

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom Video Meeting.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), , P Edwards, T Munson, D Warren, M Wooderson, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: A Sargeant (Vice Chairman) had previously sent his apologies for not attending video conference meetings for medical reasons and this has been accepted. Regrettably C Britton had sent her resignation due to on-going work commitments. H Philips had sent his apologies with no further updates this month.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 23RD FEBRUARY 2021: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: The clock and cemetery handrail were raised again and updates were provided. Pot holes had been registered between meetings in Ash Street and Butchers Lane. The Parish Council was urged to consider taking steps with the County Council to reduce the speed limit in the Village. Finally the meeting was reminded that a resident raised the condition and potential expansion of the Playing Field Car park at last meeting.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: It was agreed to include an Agenda item at next meeting of Speeding and Parking issues - **Action Clerk.** J Finch confirmed the first stage in relation to speeding is putting monitoring in place to collect data. It was agreed for members to consider the problems areas within the village as a first step. Babergh Parking Enforcement can be called upon in relation to persistent parking issues. J Finch confirmed he would wait until the building work at Boxwood Hall is complete before undertaking any road repairs in the vicinity.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on the continued focus on Covid 19 with the good news that there was no new infections in the period from 2nd - 16th March in our immediate area. He reminded everyone to stick with the guidance and was pleased to report that Suffolk is now vaccinating the over 50's. Unpaid carers are now eligible within priority cohort 6 for a vaccine. More rapid testing centres were open including The Stevenson Centre, Gt Cornard, The United Reform Church, Market Place, Hadleigh and The Fire Station, Nayland. Substantial funds have been allocated to the County Council to handle the pandemic, however, they have still needed to spend more. Despite the costs of the pandemic, the County Council will meet the shortfall by reserves and only increase their element of general council tax by 1.99% and an additional 2.00% for Social Care as usual. Further budget has been allocated to highways including drainage, surfacing and rights of way bridges and paths. Community partners have been confirmed for the County Council's mobile digital care hub which involves vehicles showcasing available digital care options for older or vulnerable residents. Suffolk County Council's cabinet had confirmed its support for Freeport East which covers the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich and offer global and regional connectivity. This was to support reduced administrative burden and taxation and drive job creation, investment and international trade post Brexit. The final decision

about Freeport designation rested with the UK central government and Freeport East has now been agreed. Further virtual Fostering and Adoption sessions were scheduled. J Finch has been chasing the Daking Avenue yellow lines and M Wooderson agreed to get some information to him about the entrance from Daking Avenue into Goodlands as that junction should be assessed again. Members were asked whether the HGV signage was proving useful and it was noted that mostly it is discouraging the earlier issues of lorries trying to turn right up Cox Hill and getting stuck.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported that the County Council and Police Crime Commissioner Elections are to take place on 6th May this year. Postal votes will be readily available for those requiring them and all precautions are being taken at polling booths so that all feel safe to vote. He urged people to engage with the process. At Babergh the incidents of Coronavirus amongst the local population are down to 36 per 100,000 which is the lowest for some time. He urged that care is still taken now we try to move back to our more normal lives. The budget has been set at Babergh District Council at an increase of 2.96%. The brown bin charges are increasing. He abstained to vote for the no confidence in the Council Leader John Ward, however, he has been very unhappy with some of the directions that the Council was being pulled into. Income from their CIFCO investment, their services and solar project is helping to support their finances. B Hurren has asked J Finch to arrange for both Wash Lane and Butchers Lane to be scraped to enable the sweepers to be effective again. His locality budget is being split between the Go Start Bus and Box River News. The planning for 6 houses at Goodlands will be refused and it is currently pending a decision from the applicant whether to withdraw the application. T Munson made the point regarding the promise accompanying previous applications at Goodlands of a footway to Primrose Wood and the importance of ensuring delivery. She cited examples elsewhere where promises had not been enforced. B Hurren confirmed he was on the case.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 1st March 2021 were **£34987.26** in the Community Account, **£13401.19** in the Deposit Account and **£56796.46** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£105184.91**.

Consider the Annual Grant for the Village Hall. Members had viewed the audited accounts and application ahead of the meeting. Following discussion an annual grant higher than usual of £2000 was proposed. This was as a one off to reflect the difficult year due to COVID restrictions. This was seconded by P Edwards and unanimously carried - **Action Clerk to arrange payment**. It was noted with the assistance under B Hurren's Locality fund, Box River News will not require assistance from the Parish Council at this stage.

The following pre-agreed payments for February were made: -

| Cheque No. | Payee | Amount | Details |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>As at February</u> | | | |
| Funds Tr | Employment Costs totalled | 1274.64 | Salary, ERS NIC & Pension |
| Funds Tr | Teacher Stern | 3918.20 | Legal Costs |
| Funds Tr | Babergh District Council | 13.31 | Bin Empty charges |
| Funds Tr | SALC | 90.00 | Cllr Training |
| Funds Tr | P E Taylor | 45.00 | Reimburse grave reservation |

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: H Phillips (joint Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group) had sent apologies and there were no further updates this month.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. The content was noted by members and no questions arose.

CEMETERY: P Edwards has followed up the outstanding matters reported last month. She will press on to discuss with the contractor about the hand rail for the Cemetery - **Action P Edward**. It was agreed for the Clerk to arrange for the Tree Surgeon to meet P Edwards for a site meeting to consider the trees near the Village Hall - **Action Clerk and P Edwards**. A Sargeant is being copied in on all relevant correspondence to enable him to work with P Edwards on these matters.

UPDATES FROM THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE: The Chairman and Clerk had previously made contact with the Community Response and no further financial support was needed at this stage.

PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: It was agreed not to appoint a member of the Parish Council onto the Committee at the forthcoming AGM in view of the low numbers of Parish Councillors currently.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: It was agreed to hold this on Zoom on the date of our next Parish Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 p.m and the Parish Council Meeting starting at 8.30 p.m. Reports from Village Organisations and Councillors to be available on the website for people to view ahead of the meeting. It will follow a simple question and answer format and acknowledge the reports received - **Action Clerk and Chairman**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: T Munson has been concerned about the extent of building within the Babergh District and she agreed to circulate relevant material to the Parish Council. She will endeavour to carry out further research on the implications to future building targets.

The meeting closed at 9.09 **p.m.**

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

- A) Planning Permission had been granted for a single storey side extension with relocation of front door and porch and internal alterations to existing semi-detached cottage at 2 Cherry Ground Cottages, Wash Lane - **DC/21/00092**
- B) Non Material amendment was approved for change to door set at Groton Cottage, 8 Ellis Street - **DC/21/01199**
- C) Reserved matters had been approved at the site of former Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery, Hadleigh Road - **DC/21/00361**
- D) Work can proceed as notified to reduce Conservation Area tree at Twelve, 12 The Causeway - **DC/21/00927**

The following were discussed: -

- 1) **Twelve, 12 The Causeway** - Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - **DC/21/00927**. The Tree Warden had inspected between meetings and recommended a maximum reduction of 20 - 25%. This suggestion was passed to the Planning Authority.
- 2) **Twelve, 12 The Causeway** - Application for single storey side extension to create bedroom, shower room and storage to enable respite care for a registered disabled person - **DC/21/01184**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

- 3) **Twynham, 4 Rectory Park** - Notification of works to trees in a conservation area and protected by a Preservation Order - **DC/21/01289**.

It was agreed to await a response from the Tree Warden and issue a comment to the Planning Authority between meetings.

- 4) **Any other urgent planning matters:** There was nothing to report.