

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 2nd November 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

**PRESENT:** J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), R Balls, S Green, D Waspe, J Moles, A Sargeant, C Hughes, D Talbot-Clarke, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 2 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** received from S Impett.

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

**MINUTES OF 19th OCTOBER 2015:** Accepted as correct.

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

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mr Kingsbury attended to explain the intention to install a roof alarm on the Church to prevent the theft of lead. Many Churches in the area are being targeted by thieves. The cost of the alarm would be around £6000 and similar again for the annual running costs. Insurance costs are expensive, so an annual donation from the Parish Council would be appreciated. Members noted these points. This will form an Agenda item at a future meeting. Other matters raised by the public included the intention by planners not to insist on the closure of the field entrance from the Sand Hill Development, a progress report on the netting of the bus shelter, the disposal of bulk waste in the litter bin, the state of the telephone box, cars displayed for sale, verge cutting, vandalism at the playingfield and the village street cleaning.

**POLICE REPORT:** A police representative was unable to attend and no report was provided.

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

➤ **Thousands attend Suffolk Skills Show**

Suffolk businesses turned out in their hundreds to support the second annual Suffolk Skills Show; a skills and careers event reaching over 4,500 young people. The event set out to engage with Suffolk's young people and provide an insight into the career opportunities available to them locally. The show, which took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich, targeted those aged between 11 and 24. The diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the event worked hard to ensure those attending left with their eyes opened to the many career streams across Suffolk. There were many interactive indoor and outdoor stands; showcasing opportunities in energy, IT & technology, finance and business services, creative digital, agriculture, construction, motor vehicle, advanced manufacturing, ports and logistics as well as HM Forces and a 'have a go' area where attendees were able to try their hand at new skills.

Those unable to make the event during the day were encouraged to come along for a drop in session in the evening to explore options available to them locally; giving them an opportunity to talk to employers, colleges, training providers and advisers about their future careers. In all, around 4,500 young people have had the chance to see the amazing opportunities for themselves in the county across a wide range of sectors and companies.

➤ **Suffolk's five-year-olds overtake national average**

More five-year-olds in Suffolk are 'school ready' according to new figures just published by the Department for Education. With an 8% increase in the proportion of Suffolk children achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of reception, this

puts the county above the national average at age five. Nationally 66.3% of pupils achieved this level, with Suffolk pupils 1.3% above this at 67.6%. The 'good level of development' measure is the assessment of children at the end of reception class, or Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Teachers assess whether children are achieving the expected levels in literacy and maths, as well as in physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.

➤ **Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation**

SCC is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2017/18 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way.

The consultation runs until Monday 14 December 2015. As part of this, the council is considering whether or not to include the children of staff employed by a school within the oversubscription criteria to give them some priority for school places. These criteria are used to rank applications when a school receives more applications than it has places available. There are different ways we could introduce this and your views are important to us.

Other proposals include: minor changes to the Suffolk Co-ordinated Admission Scheme, which sets out the details of our arrangements for the 2017/2018 school year; and some amendments to the Fair Access Protocol which supports the admission of unplaced young people who live in Suffolk, especially the most vulnerable, so that they are offered a suitable place as quickly as possible. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, academies and free schools are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools you should contact the school directly. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations), alternatively you can write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX or email: [admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk)

➤ **£250,000 fund announced for school projects to boost disadvantaged Suffolk students' attainment and achievement**

SCC is inviting bids from the county's publicly-funded schools for money to enable projects that will boost the attainment of disadvantaged students.

In the latest round of the 'Raising the Bar Challenge Fund' a maximum of £250,000 has been allocated for innovative that will help reduce the gap between the examination success of students who are disadvantaged, and so help improve social mobility. Successful bidders will receive up to half the cost of projects and the remainder of the costs must be covered by the schools. Up to 80% of each grant will be funded up front, with the final 20% paid if the project achieves its targets, with extra money available if targets are exceeded. Bids for funding need to have ambitious and measureable targets, involve more than one school, and feature innovative or best practice approaches to help boost student success. Projects need to enable parents to be involved, and to be able to continue once Challenge Funding ends. Each school involved in a successful bid can receive up to £5,000 from the County Council. For more information and an application form visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund). The deadline for schools to make applications is **5pm on Wednesday 25 November**.

We are passionate about increasing the social mobility of the most disadvantaged children in the county. As a result, our Raising the Bar programme includes the aim of ensuring that every child in Suffolk can reach their full potential. This Challenge Fund is one way we can help schools achieve this ambition.

