

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 5th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

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

**APOLOGIES:** received from J Fincham-Jacques.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS:** Nothing was declared.

**MINUTES OF 21st SEPTEMBER 2015:** Accepted as correct.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nothing was raised.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Items raised included the start on the Sand Hill Development and the use of the layby. The permissive path at Stone Street is in need of some upkeep.

**POLICE REPORT:** The Clerk shared the Babergh West report for September showing 1 crime in Boxford which was a theft of pedal cycle. The letter from Suffolk Police regarding the difficulty attending Parish Council Meetings was discussed. S Green advised that due to lack of attendance and again the difficulty for the Police to run, the Priority Setting Meetings will not continue.

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

➤ **New partnership set to inspire young people**

Councils in Suffolk have announced that they will be working with **the Mason Trust** to inspire young people about careers in the region. <http://www.themasontrust.org/>

As part of this initiative, a new website and mobile phone app will be developed to provide young people with information and insight into the potential opportunities for fulfilling careers in the local area. The website and app will primarily target 13 to 24 year olds across Suffolk and will enable users to gain an understanding of what many local businesses do, what working for them would be like and what current career opportunities exist. SCC are investing in the development of the platform along with Ipswich Borough Council, Mid-Suffolk District Council and also Babergh District Council as part of a wider work-inspiration programme of activity across Suffolk. The website and app will be developed over the next few months and will be officially launched at the upcoming **Suffolk Skills Show on 21 October 2015 at Trinity Park**. Employers that would like to be featured on the site can contact Michael Gray at Suffolk County Council for more information: email [michael.gray@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:michael.gray@suffolk.gov.uk); or phone 01473 264053.

In summary, the first step on the career ladder can be the most difficult to take. We are committed to helping our young people get the best start in life, through education, training and on into their careers. There are exciting opportunities for young people to live and work in Suffolk, and this new partnership is a great way of helping demonstrate this.

➤ **Launch of the new First Endeavour Annual ticket**

SCC has partnered with First Buses to launch a new range of tickets in and around Ipswich, which will benefit Endeavour Card holders.

The First Endeavour Annual ticket will allow anyone between the ages of 16-19 who has a Endeavour Card to purchase an annual ticket, but pay for it in monthly instalments. This scheme has a number of benefits for Endeavour Card holders who sign up such as: spreading the cost of an annual ticket over 12 smaller payments; fixing the cost of your

travel for the whole year; unlimited travel on any First services; simple to join and you can cancel at the end of any month; tickets are posted directly to your home. This scheme will allow students to not only travel on First services to and from school, but will also allow them to use public transport outside of school hours and includes unlimited travel at weekends and during school holidays. The scheme is not limited just to students: people can take advantage of all the benefits just by being a 16-19 Endeavour Card holder. Further information on the Endeavour Card scheme, including how to apply can be found here: <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/endeavour-card/16-19-card> .

In summary, helping young people to travel around Suffolk is extremely important, which is why we made a clear commitment at the last election to introduce a youth travel card. The Endeavour Card was duly established, and this latest development takes this a stage further, and gives young people even more opportunities for travel in our county.

➤ **Refinancing proposal for Suffolk's Energy from Waste facility will save over £24million**

SCC's cabinet discussed proposals to re-finance part of the capital costs of the Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham, when it met in July. The new agreement will reduce contract-fee payments to Suez Environment (formerly SITA UK), saving over £24million over the remaining lifetime of the contract. If all goes to plan, the hope would be that the refinancing will take place later this year.

Our energy-from-waste facility is a remarkable success story, helping affirm our commitment to being the greenest county while saving a large amount of money. The refinancing of the deal adds yet another benefit and will be a huge boon as we look to manage our finances in the coming years.

**My priorities for Suffolk**

*Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength – all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax*

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** Cllr Bryn Hurren attended the meeting and confirmed that preparation continues in relation to a devolution bid for the County and they are also liaising with Norfolk in this respect. Lead was stolen from the Church at Groton. The plans for a telecommunications mast at Sherbourne Street have been withdrawn. The Community bus to the Quay Theatre continues to provide a service to those who cannot get to the Theatre themselves. The fencing at the Playground has been fixed. The Cricket Wicket project would meet the criteria for 106 grant money and this would require support from the Parish Council. Quotes are being obtained. The Local Needs Housing construction on Sand Hill had started. The issues at Goodlands were still under investigation and the chimney had been removed. It was agreed for the Clerk to chase the present position - **Action Clerk.** B Hurren offered his assistance with Neighbourhood Planning. He is monitoring developments regarding the Cygnet Court planning. Points raised with B Hurren included cars for sale on School Hill and the change of roof at the dog training in Stone Street.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. It was agreed to make a report to the Environment Agency of the river in the centre of the village being overrun with weeds - **Action Clerk.**

