

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING

held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Boxford.

PRESENT: Cllrs D Warren (Chair), C Parr, H Watts, John King and A Troke (from 19.05). Z Rumsey (Clerk), CCllr Robert Lindsay and DCllr Hurren (from 19.30). 3 members of the public attended in person for part of the meeting.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllrs C Lawson and C Jackson

2. Receive Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation from Councillors

None received.

3. To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 are a true and correct record.

It was resolved to accepted the minutes as correct and these were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Works around the village that were allocated to the Contractor were not quite finished at the time of the meeting, Cllr Warren has written to them to ask for works to be completed.

A response was received from DCllr Hurren regarding the parking wardens, noticeboard and land at Goodlands but it was felt that the issues were not resolved.

5. Election of Vice-Chair

Postponed to the next meeting

6. Co-option of new Councillor(s)

It was resolved to co-opt two new members, Andrew Macmillan and Sarah Setterfield.

7. Public Participation – Views / Questions from the Public

It was reported that the land at top of School Hill is overgrown. It was suggested that it is the responsibility of WI to maintain this parcel of land. **Action:** Clerk to make contact.

A resident advised that there is a dead tree around Ash Street / Fen Street, it was commented that this is the responsibility of BDC. **Action:** DCllr Hurren

Concerns raised regarding proposed car park behind the cemetery. The concerns were noted.

8. Receive reports from District & County Councillors

CCllr Lindsay sent the attached report prior to the meeting and updated the meeting on the following items:

20mph scheme; the costs will be circa 30k, a commitment is required from PC before design works are started. Cllr Parr recommended putting out a consultation first ASAP, to gauge approved from residents, i.e. leaflet drop / social media etc. **Action:** Cllr Warren to arrange letter drop.

Yellow lines; the matter of the new yellow lines for Church Street is going through the process, the Clerk confirmed that a response has been sent to go ahead with legal process. Any other faded white lines must be put on Highways reporting tool. **Action:** Cllr King to report all road areas that need repainting on Suffolk Reporting tool.

Crossing over A1071; SCC Highways are looking into funding etc. It may be up to PC to fund. Cllr Troke commented that it is a safety issue so surely responsibility of Highways. CCllr Lindsay advised that there is no Highways budget for Safety – this is questioned.

DCllr Hurren sent the attached report prior to the meeting and updated the meeting on the following items:

Parking enforcement; DCllr Hurren expects to receive a report each month to confirm that parking wardens have patrolled the parish.

Goodlands; The question was asked whether the landowner has agreed to transfer the land to the Woodland Trust? DCllr Hurren advised that the landowner has agreed and the matter is with the solicitors and going through the process.

DCllr Hurren also commented on the new waste collection service; he reported that 116 tonnes food waste in the first week.

DCllr Hurren advised that the locality budget 1k available for suitable project within the parish.

DCllr Hurren responded to the action required for the crossing over the A1071, advising that there is a footpath under the A1071 which can be cleared and a footpath connected into village. Councillors will go to the site to look prior to next meeting and report back on the feasibility of the project.

9. Review of previous Action Points

Nothing further to add.

10. Finance

a) *RFO Report – Note bank balances, income received & outgoings and bank reconciliation.*

20th May 2026 Opening Bank Balances: £140,694.73

Income:

£2,748.52 VAT return payment

£390.00 Cemetery fee

£3,138.52 Total

The following pre-agreed payments paid: -

Date paid	Payee	Amount	Details
29/05/2026	Zoe Rumsey	£477.81	Clerks Salary
31/05/2026	Unity Bank	£7.00	Bank Fee
03/06/2026	SALC	£541.22	Subscription
	Boxford Village Hall	£41.00	Hall hire
	Mortimer Contracts	£2,044.80	Public Realm contractor
	Boxford Friendship Group	£40.00	APM contribution
	HMRC	£146.43	PAYE
17/06/2026	E.ON	£32.55	Bell House Electricity

The sum of the payments: **£3,330.81**

18th June 2026 Closing Bank balances:

Community Account £57,581.20

Deposit Account £34,843.31

Reserve Account £48,077.93

Total **£140,502.44**

Opening balance + Income - Outgoings £140,502.44

b) *Authorise payments for invoices received since the last meeting*

SALC Internal Audit £410.40

Scribe Cemetery £27.60

BRN £550

11. Planning

a) *Report on Decisions from the Planning Authority.*

DC/26/01410 Cygnet House, Swan Street – Grant

DC/26/01855 Brookside, Ash Street – Grant

b) Consider the following items: -

DC/26/02462 - Brookside, Ash Street, Boxford – Full Planning Application - Change of use from part residential (C3) / part office to Class E(g) medical centre, including associated parking and turning, external alterations to fenestration/layout and part external cladding to existing brickwork.

It was resolved to make no objection.

DC/26/02428 - 20 Broad Street, Boxford – Application for Listed Building Consent. Demolition of rear extension. Construction of a single-storey rear extension. Restoration and refurbishment of the building. Make the 2nd floor habitable. Add back dormer windows and installing 3no conservation skylights. Restoration of roof. Formation of new staircase from 1st floor to attic space.

It was resolved to make no objection.

DC/26/02427 - 20 Broad Street, Boxford – Householder Application. Demolition of rear extension. Construction of a single-storey rear extension. Restoration and refurbishment of the building. Make the 2nd floor habitable. Add back dormer windows and installing 3no conservation skylights. Restoration of roof. Formation of new staircase from 1st floor to attic space.