## 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*

Following his report J Finch confirmed he has introduced himself to the new head teacher at Boxford School. He reminded members of the schools admissions consultation and urged everyone to have their say. A clinic was arranged for 11th November to enable J Finch to listen to views in the Parish.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** Cllr Bryn Hurren attended the meeting and handed a draft pack from the District Council on "Neighbourhood Planning" to D Talbot-Clarke. B Hurren confirmed the layby at the entrance to the Sand Hill site will remain open at this stage and all works parking, during the construction, should be on the actual site itself. The District Council have asked for the views of the Parish Council on a name for the development. Local enquiries have revealed the field was called "Station Field", however, they would like to hear what the Parish Council would propose. There has been no further news regarding the "Goodlands" enforcement issue. B Hurren has strong views on Cygnet Court, so if planners are minded to pass, he will ask for it to go to full Committee. Regarding the playground cricket wicket, a second quote is being obtained. He met James Cartlidge regarding the failure of the telecommunications mast project and if anything can be done, it will, however, all parties are extremely disappointed at this stage. It was noted that no response has been received, from the Head of Planning, to the Parish Council on this subject. The Head of Planning has also not responded to our questions relating to "Goodlands" enforcement. All agreed this was unacceptable and B Hurren agreed to chase up. Despite the late notice, the Parish Liaison Meetings are taking place.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item.

**FINANCE:** The Bank balances as at 2nd November were £35205.67 in the Community Account, £13326.78 in the Deposit Account and £37138.11 in the Reserve Account making a total of £85670.56. It was noted that R Balls and the Clerk were set up for on-line banking, however, the Chairman's request had not been processed. It was agreed for the Clerk to re-send the Chairman details - **Action Clerk.**

The following payments were approved: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
701715	Sportsafe UK Ltd	4730.98	Village Hall Staging
701716	D K Hattrell	803.02	Clerk's Salary
701717	Inland Revenue Only	53.39	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
701718	SCC – Pension ACC	252.59	Clerk's Pension
701719	Business Services at CAS	419.55	PC Insurance
701720	Chris Mortimer Grounds	144.00	Sweeping
701721	M A Crighton	335.00	Cemetery & hedge

**STANDING ORDERS/ FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:** D Talbot-Clarke agreed to take the lead on this and R Balls agreed to assist. The Clerk is to provide the most up to date versions from SALC as a template - **Action Clerk.**

**JUNCTION OF SAND HILL AND COX HILL:** It was noted that safety concerns at this junction have been reported by residents. Members commented that the priorities at this junction do result in traffic calming for vehicles travelling from the A1071 into the village as they need to slow down and give way ahead of Cox Hill. However, for vehicles travelling

down Cox Hill or wanting to turn right onto Sand Hill from the opposite direction, the blind bend does cause some issues. It was agreed to ask County Highways to investigate the priorities at the junction and recommend any necessary safety improvements - **Action Clerk**.

*An extension was agreed to complete the meeting.*

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:** D Talbot-Clarke thanked S Green for helping set up the meeting which was scheduled for the following day. The objective was to learn from Lavenham from their experience of the process and establish the expertise of the network of people interested in becoming involved in "Neighbourhood Planning" at Boxford.

**CEMETERY:** The request for permission to add inscription to the Kingsbury Memorial on plot 384 was duly approved - **Action Clerk to respond**.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** S Green asked A Sargeant whether his daughter would be able to assist with a Village Website. A Sargeant reported that residents in Stone Street were pleased to have the use of the permissive path. D Talbot-Clarke reported that the problem branch from the willow tree overhanging the croft has been removed by a tree surgeon. It was agreed to get a like for like quote for netting the bus shelter - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **10.15 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 2nd November 2015**

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

- 1) **B/15/01413 - Little Field, Cox Hill** - Work can proceed to fell ornamental crabapple tree, reduce height of whitebeam and remove lower limbs of silver birch.
- 2) **B/15/01246/LBC - Goodlands Barn, Swan Street** - Listed Building Consent had been granted for amended barn conversion.

**The following applications were discussed: -**

- a) **B/15/01471 - 6 The Causeway** - The Parish Council had No Objections to the proposed removal of side/lower branches of 2 silver birch, 1 prunus and 2 copper beech trees.
- b) **B/15/01424 - Box River House, 1 Broad Street** - The Parish Council had No Objections to the application for Listed Building Consent to install conservation roof window and retain 1 velux roof window.

c) **B/15/01391 - 3 Swan Street** - The Parish Council had No Objections to the application for Listed Building Consent to replace staircase, internal alterations and 2 new windows.

d) **B/15/01384 - 7 Swan Street** - The Parish Council had No Objections to the application for Listed Building Consent for extensions, removal of dividing walls and replacement windows and doors.

e) **B/14/01259 - Land east of Boxford Court, Sand Hill** - discharge of conditions. Following discussion, it was agreed to request further information relating to condition 8 - surface water from our District Cllr Bryn Hurren - **Action Clerk**.