

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Boxford Village Hall.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), L Wortley, P Edwards, T Munson, D Warren, M Wooderson, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), B Hurren (District Cllr) and around 15 members of the public attended in person and 1 via Video link.

APOLOGIES: were received from M Wooderson and B Hurren as they were running late, however, they both managed to attend later in the meeting.

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

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: The condition of the telephone kiosk and bus shelter and potential improvements to the Cemetery gates were raised. T Munson explained about her liaison with the Community Wardens. The potential to improve the Clock Face on the Church was raised. A resident attending via video link objected to the application at 14 Holbrook Barn Road and urged the Parish Council to re-consider their views. This was to be discussed during the meeting under Planning. A resident at the meeting (in person) then expressed concerns about what the contractor is proposing regarding the ditch along the Cemetery/Stone Street Road. He proposed he could clear the ditch at cost and agreed to provide a quotation to the Parish Council to consider. Attention then turned to the application at The Brewers Arms which the residents attending gave their wholehearted support to approval. The applicant explained the application and the importance to the viability of the pub in the future. He confirmed the low cost housing will benefit Boxford and also the Farm Shop. Polstead Parish Council were supporting the application.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: All the items were either on the Agenda or explained or noted at the time.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and his report had been circulated in advance covering that the County Council were welcoming the intention by government to ensure Suffolk's Communities benefit from connections with offshore wind before 2030. Negotiation is underway for a devolution deal for Suffolk. However, these talks will take many more months. Various events are being planned for the Jubilee Celebrations. J Finch is stopping regular reporting of Covid 19. The Big Hoot 2022 is the biggest public art event in Suffolk. Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service is a sponsor and 50 ornately decorated owl sculptures throughout Ipswich will feature. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. Following his report he was questioned about the surfacing on The Causeway. He confirmed that a visit had taken place and the condition was being monitored, however, no work was scheduled for the present time. It was agreed for T Munson to send a copy of the Highways response confirming drains in the Village will not be cleared to J Finch. This response had been issued to the Community Wardens who chased on our behalf. J Finch also agreed to chase speed monitoring as previously requested and reminded. The fading road markings in the village was raised particularly leading to safety concerns at the

Cox Hill/Sand Hill junction. J Finch agreed there was a need for clearer road markings at that junction and agreed to take this forward.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended later into the meeting and gave his report. The budget at the District Council has been settled at a 2% increase for their element. He confirmed the Sand Hill development was not scheduled for Planning Committee until at least May. The issues arising from social housing in the village remain sensitive and are on-going. Dog fouling notices requested by a resident were on order. The work to the Cemetery gates was in hand. B Hurren agreed to investigate problem trees on Homefield.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: The Neighbourhood Plan was with Babergh District Council currently and matters were proceeding.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 1st March 2022 were **£43164.52** in the Community Account, **£13402.51** in the Deposit Account and **£60438.20** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£117005.23**

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	1650.00	Annual Grant
Funds Tr	Boxford PCC	1925.00	Donation - insuranc costs
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1246.73	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	Suffolk Accident Rescue	100.00	Charity payment
Funds Tr	Topline Pest Control	60.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts Limited	42.00	CemeteryMoss Treatment
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	34.50	Hall hire
Funds Tr	Suffolk Tree Services	180.00	Churchyard tree
Funds Tr	B D Hurren	510.00	Re-hang Church gate

A quote had been received to trim the ivy from boundary with the school, however, it was noted that this may be duplicated in the work being tendered for the Churchyard boundary wall, so no action was agreed at this stage.

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

JUBILEE TREE PLANTING: T Munson was investigating with our Tree Warden and it was agreed to consider planting in October/November this year for the Jubilee. Sufficiently mature trees will be considered.

CEMETERY: P Edwards met with contractors who suggested a new scheme for the ditch along Stone Street Road/the Cemetery. It was noted a resident disagrees with this approach

and has offered his assistance as an alternative. It was agreed to await quotes for consideration. P Edwards is also investigating the potential re-facing of the Church Clock. The boundary wall tenders will be considered at the April Meeting.

URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: The work the County Council are planning to the Village Street Lights was questioned. T Munson explained the progress so far with the Reclaim the Rain project. A decision is awaited by the end of April as to whether Boxford will be included in the project. L Wortley confirmed our Footpath Warden has resigned and we are advertising for a new Warden. It was agreed not to proceed with Jubilee Mugs, however, a potential Jubilee Fund would be considered. Ways of encouraging new Councillors is also to be considered. Members agreed to stay after the meeting to consider an application from a resident to be co-opted onto the Council. This resulted in an offer to the candidate to be co-opted at the April Meeting.

The meeting closed at **9.47 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council in Boxford Village Hall and by Video Conferencing on Tuesday 22nd March 2022

The following decision was advised from the Planning Authority: -

The Appeal against refusal of 6 dwellings on land south of Daking Avenue was dismissed and Planning Permission Refused - **APP/D3505/W/21/3275718**.

The following applications were discussed: -

1) Erection of detached outbuilding at 14 Holbrook Barn Road - **DC/22/00703**.

Whilst the Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings, members re-considered as requested by a resident. In order to comply with the deadline the original response was issued between meetings and members did not have the benefit of discussion ahead of this response. Following discussion, it was agreed that they now object. This is due to overdevelopment of this site on higher ground making the proposal overly dominant on its surroundings. Approval would be against Policy HS33 as it would not reflect and respect its setting and could reduce neighbour amenity.

2) Re-consultation on outline planning application for up to 64 dwellings on Land to the East Of, Sand Hill - **DC/20/00330**.

The Parish Council issued the draft prepared by L Wortley between meetings confirming strong objections.

3) Application for full Planning to erect a detached bungalow at Monkams, Cox Hill - **DC/22/00854**.

Concerns were sent to the Planning Authority between meetings regarding this application due to the small plot size, potential loss of amenity to neighbouring properties and restricted access from a tiny lane.

4) Application for works to walnut tree covered by Tree Preservation Order at 10 The Causeway - **DC/22/01010**.

The Parish Council and Tree Warden had **No Objections** between meetings.

5) Application for garage building to the front south west corner on Land at Orchard House - **DC/22/01028**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings providing safe access could be achieved.

6) Application for farm shop, holiday lets and 7 dwellings at The Brewers Arms - **DC/22/01060**. This is in a neighbouring Parish and Objections were sent between meetings to comply with the deadline based on comments from Councillors on a shared form. However, the applicant felt he had relevant information to share in the public forum and the Planning Officer agreed further time if the Parish Council were minded to change the views already expressed. Members had listened to the support expressed during the public forum and debated the points of concern. Following discussion members voted unanimously to support the application. The following response was then issued to the Planning Authority: -

"Boxford Parish Council have re-considered this application and now have **No Objections**. This response replaces our comments dated 17th March. You will note Boxford is an adjoining Parish and we note Polstead Parish Council are supportive. Having received an extension of time to consider this application, Boxford Parish Council had the benefit of listening to comments from the many residents who attended the Parish Council Meeting, in person, yesterday. We also heard from the applicant at the meeting and members were able to debate the merits of this application during the meeting. Following careful consideration, the benefits of this application were seen to outweigh drawbacks and members voted unanimously to support it."

7) Application for Planning and Listed Building for rear extension and cart lodge at Mill House, 3 Church Street - **DC/22/01304**.

There were **No Objections**.

8) Any other urgent planning matters: Nothing was raised.