

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING

held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Boxford.

PRESENT: Cllrs D Warren (Chair), C Parr, H Watts, John King, A Troke, C Lawson and S Setterfield. Z Rumsey (Clerk), CCllr Robert Lindsay (from 19.15) and DCllr Hurren. 12 members of the public attended in person for part of the meeting.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllrs C Jackson and A Macmillan. Apologies were accepted.

2. Receive Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation from Councillors

None received.

3. To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 are a true and correct record.

It was resolved to accepted the minutes as correct and these were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Election of Vice-Chair

Postponed to the next meeting

6. Public Participation – Views / Questions from the Public

A resident wished to thank SCC for completing the fencing works between Fenn Street and Cox Hill.

A report of continuous problems occurring through Church Street was received with an urge for Highways to complete the installation of yellow lines.

7. Receive reports from

a) District Councillor

DCllr Hurren sent the attached report prior to the meeting and reported on the items in the report.

b) County Councillor

CCllr Lindsay sent the attached report prior to the meeting and updated the meeting on the following items:

20mph scheme; the public consultation is in process, it was reiterated that it was thought a decision on whether to instruct Highways was due during this meeting, but this was unable to occur due to needing more time to receive views from the public. It was commented that the problem may arise that the costing is too high, it was thought that it may be required to focus on changes to Stone Street only.

HGV Signs Stone Street; attention had been drawn to CCllr Lindsay that the signs coming into Stone Street were in the wrong place and Highways have been asked to reposition. The cost will be between £2,294 and £3,165 but there is no funding available to complete the works. The PC can pay for the repositioning but CCllr Lindsay suggested making a decision on the 20mph scheme first. Comments were made by Councillors that surely this is a Health and Safety issue that should be a Highways priority.

Mr West, the footpath warden for Boxford, reported to CDllr Lindsay that there have been communication issues regarding cutting of the footpaths and asked if SCC could be made aware.

8. Review of previous Action Points

None.

9. Finance

a) RFO Report – Note bank balances, income received & outgoings and bank reconciliation.

18th June 2026 Opening Bank Balances: £140,502.44

Income:

£500.00 SCC Locality Grant

£210.00 Cemetery fee

£169.40 Bank Interest

£233.74 Bank Interest

£1,113.14 Total

The following pre-agreed payments paid: -

Date paid	Payee	Amount	Details
19/06/2026	ICO	£47.00	Data control renewal
26/06/2026	Starboard Systems	£27.60	Scribe Cemetery
	SALC	£410.40	Internal Audit
	Box Media	£550.00	BRN contribution
	Freethought	£87.55	Microsoft
30/06/2026	Zoe Rumsey	£477.81	Clerks Salary
	Unity Bank	£7.00	Bank Fee
14/07/2026	Mortimer Contracts	£1,206.00	Public Realm contractor
	Starboard Systems	£27.60	Scribe Cemetery
	HMRC	£146.43	PAYE
	Vertas Group	£942.00	Playing Field grass cutting
	Boxford Village Hall	£41.00	Hall hire
20/07/2026	E.ON	£31.50	Bell House Electricity

The sum of the payments: **£4,001.89**

22nd July 2026 Closing Bank balances:

Community Account £54,289.31

Deposit Account £35,012.71

Reserve Account £48,311.67

Total **£137,613.69**

Opening balance + Income - Outgoings £137,613.69

b) Authorise payments for invoices received since the last meeting

BDC Bin emptying £2,851.20

10. Planning

a) Report on Decisions from the Planning Authority.

DC/26/02308 The Grant, Stone Street – Raise no objections

DC/26/002311 The Rectory, School Hill – Grant

DC/26/01785 Hawthorns, Calais Street – Approval

b) Consider the following items: -

DC/26/02817 - Greenbank, Ellis Street, Boxford – Householder Application - Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger on existing wooden upright which is part of a shed.

It was resolved to make no objection.

DC/26/02616 - Quills Cottage, 27A Swan Street, Boxford – Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing single-glazed rear door with a hardwood stable-style door and alteration of door opening direction from inward-opening to outward-opening.

It was resolved to make no objection.

DC/26/02898 - Land South Of, Calais Street, Boxford, Suffolk, Boxford – Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following grant of Outline Permission DC/24/04456 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Submission of details of the appearance, scale and layout of the building(s), the means of access thereto and the landscaping of the site - Erection of up to 7 No new market residential dwellings including new access, parking and landscaping.

It was resolved to object to the application on the basis that changes have been made that are outside of the original outline approval and it appears that the site is being overdeveloped.

DC/26/00051 - The Fleece, 8 Broad Street, Boxford – Full Planning Application - Conversion of buildings to holiday let (C3) for use in association with the existing public house. Re-consultation for additional information added.

A site meeting has been arranged with planners to discuss this application.