**FINANCE:** The Bank balances as at 29th September were £38379.75 in the Community Account, £13326.78 in the Deposit Account and £36532.11 in the Reserve Account making a total of £88238.64. It was confirmed that all matters were found to be in order on the External Audit. The Insurance renewal was considered and it was agreed to enter into a 3 year Long

Term Agreement and to diary ahead of expiry for a full marketing exercise - **Action Clerk**.  
The half year budget review was discussed.

The following payments were approved: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
701706	Vertas Group	872.56	Playing fields contract
701707	D K Hattrell	789.67	Clerk's Salary
701708	Inland Revenue Only	53.39	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
701709	SCC – Pension ACC	252.59	Clerk's Pension
701710	BDO LLP	240.00	External Audit
701711	SALC	18.00	Clerks Information Day
701712	Chris Mortimer Grounds	144.00	Sweeping
701713	M A Crighton	185.00	Cemetery

**FENCING AND CRICKET WICKET AT THE PLAYINGFIELDS:** It was confirmed in the report from B Hurren that the fencing issue had been resolved. Quotations were still awaited for the cricket wicket, however, following discussion, D Talbot-Clarke proposed this Council is in favour of the principle of using 106 funds for the cricket wicket. This was seconded by S Impett and unanimously carried.

**DONATION TO SUFFOLK BAT GROUP:** It was noted that they carried out a survey of the bus shelter and made no charge. This was necessary to enable the Parish Council to comply with relevant laws to protect bats. Members approved a donation of £25 to Suffolk Bat Group - **Action Clerk**.

**RISK ASSESSMENT:** The Cemetery Sub Committee confirmed the Risk Assessment has been completed in the Cemetery and will shortly be done in the Churchyard. One memorial was found to be insecure and steps are being taken to resolve. We have already had a report of the path being slippery. It was agreed to seek advice on treatments and frequency - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed that our usual contractor can cut the hedge back just past the Village Hall on the boundary of the Cemetery - **Action Clerk**. S Impett is happy to meet our usual contractor for winter priorities on either a Tuesday or Wednesday morning - **Action Clerk**. R Balls agreed to meet the electrical contractor at Bell House - **Action Clerk to arrange**.

**STANDING ORDERS/ FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:** It was agreed to include this as an Agenda item for the November Full Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:** The meeting will now be arranged. The date will be set in accordance with the availability of Carroll Reeve and the criteria agreed at last meeting - **Action D Talbot-Clarke**.

**CEMETERY:** There was nothing to report.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** R Balls has reported pot holes in Daking Avenue at the junction with Swan Street and also the state of the drains in the vicinity. D Talbot-Clarke will follow up a tree issue in the croft. J Moles has started to learn more about his new role in Emergency Planning for the village. S Green will report anti social behaviour in Homefield to the Police. It was agreed to include an agenda item for the November full meeting of the junction of Sand Hill and Cox Hill - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to chase the improvements to the wash lane ford - **Action Clerk**. S Green shared a potential notice that could be put on cars in Swan Street. It was agreed for S Green to follow up with SALC for advice on the legality of such a notice - **Action S Green**. It was agreed to ask Michael Nutt to ensure the Church Clock is running to time on Remembrance Sunday - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **10.05 p.m.**

**Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 5th October 2015**

**The following decision was discussed from the Planning Authority: -**

**B/14/01259 - Review of Decision particulars for Sand Hill Development**

Members took the opportunity to review in detail the Decision Notice for the Sand Hill Development. This Parish Council had supported the proposal subject to certain stipulated conditions. It has been noted that there is no mention of closing the field entrance which is something that was pressed for in the Parish. It was agreed to ask the Planning Authority to confirm the reason behind the decision in this instance not to respond to local concerns? It was also agreed to enquire about legally closing the layby at the entrance to the site, which is currently used by some vehicles as a stopping point. S Impett expressed disappointment that the education part of the grant had been reduced.

**The following application was discussed: -**

**Goodlands Barn, Swan Street - Listed Building Consent to convert Barn to single dwelling (Amended Scheme to that approved under B/13/00196/LBC)**

The Parish Council had No Objections.