

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Boxford Village Hall.

PRESENT: L Wortley (Chaired the Meeting) , T Munson, D Warren, H Watts, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) and 18 members of the public attended in person. A Video link was not requested for the Meeting.

RESIGNATION: Sadly Pamela Edwards has resigned as a Parish Councillor. Members took the opportunity to express their grateful thanks to Pamela for all her hard and effective work on the Parish Council.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBER: Howard Watts was invited to join the Parish Council and he duly accepted. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

APOLOGIES: were received from J Fincham-Jacques and J Moles. B Hurren was delayed at an earlier meeting and was unable to attend.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: L Wortley advised that she is personally involved in objecting to changes at Box Valley Farm Orchard, although she does not have a declarable interest in this respect.

MINUTES OF 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: Residents had attended in relation to the Planning Application at 30 Stone Street. There was no objections overall and it was seen as a welcome improvement, however, some stipulations were considered important relating to a recently opened substandard and unsafe access, the closure of which was previously recommended by Highways in 2019 and also by restricting the number of vehicles parking at the proposal. County Cllr J Finch agreed to ask SCC Highways to repeat their recommendation in this respect to the Planning Authority. The applicants for this application are now displaying what most residents describe as obscene topiary. The Clerk was given permission from a neighbouring resident to circulate their complaint regarding the topiary to the full Parish Council. J Moles had researched the matter and was happy to send details directly to the neighbouring resident of the relevant legal basis for a complaint. Whilst the Parish Council could not take on the matter, it was agreed to share the information gathered. Attention then turned to the structures erected on Box Valley Farm Orchard for fruit growing. A resident explained that 67 acres of farmland would be involved in the AONB. Boxford and Polstead Parish Councils had written expressing concern and asking for a detailed explanation in relation to the requirements for Planning Permission. A very limited response had been given via our District Councillor categorising the structures as temporary. Residents argued loss of cultural and visual amenity, impact on their mental health and loss of habitat for wildlife. The Planning Authority was considered to be failing in their duty to protect the AONB. It was felt that if a formal Planning Application was made, then a full consultation would result considering matters such as neighbour amenity, the AONB and Environmental matters. J Finch had listened to concerns and would discuss in his role on the AONB. The Parish Council were to consider under their Planning Agenda item. A resident then asked what would be happening in relation to the flower bed at the entrance to The Causeway. It was

agreed to consider under the Tree Canopy Agenda item. The Sand Hill Bus Stop had recently been cleared by a volunteer and the Village was thankful for this community action. It was noted this should be the responsibility of the County Council and in future it could be reported on the Highways Reporting Tool.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: All covered under Agenda items.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended following a period of absence due to illness. He reported on a bid by the County Council for investment zones at Lowestoft, Sudbury and Mildenhall. If successful, considerable investment would be made. More special educational needs places have been funded. The deadlines for applying for places at Primary and Secondary School were drawing closer. Suffolk Road-safe Partnership are rolling out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists. The speed is displayed encouraging the motorist to slow down and there is follow up for persistent offenders. The Autumn Exhibition at The Hold has opened. A short film has been made to raise awareness of the need for Foster Carers. It was noted the ditch by the Village Hall opposite the cottages was to be cleared by 17th November and the traffic survey was to start on 31st October. The Community Volunteers were scheduled to have a walk around with the County Councillor the following week. Of particular concern was clearance of drains and gullies identified in the Village Audit.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren had an earlier meeting and was unable to attend.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SUB-COMMITTEES: This was postponed again and members will continue with previous responsibilities. L Wortley, D Warren and T Munson agreed to jointly form the Cemetery Sub Committee.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: The Referendum was scheduled for 27th October. All arrangements were being made by the District Council. Polling cards had been distributed and leaflets reminding residents were being delivered.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 3rd October 2022 were **£63104.63** in the Community Account, **£13407.98** in the Deposit Account and **£62584.31** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£139,096.92**.

