

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Boxford Village Hall and also by Zoom Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), L Wortley, P Edwards, D Warren, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 4 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from T Munson and M Wooderson

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

**MINUTES OF 26TH OCTOBER 2021:** These were accepted as correct.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nothing was raised.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The meeting was reminded of items raised at previous meetings including marking the Jubilee, maintenance of the Bus Shelter and telephone kiosk and the standard of street cleaning in the Village. The resident also raised about potentially re-facing the Church Clock. The Clerk explained about discussions with our Community Wardens about priorities and that T Munson has met the Wardens in the Village and given feedback to them. The street cleansing by Babergh Council is under new management and the Community Wardens are liaising with the new operative to prioritise Boxford. Another resident shared his plans to build an ECO house for a family member. The application was due for comment from the Parish Council later in the meeting. The resident was questioned about any risk of flooding.

**REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC:** The telephone Kiosk is still believed to be under the ownership of British Telecom and it was agreed for the Clerk to investigate and report the poor state of repair - **Action Clerk**. The Bus Shelter is in need of re-decoration. It was agreed to see if community involvement in this project was possible.

**COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. He reported on extra Covid 19 support being provided to Suffolk including: -

- extra opening hours for Vaccinations and a pop up clinic
- help to coordinate door knocking campaigns
- help to reduce transmission in schools

It comes as pressure on our hospitals was reaching critical levels with some of the highest rates of infection in the Country.

Suffolk is asking for further financial support from central government to improve bus services.

A review of the Lorry Route Plan in Suffolk is being undertaken. Following the review a new interactive Lorry Route Map will be published.

MP's from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex unite to protect the countryside and communities from the worst impacts of new pylons and cables.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

On local matters: -

1. The poor repair to the Anglian water mains leakage in Ellis Street reported by a resident is now repaired.
2. The blocked Gullies in School Hill and Sand Hill

3. The footpath between Cox Hill and Ash Street.
  4. Potential flooding in the region of Ash Street.
  5. Resident's letter concerning large HGV in Ellis Street.
- (Items 2 - 5 are all being followed up by Cllr Finch)

Following his report J Finch was challenged as to why Highways officers responsible to assess planning applications will not meet with the Parish, however, do engage with developers. J Finch confirmed he is escalating the request from the Parish Council.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported on the effects at District Council level from the pandemic including workforce absences. The tree for life scheme continues for newborns. The implementation of the reduction in free parking is being delayed to enable further debate. He referred to the Local Housing Needs scheme at Groton. Issues continue to arise from housing in Boxford and is still causing concern. He is doing his best to help resolve. He continues to investigate the footpath from Cox Hill and is looking to liaise with the landowner. It was reported that tree roots have become exposed due to the erosion of the path surface. The County Council Right of Way have advised on the correct surfacing material for the path concerned. He confirmed that the Public Realm function has been brought in house and he is hoping something will be resolved by the District and County Councils working together in relation to the state of Wash Lane. He urged everyone to be prepared as the application on Sand Hill for 64 homes will come before Committee shortly. He has a Locality budget to allocate next year and he is hoping to give Boxford a pro-rata share.

**FINANCE:** The Bank balances as at 1st November 2021 were **£55980.57** in the Community Account, **£13402.18** in the Deposit Account and **£59224.73** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£128607.48**.

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Funds Tr	Dynamic Fireworks Ltd	2945.24	Fireworks
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1230.49	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	M A Crighton	185.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	Sudbury Town Council	782.34	Sweeping
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	42.00	Cemetery path
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	34.50	Hall hire
Funds Tr	J Fincham-Jacques	21.98	Remembrance wreath

The Quotation for new posts and to re-hang Churchyard gate was duly approved - **Action Clerk to instruct the work.**

The quotations to maintain the Churchyard wall are to be put on the Agenda when all quotations have been received. However, existing quotes will be considered for budgeting purposes between meetings.

The last update from Barclays was that some of the identity verifications hadn't taken place - so members were reminded accordingly and it was agreed for the Clerk to issue the original

email confirming what was needed - **Action Clerk**. The Annual Risk Assessment Document was considered and it was resolved that this still meets our needs.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:** The Neighbourhood Planning Groups are preparing to submit the plan to Babergh District Council for the next stage. An update should be forthcoming soon.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. Members agreed for the street lighting to be re-programmed on the same basis as the County Council lights over the festive period to stay on all night for both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

**CEMETERY:** It was noted the Christmas Tree was already up in the Churchyard as ordered by the Parish Council through the Community Wardens.

**BUS SHELTER AND TELEPHONE KIOSK:** As noted earlier in the meeting, it is believed that BT are responsible for the telephone kiosk, so it was agreed for the Clerk to investigate with them. In relation to the Bus Shelter, volunteers will be encouraged - **Action All and Clerk**. \*\*An update from a resident attending the meeting has confirmed the resident who painted the bus shelter previously has agreed to do it again.

**THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE:** In relation to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it was agreed for the Chairman to liaise with the Community Council - **Action Chairman**.

**DECEMBER MEETING DATE:** The Village Hall has been secured for 16th if Councillors can make that date. Members agreed to check their diaries and confirm to the Clerk - **Action All**.

**URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** It was reported that the condition of the Village Hall floor and also the potential removal/re-siting of the clothes bank was still under investigation.

The meeting closed at **9.10 p.m.**

**Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council in Boxford Village Hall and by Video Conferencing on Tuesday 23rd November 2021**

**The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -**

- A) The Planning Authority confirmed Prior approval has been given for demolition of buildings and construction of a new dwelling house at 2 Hawthorn Business Park, Calais Street, Boxford - **DC/21/04867**.
- B) Planning Permission was granted for double garage conversion to living accommodation and front extension at Corylus, Sand Hill - **DC/21/04811**.
- C) Planning Permission was granted to replace front and side windows at Sparrows, Cox Hill - **DC/21/03941**.
- D) Planning Permission was granted for two storey rear extension and a front porch extension at Millfield, Wash Lane - **DC/21/05183**.
- E) Listed Building Consent has been granted for crash damage repairs at Mill House, 3 Church Street - **DC/21/05300**.

**The following applications were discussed: -**

- 1) Report on observations to the consultation on the Highways Report for 64 dwellings on Sand Hill. The full response is available on the planning website. However, the Parish Council continues to object in strong terms to this application.
- 2) Report on observations to the application to fell sycamore at White Hart Inn. Whilst the Parish Council did not object to the loss of this tree itself, it was noted that expertise is needed to establish the implications of removing such a large tree including the roots. It is assumed a considerable amount of moisture is absorbed by the tree, so removal may have implications to the ground as it recovers, nearby properties as a result and water levels in the centre of the village. Providing, this information is established with no likelihood of adverse effects, there are no Objections - **DC/21/05854**.
- 3) Consider the application for Outline Permission for a detached eco dwelling on land South Of, Hadleigh Road - **DC/21/05993**. Members debated this application and resolved that they object to this application due to dangerous access and flooding risk.
- 4) Consider whether there is any change to the Parish Council's stance on the erection of 6 dwellings on Land To The South Of, Daking Avenue - **DC/20/05283** as an Appeal to the refusal is being considered. The Parish Council did not want to change the submission they made to the original application.
- 5) Consider the application for new dwelling at Old School House - **DC/21/05998**. The Parish Council had No Objection to the principle of a new dwelling, however, had some reservations over the design, visibility in the Village and access to the proposed dwelling.
- 6) Any other urgent planning matters: Nothing was raised.