

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING in BOXFORD** on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7.45 p.m. at Boxford Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** The meeting was chaired by Cllr Colin Parr (Chair of the Parish Council) and around 28 parishioners including Councillors attended. No video link was provided.

**WELCOME:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everybody.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from D Hattrell (Clerk), J West, N Moore and J Barrett.

**MINUTES OF 28th March 2023:** The previous Minutes were proposed and accepted as a true record.

**REPORTS:** These were given by the Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Colin Parr, County Cllr James Finch, District Cllr Bryn Hurren, the Playing field Management Committee, the Village Hall, the Community Council, the Footpath Wardens, Natural Boxford, Boxford Society, the Car Sharing Scheme and the Church Wardens. The full Reports have been uploaded to the Parish Council (**PC**) Website in the 2024 Minutes Section - Boxford-pc.gov.uk. Colin Parr, the PC Chair, briefed the Meeting on the Financial position of the PC at the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The End of Year Accounts were approved by the PC at the April 24 PC Meeting and full details can be found on the Finance page of our website. These were subject to both Internal and External Audit.

**PARISH COUNCIL PROJECTS:** These included the potential for a new Cemetery. It has been concluded that sufficient space remains currently. This is based on the 75-year exclusive rights of burial and making the best use of the existing space. Whilst this will be reviewed every ten years, there is no requirement at this stage to reserve for and locate a new burial ground. Cllr H Phillips then explained about the potential Village Car Park accessed from Stone Street Road. This was in the Neighbourhood Plan. The PC shared their plans to buy the Croft as a Village Asset for connectivity and conservation. Community Action Suffolk were to attend the next PC Meeting with a view to getting the Village Housing Needs Survey underway. Cllr T Munson explained about Reclaim the Rain and Emergency Planning.

**ELECTORS QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:** Questioning and comments included whether the Footpath Leaflet would be available online and whether all footpaths were cut. The Leaflet and map will be available online via an App and certain footpaths are on the priority list for cutting. It was hoped to continue to maintain the cricket square despite the demise of Boxford & Edwardstone Cricket Club. There was a vote of thanks to Ray Gibbons in appreciation of his many years of service in creating and maintaining a cricket square. A comment was made regarding the proposed Village Car Park off Stone Street Road - why not use the Playing Field Car Park instead. A long discussion resulted about the need to balance all factors when reaching a decision. The draft Biodiversity policy from Natural Boxford was to be presented to the PC.

The Chair thanked all those for attending and contributing.

**The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.**