaving, ME14 5JJ

Erection of rear orangery extension.

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

24/500780/TPOA 1 The Medlars, Maidstone, ME14 5RZ

Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Sweet Chestnut, Re-pollard for maintenance purposes.

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

24/500836 Sandhurst, Grove Green Road, Weaving, Kent, ME14 5JT

TPO Application to cut back overhanging branches from three conifer trees (T1, T3 and T5) from 2 Greenways also to reduce the trees heights to 6m. Also to cut back overhanging branches from three sycamore trees (T6, T7 and T8) from Sandhurst also to reduce all three trees heights to 6m

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

6. **Ratifications**

It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr C Sheppard and all agreed that the ratification of the planning responses made out of meeting be made.

The Clerk was asked to write to MP Helen Whately regarding retrospective planning applications.

The Clerk reported that she had received notification of an Appeal for the Aldi supermarket in Grove Green.

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

Noted.

8. **Highways and Byways – DECISION**

8.1 **Highways Improvement Plan.**

No further actions put forward.

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

Improvements to this junction deemed necessary to support the proposed Lidsing Development had been uploaded onto the Local Plan Review documents.

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

Apologies had been received for the Facebook post detailing closures. These were blanket closures and definite dates would be circulated in time to allow for notification to residents.

8.4 **Boxley Village**

It was suggested that getting the Joint Parishes traffic group involved in trying to find solutions to the issues being faced by residents would give some new insights.

8.5 **Any Highways issues raised at the meeting**

Cllr Brindle had attended the latest meeting of the combined parish traffic group. One problem is that all highways planners seem to look at is crash data reported to the police. Very few minor accidents are ever reported in this way. There is a crash map produced by Insurance companies that is more detailed and should be used instead.

KCC has a Vision Zero policy that gives lots of scope to see where they are not following their own policies in many instances when they refuse HIP requests. The group is very pro-active and worthwhile.

Grove Green – money has been put aside to look at a Leeds/Langley bypass.

9. **Policy and Procedure – Review**

None on this Agenda.

10. **Task List**

The Clerk was asked to look at a grant from the Community Resilience fund for signage in Walderslade Woodland.

11. **Members and Officer's Reports**

Cllr Hinder reported that there was a full Maidstone Borough Council meeting on Wednesday 20th March to approve the Local Plan. Further actions with regards to the proposed Lidsing Development should the plan be approved were discussed.

12. **Residents' Concerns**

None on this Agenda.

- 13. **Playground for Sandling**
No further update.
- 14. **Consultations**
None on this Agenda.
- 15. **Volunteer Groups**
No reports received.
- 16. **Items for Next Agenda**
It was agreed to put the Combined Parish Traffic Group on the next Parish Council Agenda.
- 17. **Next Meeting**
Next Environment Committee meeting 8 April 2024.

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.

- 18. **Enforcement and CIL/Section 106 updates from MBC**
No CIL received.

Meeting closed at 20.25.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date