AP/26/00035 - Simbos Gun Dogs And Grooming, Stone Street, Boxford – Full Planning Application - Construction of detached annexe. Planning Appeal.

It was resolved to make no amendments to the original comments made, which will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate when determining the appeal.

c) Any urgent planning matters.

None

Planning applications can be found on the [Babergh District Council Planning Portal](#).

11. To agree purchase of Defibrillator for the BT phone box on Stone Street

It has been established that the PC own the defibrillator at The Fleece, checks will be made to establish whether this is suitable to be moved to the phone box outside of the White Hart pub. It has been requested that the PC purchase a defibrillator for the phone box on Stone Street, which has had the ownership transferred from BT to Community Heartbeat Trust. It was resolved to purchase a defibrillator.

Action: Clerk to retrieve quotes.

12. To agree actions following letter of complaint from WI

This matter was brought forward in the meeting and discussed after item 6. The WI have made a complaint regarding the cutting of the grass at the top of School Hill, which is maintained by the WI with a licence in place to cultivate the area. A meeting took place at the area in question to discuss the matter. Cllr Warren apologised to the WI for instructing the works to take place and an offer has been made to purchase specialist seeds and bulbs to replace the ones that have been destroyed. An offer has also been made to re-site the bench to piece of land at the Croft, with the WI having full control over the piece of land. The members of the WI present at the meeting thanked the PC for the offers and will take to their next meeting to discuss with members. The members of the WI also made a comment on the conduct of a Parish Councillor during the meeting held at School Hill; it was requested that if the WI wished to make a formal complaint, it is put in writing and sent to the Clerk to be dealt with appropriately.

13. To agree action for Bowls Club sign at The Croft

It was resolved that this is not a matter for the PC to be involved with, the Bowls Club are welcome to erect a sign.

14. To discuss Planning Protocol

The PC would like more communication from the Planning Department regarding applications if issues arise. Cllr Parr will write an email to the head of Planning.

15. Brief from Babergh District Council – Bryn Hurren

DCllr Hurren urged the PC to go back to the plans for the car park on Stone Street and commented that all PC members should be involved with meetings related to decisions being made. Cllr Troke commented that it was not always possible for all PC members to attend additional meetings and that is why nominated members from the PC attend meetings and feedback to full council during PC meetings. Discussions were held regarding meeting with Tim Jones to re-establish connections following other avenues being looked into.

16. Clerks Correspondence

All matters have been discussed as an agenda item.

17. Members Reports

Cllr Parr confirmed that the diocese have rejected the proposal for the land behind the cemetery to be used as a car park.

Cllr Setterfield reported that plans to expand the church have been put on hold pending the new rector and church warden.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 22nd September 2026

A provisional meeting is booked for Tuesday 25th August 2026 should urgent matters arise.

The meeting was closed at 21.40

Signed.....
D Warren

Date..... 25th August 2026

Report for Boxford PC 28th July 2026.

From Cllr Bryn Hurren.

Firstly the only place to start is with the bins, the bins. Whilst most of the delivery has gone well and we have now achieved 98% delivery rate, we have had massive failings in Box Vale ward at Groton and Edwardstone which has caused me great angst and a very short temper this morning. We have employed a separate firm to deliver the bins for us on a separate fixed contract and have been let down very badly in this instance.

I think I have a handle on it all now, If you know of anyone who has not received the new allocated recycling bins and the correct food containers. Please let me know.

Boxford has come of quite well, with a near complete transition, apart from some missed addresses along the 1071 By-pass and the odd straggler in Swan St. Everybody should now have a black bin with a green lid, not a black bin with a blue lid.

I am still awaiting figures for glass etc but for the second week running, we have collected over 150 tones of food waste throughout baberghmidsuffolk area.

Our Joint Local Plan is in the news again, along with the call for sites initiative, which could be controversial as things move on into the autumn, with increased housing numbers needed to fit the higher demands from the government.

We now have the new initiative from our PM to end rough sleeping, build more homes for those that actually need them and increase housing stock, possibly by allowing councils to build more housing. This would be a very welcome news but the money has to follow to enable this to happen.

Boxford PC in conjunction with myself needs to strengthen our already brilliant NP to accommodate changes already indicated and build on our past success.

Since I last saw you, BMS has put money aside to allow villages to bid for funds to carry out full or partial Neighbourhood Plans, so now would be a good time to think about that if Boxford PC were inclined to shore up the village defences a bit.

Babergh mid Suffolk recently grant aided £250,000 towards improvements at Sudbury bus Station, all part of our commitment to public transport throughout our rural area.

This will continue throughout and into our new existence after unitary authorities.

Despite rumours and counter claims, the LGR process is still running to a timetable and until we hear anything to the contrary or courts make a ruling, my council will keep up the pace on that.

