

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 7th March 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), R Balls, S Impett, S Green, D Waspe, J Moles, D Talbot-Clarke, C Hughes, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: A Sargeant

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 15th FEBRUARY 2016: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: The applicant for 19 Fen Street explained they had taken on views expressed by the Parish Council and the neighbours in relation to their Planning Application and amendments had been made to lower the ridge height and replace the proposed cladding with brickwork.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: The amendments to 19 Fen Street were to be discussed later in the meeting.

POLICE REPORT: The Clerk read from the Babergh West Area crime statistics and of the 74 incidents in the area, 3 had occurred in Boxford. Two were attempted burglaries and another incident was not to be publicised.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Councillor James Finch attended and reported as follows: -

➤ **SCC Annual Budget agreed at County Council Meeting on 11th February**

It was good to be back at this meeting and play my part having been indisposed for nearly a month. The summary of the key elements of the budget agreed the council were:-

- ! Annual savings of £34.4m as a result of government reductions in funding resulting in a net budget of £493m for 2016-17.
- ! A freeze in general council tax for this period of £271m so that the Band D council tax for County Services remains at £1,126.53p
- ! The introduction of a new precept to fund Adult Social Care of £5.4m which is equivalent to 2% of Band D council tax (£22.50p) bringing the total Council Tax to £1,149. This was introduced to recognise the impact of the significant increases made by the government to the minimum wage and living wage over the next two years.

Your county council has faced some stiff challenges in the preparation of this budget plan but is confident that you will continue to receive the services you expect from a responsible county council administration.

➤ **Suffolk County Council's Children's Services are rated GOOD by Ofsted**

Following the publication of its inspection report on 11th February, it praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out for 4 weeks between 23 November – 17 December 2015 .

Ofsted's report highlights that "Leaders have a comprehensive understanding of what needs to be achieved and have made sustained progress since the inspection of services for looked after children in 2010 and child protection in 2013, which both were judged to be adequate". It says "Suffolk County Council is led by dynamic and capable leaders and managers and is delivering a good service overall to children and their families."

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children's Services, Cllr Gordon Jones said: "I am absolutely delighted that we have received this GOOD rating from Ofsted. This achievement is testament to the work and commitment of all our staff at the authority and the support they receive from local community partners who share our drive and focus to protect vulnerable children and young people in Suffolk, and support their families.

➤ **Consultation to shape the future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

The consultation, which ended on 22nd February, sought views on a range of specific proposals for changing the way the fire and rescue service is set-up across the county. The changes have been proposed to meet the on-going reductions in funding for the fire service and also to reflect the more than 30 per cent reduction in 999 call demand over the last 10 years.

Engagement events were held in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Lowestoft and Sudbury and the county council has received around 1,500 completed questionnaires and almost 200 enquiries from people engaging with the consultation. The aim was to ensure that as many people as possible had their say on these proposals. Details of the proposals can be found on Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's web page: www.suffolk.gov.uk/fireredesign.

The consultation feedback is now being reviewed. This will help to shape future recommendations, which will be presented to the [Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 17 May 2016](#).

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: Cllr Bryn Hurren attended the meeting and had listened to the comments about the state of Wash Lane. As a designated cycle route he agreed to investigate. The Budget at Babergh District Council had been set with an increase of 3.5%. Various investigations were being made to reduce expenditure and bring new income to the Council. He referred to the site meeting in respect of the Solar Farm application. He also mentioned the drainage issue reported in relation to Goodlands. He will enquire with Jane Burch, SCC, about the results of the flooding investigation and an offer from a landowner for an overflow to his lake. He expressed concern about the damage by utility contractors to the Jubilee Garden and he is actively working to resolve this. There was a good response to the Mobile Signal Petition. Options were being considered regarding business signage for the A1071. The Parish Council resolved to pay the Planning Fee of around £75 should this be required.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. It was agreed to put a notice in the newsletter about the intention of netting the bus shelter - **Action Clerk**. S Green agreed to meet a Heritage representative to try to establish a better solution for the Bus Shelter - **Action S Green**. The status of the Stone Street link path as a permissive path was noted.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 26th February 2016 were £21690.11 in the Community Account, £13328.44 in the Deposit Account and £38051.71 in the Reserve Account making a total of £73070.26. It was agreed to send D Burden a copy of the quote for the Playingfield

cutting next year to seek confirmation of whether the Parish Council should authorise the contract again at the amount and terms quoted - **Action Clerk**.

The following payments were approved: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	D K Hattrell	783.19	Clerk's Salary
Funds Tr	Inland Revenue Only	53.39	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
Funds Tr	SCC – Pension ACC	252.59	Clerk's Pension
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	180.00	Street Cleaning
Funds Tr	Vertas Group	457.97	Playing field grass contract
Funds Tr	Topline Pest Control	25.00	Cemetery moles
Funds Tr	V Rice	26.14	Footpath notice expenses
Funds Tr	Babergh District Cou	928.08	Bin Empty Service
Funds Tr	Ken Grime & Son Ltd	67.20	Bell Ho Electrics
Funds Tr	A Sargeant	33.84	Repair Cemetery Fencing
Funds Tr	Suffolk Preservation Soc	30.00	Membership

FINALISING LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT: It was agreed to upgrade the lanterns in Butchers Lane - **Action Clerk**. The Clerk should also forward details of the outstanding work to J Finch to enable him to chase progression - **Action Clerk**.

CEMETERY: Members expressed their gratitude to A Sargeant who had repaired the fence in the Cemetery that borders The Rectory garden.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: Unfortunately a proposed event in relation to Neighbourhood planning was postponed due to time pressures. D Talbot-Clarke agreed to get together with the current volunteers to set up a Committee structure to help get things started. A progress report will be made in two weeks time.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: S Impett reported further deterioration to the road surface on The Causeway. J Moles offered to involve D Stiff from County Highways as he already had a site meeting arranged in respect of the road surface in Homefield - **Action J Moles**. J Moles reported on a housing matter where a Lavenham property has been offered. S Green reported that the telephone box still needs its roof cleaned. It was agreed to report to BT - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to write to the Playingfield Committee regarding the parking situation during football matches where no signs have been put out and significant disruption has been caused - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **10.00 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 7th March 2016

The following decisions were advised by the Planning Authority: -

1) Permission had been granted for a detached summerhouse, garage and log store and to relocate oil tank and remove fencing at 22 Stone Street - **B/15/01714**

2) Work can proceed to reduce hazel to previous pruning points at 9 Broad Street - **B/16/00096/TCA**

The following applications were discussed: -

a) **B/16/00148** - Proposed extension to garage to provide cartlodge and woodstore at 15 Boxford lane. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

b) **B/16/00108** - Amendments dated 23rd February to the application at Fleur Cottage, 19 Fen Street. With these changes the Parish Council now has **No Objections** to the application.