

# BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

20 Heath Close, Polstead Heath, Colchester CO6 5BE

Tel: 01787 739317 Email: clerk@boxford-pc.gov.uk

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at **1.00p.m.** in the Village Hall, Boxford.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs K Couling (Chairing meeting), D Warren, H Watts, P Watt, C Lawson. Z Rumsey (Clerk), and 8 members of the public attended in person. No Video link was requested.

**1. Apologies:**

L Wortley (Chair), Cllr V Strafford, CCllr J Finch

**2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors:**

None received.

**3. Approval of Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024:**

Approved

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Nothing to report

**5. Questions from the Public:**

A resident requested access to the rear of her property via the bowling green to allow a delivery of logs. This was resolved.

It was requested that the PC invite the police to the next meeting to advise residents what is being done regarding the property at 7 Ash Street and the vandalism that has occurred around the playing field. The PC agreed to make contact with the local police and to inform DCllr Hurren for investigation in regards to the occupants of 7 Ash Street being that it is Council housing.

An update on the carpark was requested; there is no update however, it was resolved that this would be added back onto the agenda to continue on with the process.

The parking outside of the Care Home, particularly Brook Hall Road, is becoming a hazard again. The resident asked what was being done with regard to the land to the front that could be turned into a parking area. The meeting was informed that DCllr Hurren had confirmed via email to the manager of Jasper's that the land was owned by Westmersy Development Ltd, the developer. Jasper's had confirmed via email that they would speak with the developers to ask permission for the parking area. Cllr Warren advised that he would speak with the Care Home to get an update.

A resident wished to offer some advice on preparing the Croft, as this was his line of work. It was requested that a formal proposal and schedule of works be submitted, along with a quote.

An update was requested on the parking restrictions. The PC are still waiting for costings involved from Suffolk Highways.

The meeting was given an update on the closure of the Surgery. The letter and petition was delivered; the board meeting for the decision will be held at the end of February. Unfortunately, the SCC Health Scrutiny Committee held a meeting without the knowledge of the Volunteer Committee until the night before. It was deemed too late for the Committee to be able to submit a case or indeed attend to speak. CCllr Finch was not in attendance and did not submit a paper in support of the village. The Committee has informed CCllr Finch that they feel they have been let down by his efforts. Cllr Couling wish to offer his thanks to the Volunteer Committee for all that they have done.

**6. District Council Report:**

No report received, DCllr Hurren did not attend the meeting.

**7. County Council Report:**

Report attached; this was not discussed as CCllr Finch did not attend the meeting.

**8. Finance – Bank Balances and previously agreed payments for the November period.**

18th December 2024 Opening Bank Balances: £110,543.83.

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Income: £132.00 cemetery fee, VAT Return £1,150.15, £250.00 Locality Award payment (for Keep the Heat project), totaling £1,532.15 income.

The following pre-agreed payments paid: -

06/01 Z Rumsey £499.31 Clerk Salary  
HMRC PAYE £48.55 Employer contributions  
16/01 Mortimer Contracts £42.00 Cemetery  
Groton Parochial £30.00 St Marys donation  
17/01 E.ON £34.44 Bell House Electricity

The sum of the payments made was £654.30.

26th November 2024 Closing Bank balances:

Community Account £34,059.89

Deposit Account £34,247.01

Reserve Account £43,114.78

Total of £111,421.68

Invoices due for payment:

Village Hall Dec / Jan / Feb £95.50 each month

Suffolk Tree Services £240.00 Tree removal

**Consider the following items: -**

a) *Budget*

b) *Precept*

It was resolved that both the budget and precept were to be accepted. There would be a 0% increase on the precept for 2025/26.

c) *Any other urgent Finance matters:*

It was requested that £300 be available for repair and maintenance works on the rail fence around The Old Goal, it was resolved to approve the request.

## 9. Planning – Report on Decisions from the Planning Authority.

DC/24/05020 Land to South of Daking Avenue, Boxford – Granted with Conditions

DC/24/05466 The Rectory, School Hill, Boxford, Suffolk CO10 5JT – Raise no objections

DC/25/00087 Swan Cottage, 19 Swan Street, Boxford, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5NZ – Approved

**Consider the following items: -**

a) *Goodlands Footpath:*

A footpath of sorts has been mowed, but it is deemed that this is not a laid footpath. PC to investigate what was originally agreed as a footpath on the conditions.

b) *Any other urgent planning matters:*

None

## 10. Cemetery and Churchyard

The contractor has begun working through the lists agreed, the Churchyard will be mowed.

## 11. Environmental and Ecology

Nothing to report.

## 12. Public Realms

a) *The Old Gaol*

The plan is to be open by Spring.

b) *Bridge Path*

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It was noted that during the colder period, the path was extremely icy and hazardous. It was resolved that a small grit box was needed. Cllr Warren will make enquiries with SCC and the Clerk will find out if Clarks of Walsham stock grit boxes.

It was also reported that the footpath from the top of School Hill around onto the 1071 is overgrown; Cllr Warren will discuss with the contractor.

### 13. Member's Reports

Nothing to report

### 14. Clerk's Correspondence

#### a) *Training Courses*

The Clerk has requested funds to enroll on a training course in preparation for the CiLCA training. It was resolved that the funds were approved and the Clerk can go ahead with the booking.

An email has been received requesting permission for a slightly larger headstone in the cremation area of the churchyard due to it being a double plot. It was resolved to allow the request.

**The chair declared the meeting closed at 14.30.**