

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Boxford Village Hall.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), L Wortley, P Edwards, T Munson, D Warren, J Moles, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public attended in person and J Finch (County Cllr) attended via Video link.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBER: John Moles had been invited to join the Parish Council following his application. John confirmed his willingness to join at this meeting and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking up his position on the Council.

APOLOGIES: were received from M Wooderson.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: D Warren reminded the meeting his property is nearby the proposed Sand Hill Development.

MINUTES OF 22nd MARCH 2022: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: The member of the public suggested the Parish Council purchases a dog bag dispenser and a supply of bags to go near the bins at Homefield Playing Field. He also reminded about his previous points about the Churchyard and Cemetery gates and the Church Clock. He confirmed the noticeboard in Gunary Close is in need of attention. All of these points were already noted and on-going and the suggestion of dog bag dispenser will be investigated. J Moles explained about bottles left dangerously on the Playing Field and also the necessity for the Police to attend the Village in recent times more frequently. Finally it was noted that Open Reach had attended to the telephone box, however, no maintenance was carried out to the kiosk, only the telephone. It was agreed for the Clerk to get onto the contact at BT again to report the need for maintenance - **Action Clerk.**

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: All noted under Public Forum item.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended by video link and had not issued a full report. He confirmed he visited the ditch along Stone Street Road and he was hoping County Highways would carry out the clearance ahead of the winter. The white lining had been done on Sand Hill. He agreed to report the need for Butchers Lane repairs to the ruts either side of the highway. A resident reported an issue with Ash Street bollards and reminded about highways speed surveys in various locations in the Village. J Finch confirmed he had asked for the surveys, however, there was a waiting list. The resident then reminded about a potential hatched area in front of the bus shelter to give a car free space for residents to get onto buses. J Finch agreed to raise as a request again.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported about the crisis talks at Babergh District Council since the cabinet folded. They have agreed a mixed cabinet in principle. He was arranging visits to the Energy from Waste operation and encouraged Councillors to attend if they would like. Dog fouling signs were given to the resident who had requested them. The access path to Primrose Wood was being investigated by Planning Enforcement. It was agreed to provide details to the Clerk of the representative from Flagship dealing with the strip of land they own along the Croft. Further bottlebanks seem to be needed and B Hurren agreed to discuss with the Playing Field Management Committee in the first instance. He outlined what was happening to house Ukrainian Refugees and so far 60 have applied to come to Babergh. B Hurren explained that he and L Wortley have been investigating with the Sustainable Travel Officer the need to improve safe walking along the A1071.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: H Phillips, joint Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group had reported in advance that the Babergh Regulation 16 Consultation Process is nearly at 6 weeks and due to end on 29th April. The results will be available soon to action. The next stage is the Examination phase. The End of Year procedures had been followed in respect of the grant monies.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: B Hurren explained the history of this review and that it was an opportunity for Parishes rather than a threat. So if Parishes were in talks to merge, this is the time to put forward the proposal. Members agreed for the Clerk to provide a shared form, to enable members to consider this review - **Action Clerk.**

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 1st April 2022 were **£36899.41** in the Community Account, **£13402.84** in the Deposit Account and **£60742.69** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£111044.94**

The following pre-agreed payments for March: -
November:-

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1497.62	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	Sudbury Town Council	726.66	Street Cleaning Contract
Funds Tr	James Dowd	320.00	Church Clock Maintenance
Funds Tr	Box Media	130.00	NP Flyers
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	42.00	Cemetery path
Funds Tr	Boxford PFMC	24.50	Friendship Grp hire grant
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	34.50	Hall hire
Funds Tr	Groundwork UK	2391.70	Surplus NP Grant

Three Tenders had been received to restore the Churchyard boundary wall and were opened just ahead of the meeting to comply with our Financial Regulations. These were discussed by the Parish Council after the public section of the meeting and the Contract was awarded to Elford & Sons Ltd. It was agreed for the Clerk to thank and advise the Contractors accordingly and contact the Church to gain appropriate permission - **Action Clerk.** P Edwards agreed to liaise with the Church in respect of the working requirements of the Contractors during the work in the summer holidays this year - **Action P Edwards.**

The Community Wardens Annual Service Level Agreement was considered and approved for a further year. However, it was agreed to have an Agenda item for June to consider whether we need to increase the weekly contract hours - **Action Clerk**. Meanwhile, T Munson will discuss with the Community Wardens.

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

CEMETERY: It was agreed to authorise further work to the Cemetery Gates between meetings, so the Village is looking its best for the Jubilee - **Action Clerk**. It was noted that J Finch was hoping County Highways will carry out the ditch clearance along Stone Street Road. P Edwards agreed to update the contractor who quoted for a comprehensive scheme in this respect - **Action P Edwards**. It was agreed to include an Agenda item of Restoration of Clock Face for the May Meeting and in the meantime P Edwards will discuss with the Church to assess their reaction to this idea - **Action Clerk and P Edwards**.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: This will take place ahead of our Parish Council Meeting in May and the Clerk will bring refreshments - **Action Clerk**.

URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: It was agreed to get ideas regarding a Jubilee Fund at the Annual Parish Meeting. Ways to support hardship in the Village would also be raised at future meetings. T Munson will publicise the Reclaim the Rain project between meetings. We now have 2 new Footpath Wardens in Boxford and a further volunteer for Edwardstone Parish. Progress is now anticipated with the Footpath Leaflet.

The meeting closed at **9.12 p.m.**

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

A) Consent was granted to fell protected walnut tree in rear garden at 10 The Causeway, Boxford - **DC/22/01010**

B) Conditions have been approved re external walls and ceilings at Mill House, 3 Church Street, Boxford - **DC/22/01909**

C) Planning Permission was Refused to erect detached bungalow largely due to overdevelopment, urbanisation, effects on surrounding properties and access at Monkams, Cox Hill - **DC/22/00854**

D) Discharge of Conditions were approved at Old School House, School Hill for electric vehicle charging, hard surfacing, external lighting, boundary, levels and biodiversity - **DC/22/00812**

E) Planning Permission was granted for garage building to front south west corner on land at Orchard House (The Bungalow) Roylands Lane - **DC/22/01028**

The following applications were discussed: -

1) Householder Application for detached 3 bay single storey oak framed Cart Lodge at The Grange, Stone Street - **DC/22/01664**.

A response was issued between meetings to comply with the deadline. The Parish Council had **No Objections**. However, following the deadline, a neighbour has noted their objection to this application.

2) Application to crown reduce protected sycamore tree at Knoll Gate, School Hill - **DC/22/01806**.

A response was issued between meetings to comply with the deadline. Both the Parish Council and our Tree Warden had **No Objections**.

3) Application for Listed Building Consent for swimming pool and pergola at Kemball House, 22 Broad Street - **DC/21/06833**.

A response was issued between meetings to comply with the deadline. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

4) Householder Application for extensions at 11 Boxford Lane - **DC/22/01760**.

A response was issued between meetings to comply with the deadline. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

5) Any other urgent planning matters: It was anticipated the Sand Hill development Plans will come before Planning Committee on 25th May. Arrangements will be made leading to the Committee for speakers and further correspondence. It was hoped Officer's recommendations would be for Refusal.