The pre-agreed payments for September are as follows: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
<u>For September month</u>			
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1289.65	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	M A Crighton	185.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	Glasdon UK Ltd	255.42	Dog bag dispenser
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	42.00	Cemetery path
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	34.50	Hall hire
Funds Tr	Business Services at CAS Ltd	575.85	PC Insurance
Funds Tr	Dynamic Fireworks	3239.77	Fireworks
Funds Tr	Compass Point	990.00	Neighbourhood Planning

It was noted further discount was received on our Parish Council Insurance from £601.78 by entering a 3 year agreement to retain the cost per year at £575.85.

A Christmas tree is being organised by T Munson and our Community Wardens will be collecting from Edwardstone.

The Risk Management Policy was considered and it was approved as meeting our needs in this Financial Year.

The Coronation is taking place in early May and there were no announcements (at that stage) relating to extra bank holidays. It is likely the celebrations will start on Saturday just after the Coronation. Following discussion T Munson proposed subject to budget considerations (which were to be worked on shortly), this Council should pay up to a maximum of £10,000 on the understanding that the Community Council will endeavour to secure funding from other sources. This was seconded by D Warren and unanimously carried. It was suggested Finance Committee looks to reserve around £1500 for potential improvements to the Bus Shelter.

PROMOTING THE ELECTIONS AND NEW COUNCILLORS: Ideas included communicating more information about the role of a Parish Councillor, targeted leaflet drops particularly trying to get more representation from all areas of the Parish such as Stone Street. An informal event with refreshments could be arranged in good time ahead of the Elections which are due to take place in May next year. It was agreed for the Clerk to seek relevant information from SALC including literature to use in a campaign and the cut off dates for nominations - **Action Clerk**. This will remain as an Agenda item for future meetings ahead of the Elections - **Action Clerk**.

TREE CANOPY STRATEGY - BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL:

T Munson suggested some small decorative trees could be planted in the grass area at the entrance to The Causeway. Other suggestions were made also. In relation to tree planting in the Village from our late Queen's Canopy scheme, T Munson agreed to seek ideas from the Village via Facebook, liaise with our Tree Warden and come back to Parish Council with some proposals - **Action T Munson**.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. All matters were noted.

CEMETERY: It was agreed to contact our Tree Surgeons for potential dates for the autumn Cemetery/Churchyard review of trees and circulate to our Cemetery Sub Committee - **Action Clerk**. The Clerk will also pass on correspondence from residents neighbouring the Cemetery and Churchyard who were seeking our assistance in reducing tree cover - **Action Clerk**. P Edwards has offered to continue to liaise with the Church Clock Contractors. This was agreed.

URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: L Wortley confirmed that the footpath leaflets are now with Discover Suffolk for final consideration. It was noted the Village Volunteers who carried out the Village Audit have met B Hurren who has been most helpful. They have some land queries which they will continue to pursue. The Meeting had noted the scheduled meeting with the County Cllr the following week.

The meeting closed at **9.55 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council in Boxford Village Hall and by Video Conferencing on **Tuesday 25th October 2022**

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

A) A non material amendment was approved to remove single access door and replace it with double doors at The Bungalow, Roylands Lane - **DC/22/04694**.

B) Non material amendments were approved to change position and size of external windows and doors at The Bungalow, Roylands Lane - **DC/22/04693**.

C) Listed Building Consent was refused for re-roofing at Old School House, School Hill - **DC/22/03176**.

The following applications were discussed: -

1) Thatch End, 1 Stone Street - Notification of works to Conservation Area Trees - **DC/22/04859**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between Meetings.

2) The application to alter vehicular access and create more parking spaces at 30 Stone Street - **DC/22/04975**.

This application is considered an improvement on previous applications and there were No Objections **subject to some crucial stipulations/conditions:** -

1) The closing of a substandard and unsafe access opened in recent years, the closure of which was recommended by Suffolk County Council Highways in 2019

2) Restricting the number of vehicles permitted to park at this proposal.

These stipulations were important bearing in mind the unsuitability of Stone Street for even the current traffic volumes and the considerable highways and pedestrian safety concerns in the vicinity.

3) Any other urgent planning matters - The concerns relating to Box Valley Farm Orchard were noted and a full detailed explanation was still required from the Planning Authority. It was agreed to write to the Planning Authority pressing for this and asking them to confirm a deadline for providing this information. L Wortley agreed to provide a draft for this purpose - **Action L Wortley**.