

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING in BOXFORD on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.45 p.m. at Village Hall, Boxford.

PRESENT: See attached list. The meeting was chaired by Julian Fincham-Jacques (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Debbie Hattrell (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) was also present. Around 20 parishioners including Councillors attended.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from D Talbot Clarke, D Waspe and C Hughes.

MINUTES OF 12th April 2016: The previous Minutes were proposed and accepted as a true record.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Councillor Bryn Hurren attended and discussed highlights and achievements for 2016/17. He covered the re-location to Endeavour House, the potential merger of the District Councils, Devolution developments, the Boundary Commission Review and Housing matters. He was clear that he didn't approve of the move to Endeavour House away from the local presence in Hadleigh. He spoke of the District Councils good record of generating funds from environmentally friendly initiatives such as the Solar Panels on their housing stock. On local issues Cllr Hurren was active in supporting the Station Field development, the mobile phone mast, the Bus Shelter work (including liaising with the Heritage Officer). He thanked the Parish Council and Clerk for all their support.

Questioning included the cost savings from the move to Endeavour House, the progress of the Goodlands application and how the reduction in District Councillor numbers will affect representation. B Hurren did not believe costs will reduce as a result of the move to Endeavour House overall. He believed considerable costs would be involved in developing the two redundant sites and also there would be an adverse affect on Hadleigh shops in losing such a big employer in the town. He confirmed the Goodlands Planning Application was not fit for purpose and was shelved for the time being. The Boundary Review was addressing some Wards that were out of balance with others.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr James Finch attended and summarised achievements over the last 12 months. He thanked Boxford for the support and was delighted to continue to represent people as the County Cllr. He spoke of hard financial decisions to balance the spending and the good record of the County Council in freezing Council Tax. He was aware of the huge challenges on highways maintenance but was proud of achievements being made. He spoke of the priority in respect of caring for the vulnerable and the elderly and was proud of improving standards of Suffolk Schools. The County Council continues to work and invest to improve transport links. In view of the financial challenges he concluded his report by stressing the need for Councils to work together to improve efficiency. He thanked the Parish Council for their on-going support.

FINANCE: The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer reported on the past years accounts showing expenditure at 94% of budget. On Income a 106 Babergh Grant of £4961 was received for the cricket wicket. The Grants given during the year were £1750 to the Church, £1214 for the Playing Field grass cutting and £500 as a contribution towards the Street Party. The overall grant figure was down as an amount of £3942 was paid for the Village Hall stage in the previous year. Monies continue to be set aside in respect of capital expenditure on Street Lighting and future Burial Provision. That totalled around £42000. The final billing for the Street Light LED upgrades were awaited as one or two outstanding units on orders means the County Council hold back the Invoicing and delays at the County Council in completing these orders over months and years make assessment of the final costs difficult. This Council continues to chase for the LED project to be concluded. Questioning related to the Parish Council's reserves and it was agreed to put the Parish Council's Reserving Policy on the website - **Action Clerk.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman spoke of changes to members of the Parish Council and he introduced and welcomed the new members Vince Strafford and Mathew Wooderson. He thanked all his colleagues on the Council for all the work they regularly put in for the Village. The development at Station Field had been completed, the various attempts to protect the bus shelter from bird mess was out-lined. He thanked the contributors to this on-going work including Cllr Hurren and members of the Parish Council. He spoke about the proposed Goodlands development and the

research being carried in relation to the traffic figures. He thanked M Wooderson for liaising in this respect. Finally he thanked Cllr Finch and Cllr Hurren. He commented that we regularly give them a hard time but were thankful that they continue to work with us. Finally he thanked the Clerk for all that she does.

REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS: Reports were given by the Community Council, Playing Fields, 3PR, on Primrose Wood and Boxford Society. Whilst the help from the 3PR volunteers was again celebrated, the need for further volunteers was outlined. The various organisations shared their successes over the year. Ward Baker, the Community Council Chairman needed to leave the meeting early. When the Community Council item was discussed, the meeting agreed to record a thank you for all the leadership and commitment Ward displays in his role to the huge benefit of the Village. Tina Loose gave an interesting insight into Primrose Wood and out-lined the on-going dedication of a small team in keeping access going. Further volunteers would be welcomed.

ELECTORS QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS: The issue with fading white and yellow lines was raised. This point was taken away by Cllr Finch who assured the meeting it was on the list and would be batched with similar work for efficiency.

At the end of the meeting, Cllr Finch proposed on behalf of the meeting a vote of thanks to the Parish Council Chairman, Julian Fincham-Jacques.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.