It was resolved to make no objection.

c) Any urgent planning matters.

A response has been received from the Planning Department regarding the application at The Fleece; it was felt that it does not answer questions previously raised. It was requested that DCllr Hurren to speak with Planning. **Action:** DCllr Hurren

Planning applications can be found on the [Babergh District Council Planning Portal](#).

12. Update on 20mph speed limit

This was discussed at Agenda item 8.

13. Clerks Correspondence

An email has been received regarding overgrowth at Partridge Close, it was commented that this may be under Groton PC or BDC jurisdiction.

14. Members Reports

Cllr Parr reported that the Community Planning Team are due to meet regarding the call for sites. The County Council will be meeting with the volunteer group regarding the bus services. A meeting is to be had with the owners at Stone Street regarding the car park. The Playing Field management committee have identified repairs and maintenance works required on one of the buildings. It has been asked if the PC would make a contribution from the Playing Fields grant. This was agreed in principal and would be discussed once the formal application was received.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 28th July 2026

The meeting was closed at 20.37

Signed D Warren

Date 28th July 2026

Boxford Parish report by Robert Lindsay county cllr 22.6.26

20mph scheme

I have spoken to the Community Liaison Engineer on this one. They have now done the speed surveys they needed doing on Cox Hill and Butchers Lane and have found that speeds are slow enough to allow the change from 60mph to 20mph at the points they indicate at the start of continuous housing. The cost for the scheme is c£30k (minus VAT which the PC can reclaim). They await the parish council decision on whether you have the money and whether you want it. I think it is a very reasonable scheme that makes sense, for a price that is in line with other such schemes. No scheme will be perfect and some people will always object to whatever is done, including if nothing is done. There will be extensive consultation with residents conducted by Highways, both informal and formal. The consultation costs are part of the £30k costs.

Yellow Lines Church Street

I was told on June 1st that the informal and statutory consultations for these are now complete. The scheme was on hold while the moratorium period was in force for the elections.

The next step is the formal legal advertisement / consultation for 3 weeks. Once this is complete provided there are no major objections and I and the Parish Council respond with support, a report will be written, and the order will be put in place.

The say installation should happen around October/November provided it doesn't have to be tweaked again as a result of major objections.

Yellow line and white line replacement

As per correspondence between Highways, myself and the parish council, the exact locations of faded lines need to be reported on the Highways reporting tool so that they can inspected and redone if necessary.

Linking Boxford village with Stone Street

I am aware of the Highways proposal to remove a bollard, install a barrier and cut back soil and vegetation on the footway/cycle way where Stone Street Road meets to A1071. I agree that the £10k cost for this minimal intervention does not seem worth it.

I have asked Highways if:

a) there is funding from other sources – such as the Highways active travel fund, I note that this is on a cycle route.

b) if something a bit more imaginative can be done to slow and alert traffic on the A1071 to the presence of the crossing point.

No promises at this point - the answer may well be no and no. But I thought it important to try.

Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting to decide whether to challenge creation of unitaries

The county's new leader Michael Hadwen has called this meeting for Monday 29th June, on the last day of a three month deadline to decide whether to judicially review the Government's decision to create three unitaries. If the all-Reform cabinet goes ahead, they will have to spend hundreds of thousands of council tax payers' money with a high risk of failing.

Doubt over Norfolk/Suffolk Mayoral election too

Alongside the unitary plan, the Government is planning to create the office of a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor, elected by all the voters in the two counties in May 2028. Reform in Suffolk is rumoured to be against this and may well refuse to sign it into being, which would probably jeopardise it.

Dear Councillors,

I hope all are well and I enclose the latest figures from the parking enforcement team for your scrutiny. As you will see, we have not had any visits for a time but after a sharp rebuke from myself they have been reinstated and will continue into the foreseeable future.

The other thing left over from your last meeting was the possibility of having a noticeboard in or on the area of the new Woodland Trust holding at Primrose Meadow.

This is quite possible and they do have one gifted for that purpose but not easy to decide where it should be situated, one place as has been suggested is the hard standing which is currently being used as a car park but this is not in the ownership of the WT or Boxford PC, so best to be a little cautious here, the meadow itself has as I understand it, now been officially transferred to the WT and now their own lawyers are working on the documents to recognise this transfer. Best to wait until this has officially all happened and discuss it then.

New Recycling and Collection.

As highlighted in various press reports, this scheme, although very largely successful has had its problems during roll out, due to some bins not distributed in time for the launch of this long awaited scheme to public operation, in Box Vale about 3% yet to do.

Also, changes in rounds and the drivers doing them has led to cries of You've missed my Bin around the District. Getting it right now but certainly not without its challenges.

The hot weather has also had its impact with 2 operatives going of sick with heatstroke, which has resulted in the rounds starting an hour early to work in the cool and get the rounds completed earlier. Not the greatest start but we will make it work somehow, we just have to.

Fly tipping is still a problem across the whole area, especially on the borders with other neighbouring authorities but we are on top of it more now with another vehicle and extra driver.

Much publicity about council staff strikes but affecting BMS staff to much as we only have 6 members in that trade union.

Footpath G1, which is the one between Homefield and Partridge Close is difficult to use at the moment but due a cut this week.

Kind Regards. Bryn.