

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Boxford.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), L Wortley, D Warren, T Munson, H Watts, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 3 members of the public attended in person.

APOLOGIES: were received and accepted from J Moles and J Finch (County Cllr).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 28th MARCH 2023: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident raised the issue of a bench in need of refurbishment outside the Cemetery. Another resident had heard about a potential proposal to paint bus stop markings on the road just along from The Fleece outside no. 6 Broad Street. The proposal had only just been received by the Parish Council, so it would form an Agenda item at the May Meeting - **Action Clerk**. She didn't think the signage was essential and would reduce parking spaces. The potential 20 mph speed limit was chased and it was noted some data had been received following surveys and it was agreed for the Clerk to ask the Officer at County Highways to advise on the process in the absence of our County Councillor currently - **Action Clerk**.

PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES: Colin Parr was unable to attend, however, it was noted the Community Council had managed to raise all the funds needed for the Coronation Event. The funds the Parish Council had reserved can now be diverted.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC AND PARISH SUPPORT GROUP: All covered under Agenda items.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch had sent his apologies due to an on-going family matter and a report was provided covering that most pupils were offered a place at one of their preferred primary and secondary schools. The County Council is looking for people to help develop a new Virtual Reality app for people living with dementia in Suffolk. People and their family carers and health professionals of people living with dementia will help co-create the bespoke platform. Extra funding is available to provide more placements within Council run children's homes. 100 rural Electric Vehicle charging points are installed with others on the way. A new exhibition has opened at Sutton Hoo telling the story of royal Anglo-Saxon Rendlesham. School Children across Suffolk have been learning about the importance of clean air from a special drama production. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren hoped there would be a good turnout at the Elections and reminded about the need for Voter ID. The Bowls Club are desperately in need of a proper surface on the path leading to their Club. Permission is currently awaited from County Highways. District Cllr Hurren is trying to arrange a site meeting with a representative from Flagship in relation to the croft path and would like 2 Parish Councillors to attend. He saw a contact from the Flagship board at a recent unrelated

meeting and had followed up with him. He has escalated problems with the highways at Wash Lane, Butchers Lane and The Causeway and was awaiting a response.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 3rd April 2023 were **£30950.63** in the Community Account, **£13432.11** in the Deposit Account and **£64516.18** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£108,898.92**.

The following pre-agreed payments for March: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1428.92	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	Sudbury Town Council	792.48	Street Cleaning Services
Funds Tr	B Hurren	492.85	Assets - Noticeboard
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	42.00	Cemetery path
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	34.50	Hall hire

Further Pre-agreed payments were made ahead of the End of Year on 31st March 2023 are listed below: -

Funds Tr	Suffolk County Council	3038.47	Street Lights power & maint.
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	2000.00	Annual Grant
Funds Tr	Boxford PCC	2000.00	Grant towards ins costs

Following discussion L Wortley proposed this Parish Council accepts the quote from Suffolk Cloud to provide a Parish Council Website. This was seconded by T Munson and unanimously carried - **Action Clerk to take this forward**. This will ease training and administration as the Clerk's other Councils have websites agreed with Suffolk Cloud.

An urgent payment of £500 plus VAT was needed to obtain legal advice on the Fruit Farm Structures as agreed at the March Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

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

CEMETERY: D Warren reported on behalf of the Cemetery Sub Committee and confirmed our contractor will remove the ivy that has been left at the boundary when they next do some work. Various options had been considered in relation to the maintenance of the Churchyard and Cemetery trees. T Munson proposed option 2, this was seconded by the Chairman and unanimously carried. D Warren confirmed an application has been made to the Church for permission to restore the Churchyard boundary wall. Once permission has been gained from the Church Architect, the builder will be contacted for an up to date quote - **Action D Warren**.

WILD FIRES AND EMERGENCY PLANNING: T Munson attended the Meeting with neighbouring Parishes on the subject of Wild Fires and Emergency Planning. The Emergency Planning Officer from the County Council had come out and explained what was required. The aim is to bridge the gap until the Emergency Services can take charge. All the Parishes attending the meeting expressed an interest and it is to be decided whether Boxford wants to make a plan and whether they would like to join in with other neighbouring Parishes or to do this alone T Munson explained the plan may never have to be used. The Clerk suggested the importance of keeping contact details etc. up to date so they can be used in an emergency. All agreed this is something for the new Council to consider in due course.

PARISH COUNCIL UNCONTESTED ELECTION: The Clerk explained the process of the old Council retiring and the new Council commencing. The Chair encouraged Councillors to make full use of the SALC training.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Nothing was raised.

URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: T Munson explained the School Hill green space at the top was not deep enough for tree planting. A working party will get together to keep the green space tidy. Plans are being put together for the bed at the entrance to The Causeway. T Munson will keep the Parish Council informed. The grit bins will be filled in the autumn. H Watts is still investigating the aggregate extraction near Valley Road. H Phillips has agreed to assist.

THANK YOU TO RETIRING COUNCILLORS: The retiring Councillors were thanked. J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman) thanked all his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for support over the years.

The meeting closed at **9.25 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council in Boxford Village Hall and by Video Conferencing on **Tuesday 25th April 2023**

The following decision was advised from the Planning Authority: -

Planning Permission was granted for garden shed at 10 Ellis Street - **DC/23/00832**.

The following matter was discussed: -

Joint Local Plan Modifications Consultation Part 1 - L Wortley had attended the briefing with H Phillips, Co-Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group. L Wortley had provided a summary via email to the full Parish Council. Part 2 will follow in due course. The Consultation was on the modifications only.