In my wider role as your representative on Babergh DC, I yesterday spent 6 hours chairing the Joint Audit and Standards committee, while no significant changes were made to our financial direction, it is worth noting that we do seem to have more grant

aided initiatives coming our way like working together with neighbouring authorities to achieve walking and cycling infrastructure plans along with community energy and sustainable travel initiatives. These are all woven now into our budgets to make more of a meaningful commentary. Along with promises of finance to follow.

We are now in the throes of a hosepipe ban which is a minor inconvenience but praying for rain now, for the sugar beet but not on the hay crop or standing corn.

Kind Regards. Bryn.

Boxford Parish report from Robert Lindsay County councillor 28.7.26

HGV signs for Stone Street entrance

Cllr Colin Parr recently drew to my attention to the fact that the “unsuitable for HGV” and Weight Limit warning signs are sited on Stone Street itself, not facing HGVs approaching the A1120 before they turn off. So a lot of their impact is lost.

I have asked the Community Liaison Engineer to look at cost and feasibility of moving the signs so that they are on the main road.

She has visited the site and states that the cost of rejigging them will be between £2,294 and £3165, as there is no funding from Highways for this. It apparently requires requiring the removal of one post, installation of three new posts, shortening of two existing posts, and the repositioning and height adjustment of seven sign plates, all of which would need temporary manual traffic lights during the work.

I'm aware that the parish council is yet to decide about the 20mph scheme, which has been years in the offing. I would suggest you make that decision before considering this.

Melting Roads, heatwave and climate change

Parts of over 20 Suffolk roads melted during the heatwave we saw at the end of June and in recent days in July. Highways had to use gritters with granite chips instead of salt to try to repair them. The A143 was closed for a week. At this stage we do not know what the extra cost implications are of these needed repairs.

Reform cancel climate emergency

At the full county council meeting this month, Reform councillors proposed a motion to cancel the climate emergency declared in 2019. That declaration led to an action plan by which the council saved £3.9million a year.

The motion is similar to ones Reform, who obtain two thirds of their funding from wealthy fossil fuel interests, have passed in several authorities they control. A slightly amended motion was passed with the support of Reform and Conservative votes, though the other parties voted against.

Buses

189 out of 490 parishes in Suffolk do not have a commuter bus. Yet there is now funding for bus services available from Government.

So at the same meeting I proposed a motion to draw up a costed plan for a minimum level of bus service to every parish in Suffolk. But this was voted down by Reform.

Meanwhile the county has won £564,000 funding from Government to fund a feasibility study into Suffolk (or Suffolk and Norfolk) running their own bus service using franchising. Franchising works (in London and Greater Manchester) by the council setting fares and routes and simply paying bus companies to provide the buses and drivers. It would allow the council to use profits from the major routes to subsidise the more rural ones.

Bus Fare caps and free for kids offers

For those places that do have a bus, Burnham's Government has announced a £2

cap on the fare from January (currently it's a £3 cap) but it is voluntary for the bus companies and not all Suffolk companies had taken up the £3 cap. Though I understand TMS, which runs the 50 bus between Sudbury and Ipswich via Boxford, has. In August the Government is offering to fund free fares to children between 5 and 15. At this stage it is thought likely TMS will take this up. But they are waiting to hear how much funding they get.

Reform launch £500k judicial review of three unitary decision

The county's new leader Michael Hadwen has launched a judicial review of the Government decision to create three unitaries. The administration says this is "unlikely to cost more than £500,000".

Cllr Hadwen says he doesn't want any change at all and his aim is to retain the districts and Suffolk county councils. He says he has ordered officers to continue working with district councils in case his legal challenge fails. However, the distraction this case causes to councillors and officers will not ease the creation of unitaries if his challenge does fail.

£19m more agreed for creating more local SEND places

The cabinet on Tuesday 14 July agreed proposals to spend £18.9m of High Needs Provision Capital Funding received from the government on increasing the number of specialist education placements in the county for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – 248 new places will be created in both mainstream and specialist schools

Budget Outturn for 2025-26 Financial Year

Cabinet on 14 July also reviewed the council's financial outturn for the financial year ending 31 March 2026. The council overspent last year by £15m overall, a figure which the council will need to take from its reserves to balance the books. The main areas of overspend for the council are in Care Purchasing for Adult Social Care, and Children in Care placements.

Public Consultation on Cuts to Healthy Child Service

The county has begun a public consultation on proposed cuts to its Healthy Child Service, which is provided by the council's Public Health team. They want to cease providing support to parents under the age of 21 after they have a and axe the Community Staff Nurse role from Health Visiting teams. The consultation runs until 18 September, with a decision likely to be made at Cabinet after that.

You can read through the proposals and respond to the consultation here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/healthy-child-services-consultations>