

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Boxford.

PRESENT: Cllrs D Warren, H Watts, C Lawson, P Watt, Z Rumsey (Clerk), DCllr Hurren (arrived at 20.10), Victoria Poole, James Tolputt and Andrew Troke were in attendance to be co-opted to the Parish Council and 4 members of the public attended in person.

1. Election of Chair:

Cllr Warren was nominated as Chair, this was proposed and seconded. This was voted unanimously; the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman was agreed to be signed prior to the next meeting.

2. Co-Option of Councillors:

Victoria Poole, James Tolputt and Andrew Troke were nominated to be co-opted to the Parish Council, this was proposed and seconded and voted unanimously to co-opt all three members. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was agreed to be signed prior to the next meeting.

3. Election of Vice Chair:

There were no nominations for Vice Chair. It was resolved to carry forward.

4. Resignations:

It was reported that Kevin Couling and Vince Strafford have formally resigned from the Parish Council. Notice of vacancy has been advertised for one position and BDC will be notified of the other resignation for an additional notice of vacancy.

5. Apologies:

CCllr J Finch.

6. Declarations of Interest by Councillors:

None received.

7. Approval of Minutes of 24th June 2025:

With one minor amendment to a Councillor name, it was resolved to accept the minutes as correct and these were signed by the Chair.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

All matters arising are Agenda items.

9. Questions from the Public:

None received.

10. District Council Report:

The attached report was received and distributed to Parish Councillors ahead of the meeting. Prior to DCllr Hurren's arrival, the Councillors discussed the CIL funding and the Charging points. These matters were raised with DCllr Hurren upon arrival. It was also requested that a schedule is received for the village road sweeping to ensure residents are aware in a timely manner. DCllr Hurren also reported on the Local Government Review and the Spending Review where the Neighbourhood Planning grants have been scrapped. DCllr Hurren also advised that the Woodland Trust are waiting for the hand over of the footpath at Goodlands, it is with solicitors.

11. County Council Report:

The attached report was received and distributed to Parish Councillors ahead of the meeting. As CCllr Finch was not in attendance no further discussion took place.

12. Finance – Bank Balances and previously agreed payments.

24th June 2025 Opening Bank Balances: £118,177.77.

Income: None.

The following pre-agreed payments paid: -

Date paid	Payee	Amount	Details
26/06/25	Zoe Rumsey	£453.89	Clerks Salary
	HMRC	£136.17	PAYE
	Boxford Village Hall	£41.00	July Hall Hire
	Suffolk County Council	£7,965.44	Yellow Lines
	Babergh District Council	£69.00	Brown Bin
15/07/25	Mortimer Contracts	£1,410.00	Public Realm contractor
	Zoe Rumsey	£94.59	Grave Markers
	SLCC Enterprises	£180.00	CiLCA Training
	SLCC Enterprises	£225.00	CiLCA Registration
	Vertas Group	£856.37	Playing Field contract
22/07/25	E.ON	£31.50	Bell House Electricity

The sum of the payments made was £11,462.96.

22nd July 2025 Closing Bank balances:

Community Account £26,315.39

Deposit Account £34,482.31

Reserve Account £45,917.11

Total of £106,714.81

Consider the following items: -

a) *Authorise payments*

St George's Pest Control (mole traps) £84.00

Boxford Village Hall £41.00

It was resolved to approve all payments.

b) *Approval of Noticeboard repair quote*

A quote has been received for the repair of Gunnery Close noticeboard door, which recently fell off. The quote is for materials only as the repair has been offered by the Clerks partner. It was resolved to approve the quote.

c) *Bank Mandate*

Cllr Watts advised that he had called the bank several times for the identity check process but had been unsuccessful. It was becoming a frustrating process for all involved. It was suggested that the PC perhaps look to change banks as others do not seem to have such a lengthy process for changes. It was resolved to continue with the process of removing previous members from the bank account as a first point of call. The Clerk will look into alternatives and report to the Council by email.

13. Planning – Report on Decisions from the Planning Authority.

DC/25/01175 – 21 Goodlands – Granted

DC/25/01369 – 11 Boxford Lane – Granted

DC/25/02012 – Green Lawns – Granted

Consider the following items: -

- a) DC/25/02652 – Simbos Gun Dogs & Grooming, Stone Street, Boxford – Full Planning Application - Change of use and conversion of outbuilding into a new annexe. Concerns were raised regarding the previously refused applications, it was felt this is an underhand way of getting permission, could this open the floodgates for other potential development in the area. It was also noted that the development is on a flood plain. It was resolved to raise an objection based on these comments.

- b) *Any other urgent planning matters:*

None received.

14. Cemetery and Churchyard

BDC has informed that additional traffic controls will need to be in place for the Churchyard wall repairs. This may take us over budget, it was resolved to go ahead as planned. This is due to take place in the first week of August.

An estimate is being sought for the tree works in the cemetery, this will be prepared for the next meeting.

15. Environmental and Ecology

Nothing to report.

16. Public Realms

The new members of the Council were informed of the ongoing process with the yellow lines in the village. SSC have now been paid for the works, a timescale is yet to be set.

17. Appointment of Sub Committees and Representatives

It was commented that the need for individual subcommittees for the various areas is obsolete and may be better to focus on individual tasks, such as the car park, the croft etc. It was resolved to arrange a meeting with all members of the PC to go through all current tasks with the new members and make a plan for individuals to take responsibility or be a representative. This will be reported at the next PC meeting.

18. Member's Reports

Nothing further to report.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 20.47.

Signed.....D. Warren.....

Date.....23rd September 2025.....

Report for Boxford PC 22nd July 2025 by Cllr Bryn Hurren

First of all there has been some progress on the Local Government Review (LGR) while we now have been told that there will now be Mayoral elections across Norfolk and Suffolk on first Thursday of May 26, there has now been some progress on the unitary authorities as well, with all District Councils across Suffolk and Norfolk opting for three unitaries across each county, these proposals are currently going before each DC to be ratified before being presented to government. (BDC Tuesday Evening.)

One shock within the last spending review was that the monies for Neighbourhood plans were to be scrapped completely, unless one had been started and was in current progress. BDC has reacted to this by amending the CIL rules to include NP within the remit for village neighbourhood CIL. This means that a revamp for an existing plan is acceptable for grant funding.

The biggest problem in BaberghmidSuffolk is the terrible homelessness that now is upon us and in the villages as well as the more urban areas, the collapse of the private sector rental function is making the situation much worse and everything that the councils have is now full and in a log jam, although the RTB is now at an end, it is 30yrs too late. Also in the long period of LGR it will be impossible for our housing function and councils to trade in the normal way.

We have received a request from CC to install EV charging points at Homefield. Might be good to know Boxford PC views.

Negotiations continue with developer to bring pressure to bear to get Primrose meadow handed over to the Woodland Trust, I have asked our planning team to step up the pressure on them to aid a swift transfer. So much to do there.

I have full council this evening but will do my very best to rush back before the end of your meeting to answer any questions that you might have.

Have a good meeting. Bryn.

Happy to answer any other questions and queries tonight when I will be in attendance.

Kind Regards. Bryn.