

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

PRESENT: A Sargeant (Chaired the Meeting), S Mattocks, P Wallis, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman) and M Wooderson.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 3RD FEBRUARY 2020: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: Residents explained the disturbance and road damage being caused by construction and delivery vehicles accessing Boxwood Hall to undertake approved plans. At Cygnet Court, the Babergh Enforcement Team had confirmed the developer's are within their rights to install a fence on their land. The potential plans by Sunflower's was raised again. The ditch along Stone Street Road is in need of clearing which is on the Cemetery land.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: It was agreed for B Hurren and J Finch to liaise regarding the damage by construction and delivery traffic for Boxwood Hall. P Wallis will visit the developer at Cygnet Court with the resident in relation to the issue of the obstructive fence. J Finch is investigating plans for Sunflowers and the relevant department at the County Council are now in close contact with the facility. It was agreed to investigate with our Community Wardens whether they could assist in clearing the Cemetery ditch - **Action Clerk.**

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on budget including Children's and Adults Services, Highways and other key services. A Suffolk 2020 fund will be available for certain projects under carbon reduction and offset, road safety, natural and built environment, innovation and technology themes. The County Council is investing in LED for its lighting stock. Road Closure Fees have been waived for VE75 and VJ day Celebrations. Suffolk Apprenticeships will be promoted on a new website. They are calling for better coordination of offshore wind farm projects. There is a public consultation on plans to build a new centre at Colchester Hospital for orthopaedic surgery such as hip and knee replacements. More Fostering and Adoption Sessions are scheduled. J Finch discussed the importance in working with the Head teacher to bring forward measures to improve congestion and inconsiderate parking of parents at the school drop off and pick up times. The No HGV's signs are now on Sand Hill as agreed. The meeting challenged J Finch on the Highways response to the new planning at Sand Hill from Catesby Homes and the narrowing of the road with a priority system which was considered unworkable with residents parking and the size of vehicles using that stretch.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported on the Council Tax rise agreed for this coming year. The planning for The Fleece had been withdrawn. The new Goodlands sign is on order. No new application has been received for Goodlands at this stage. B Hurren will immediately investigate the issue of vehicles causing damage and disturbance on the way to Boxwood Hall.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 2nd March were **£36650.48** in the Community Account, **£13395.41** in the Deposit Account and **£53137.21** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£103183.10**.

The following payments were approved: -

| Cheque No. | Payee | Amount | Details |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Funds Tr | D K Hattrell | 893.58 | Clerk's Salary |
| Funds Tr | HM Revenue | 55.18 | Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC |
| Funds Tr | SCC - Pension ACC | 287.51 | Clerk's Pension |
| Funds Tr | SALC | 18.00 | GDPR Training |

GDPR: New Data Management and Subject Action Request Policies were produced in conjunction with SALC following the GDPR training. These were circulated to members ahead of the meeting. It was resolved that these policies are approved. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain disposal bags for commercial shredding of our old paperwork in accordance with the Data Retention periods identified in the new policy. A working party will be formed to carry this out - **Action Clerk and All**.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: The Joint Chairman of the Steering Group attended to give a report. They confirmed preparations are now underway and responsibilities within the Steering Group have now been allocated. They will report significant developments to the Parish Council. They emphasised the importance of bringing the Village with them and that the emerging plan will carry more influence as time goes by along the process.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. Members considered the dimensions of the Village Model and were concerned it would not fit through the door. P Wallis will investigate further - **Action P Wallis**.

CEMETERY: The Clerk reported that we hadn't had a contractor recommended to treat the Cemetery path. She will chase the Community Wardens again - **Action Clerk**. A Sargeant reported that he resolved an issue that the Cemetery bin was not being emptied.

DATE FOR APM: It was agreed for the Clerk to check with the Village Hall potential dates for the Annual Parish Meeting and circulate to members between meetings - **Action Clerk**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: P Wallis and A Sargeant agreed to work together to put the grit bins out towards the end of the month - **Action P Wallis and A Sargeant**. The Charity Event referred to at last meeting is likely to be re-located to the White Hart.

The meeting closed at **9.30 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 2nd March 2020

The following decision was advised from the Planning Authority: -

Work can proceed to fell and pollard a group of 25 sycamore and ash trees at The Paddock, School Hill - DC/19/05813.

The following were discussed: -

1) Land to the East Of, Sand Hill - Outline planning application for up to 64 dwellings - DC/20/00330.

The following response was agreed: -

"Boxford Parish Council writes further to its objection to the previous application on 31st May and 10th September 2019. Boxford Parish Council strongly objects to this new application for up to 64 dwellings which was discussed at yesterday's Parish Council Meeting.

The proposal does not meet the requirements of CS20 - Rural Exceptions Site by virtue of its scale which is still far too large, it lacks local needs provision and accessibility to the village facilities. The proposed improvement to accessibility by foot is undeliverable which is explained below. We suggest your Committee Site Meeting inspects the narrowness of the road in light of large rural vehicles using this route. This Parish is working on a Neighbourhood Plan with a view to agreeing appropriate sustainable development. This proposal is not in keeping with views expressed and evidence gathered so far from the Village.

The proposal does not accord with policies CS2, CS11 and CS15 of the Babergh Core Strategy. The 5 year land supply is in place. The development is outside the defined built up area boundary in rolling farmlands and would cause unacceptable harm to the landscape and gateway into the Village.

Boxford CEVC Primary School does not have any additional capacity once existing commitments are taken into account. The Parish Council has concerns that inadequate drainage for a development of this scale would present flood risks in the Village.

The assertion that the majority of traffic is forecast to travel from the proposed site via the A1071 shows no understanding of how local people use the roads. Swan Street is used regularly to access Sudbury, Lavenham, Bury St Edmunds via minor roads, particularly to avoid hold ups at peak times at the A1071/A134 junction and entering Sudbury. The problems of congestion and safety issues were clearly raised in the findings of the appeal decision APP/D3505/W18/3197391.

The Route to Colchester, and from there by rail to London, via Stone Street has not been mentioned. There is the potential for increased traffic from the proposed development along this narrow road which has blind bends in many places.

The suggested extension of the footway to provide pedestrian access to the village centre is a red herring, a cynical attempt to obtain planning permission. Given the distance of the proposed development from the village centre, it is inevitable that new residents will drive into the village, thereby adding to the considerable existing parking and congestion problems.

CS15 states that "connections between any proposal.... should be continuous...". The existing pavement on Sand Hill is split and requires pedestrians to cross the road in order to walk safely down to the bus stop. Pedestrians will again have to cross Ellis Street from the new footway extension to the existing pavement outside Whymark House - a dangerous mix of pedestrians and traffic.

*Boxford is a rural community surrounded by farmland. Large agricultural vehicles, often towing equipment or with trailers, regularly use the roads throughout the village, as do double decker buses and long container lorries accessing Cox Hill. Is it really possible to extend the footway, **provide designated parking spaces** AND accommodate the size of vehicles regularly using Ellis Street? With local knowledge, the answer is No, even with a single track priority system. This is even without considering the impact of more traffic at already dangerous Cox Hill/Sand Hill junction and the negative effect of increased traffic movements on the Conservation Area and many Listed Buildings.*

For all the above reasons and those expressed on 31st May following a Village Meeting attended by over 120 residents with the vast majority strongly opposed to such an application, we urge you to support the Village of Boxford by again Refusing this new application. "

2) Application for works to trees in Conservation Area - to remove dying branches from box tree and reduce canopy and height at White Hart, Broad Street - **DC/20/00670**.
No Objections.

3) Any other urgent Planning matters: **nothing was raised.**