

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 4th January 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, A Sargeant, C Hughes, D Talbot-Clarke, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 3 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 21st DECEMBER 2015: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: J Moles advised that he managed to get a meeting with UK power at Cox Hill and was pleased to report that all the obstructing tree branches have been cut away from the wires.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: The owner of the Post Office Stores attended the public forum and thanked everyone particularly the District Councillor for support since he came to the village. He confirmed that he welcomed any comments and was pleased to be part of the village community.

POLICE REPORT: A police representative was unable to attend. The December report of crimes was awaited.

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

➤ **Access to Superfast Broadband in Boxford**

Whilst the majority of Boxford households and businesses have access to Superfast broadband – there will be pockets of houses that still do not have access.

I am pleased to say Suffolk County Council is now able to offer a package via Satellite to such households as discussed earlier in the year to those who do not have access to Superfast Broadband and where their existing speed of service is less than 2mb per second. More details can be found on the attached web links which include the background to the scheme, options available to you and the application form for applying for the satellite service.

A full guide to the satellite scheme can be found here:

<http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/ApplicationGuide.aspx> and the application form for this service can be found here:

<http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/ApplicationForm.aspx>.

What will the scheme provide?

The Scheme will provide a 'voucher' (actually, a unique code) that you will be able to present to one of a selected number of retail service providers to obtain a satellite broadband service.

You will need to place an order with one of the selected retail service providers, and enter into a contract for satellite broadband services provision for a minimum period of 12 months. The voucher will cover most of the cost of installation and commissioning of your satellite broadband service. You will be responsible for paying any remaining cost of installation and commissioning (if any), for choosing the

features of the satellite broadband service you require, and for paying the monthly subscription for the service you have selected, and for paying any VAT on the amounts payable.

The voucher does not have a specific fixed value, but when used to obtain a satellite broadband service from one of the selected retail service providers, the use of the voucher will reduce the total cost (ie installation and commissioning costs plus 12 monthly subscriptions) by around £300. The voucher has no other value, and cannot be redeemed in any other way than through the Scheme

I would ask that Parish Councillors make this information known as widely as possible in the parish. For those who would like to make use of this offer, I would ask them to complete the form which can be sent electronically to The Suffolk County Council Better Broadband Service for them to consider and process for you.

➤ **Long Term Prevention of flooding in Boxford - 2016**

I have been chasing this up with Jane Burch – the Suffolk County Council Flood & Coastal Policy Manager. There is a recommendation for longer term prevention measures due in the first quarter of this year. It is envisaged that the scheme will involve holding water up on farm land up the valley and thus require the collaboration of the landowners concerned to facilitate the schemes.

J Finch agreed to continue to attend Mary's House every two months and J Moles is to contact J Finch separately regarding any potential help with Emergency Planning Expenses.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: Cllr Bryn Hurren attended the meeting and confirmed the District Council is currently working on next years' budget. He is not part of these discussions at this stage, however, it is likely to be set with an increase of just below 2%. He thanked D Talbot Clarke for attending the Development Committee Meeting where the Cygnet Court plans were approved. Along with the Parish Council, B Hurren was strongly opposed to the application, however, now approved we can only keep an eye on developments on site. The Sand Hill Development is proceeding slightly ahead of schedule at present and he would encourage residents who would like to be considered for one of the properties to register on-line. B Hurren is following up potential signage for the village shops to be displayed on the by-pass.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. S Green agreed to attend the PCSO match funded meeting and also the 3rd February Fire & Rescue Service Meeting - **Action Clerk to book places.** Regarding the latter, it was agreed for S Green to email details, following the meeting, to members to enable them to give individual feedback to the consultation ahead of the deadline if they chose to - **Action S Green.**

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 4th January 2016 were £26407.81 in the Community Account, £13328.44 in the Deposit Account and £37748.71 in the Reserve Account making a total of £77484.96. The precept was formally agreed with a 1% increase to residents. The Precept totals £33847 and the forms for the District Council were duly completed. D Talbot Clarke proposed that we stay in the collective audit arrangements. This was seconded by J Moles and unanimously carried.

The following payments were approved: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
701731	D K Hattrell	801.74	Clerk's Salary
701732	Inland Revenue Only	53.39	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
701733	SCC – Pension ACC	252.59	Clerk's Pension
701734	Chris Mortimer	108.00	Street Cleaning

COMMUNITY WEBSITE: It was noted the Parish Council has an important but narrow need for a website, which could be set up and built upon as a village site. It was agreed for some ideas to be put together and emailed to the Clerk. Members made the point that a consistent person would need to maintain the website. However, the Agenda, Minutes and other important documents would need to be uploaded together with links to other sites. Other ideas to be included were Neighbourhood Plan details, places to stay, footpath networks, events, village history, local organisations and businesses. It was suggested that contact is made with the Community Council to establish their needs.

FURTHER LED UPGRADES TO STREET LIGHTING: Some initial views were exchanged, however, it was agreed to consider further between meetings and include as an Agenda item for the next meeting - **Action Clerk**. D Talbot Clarke was concerned about the visual impact of upgrading heritage lights in the centre of the village. D Waspe agreed to consult residents in Stone Street and potentially Boxford Society for views - **Action D Waspe**.

BUS SHELTER FOR COX HILL: C Hughes explained that he felt a bus shelter was necessary at this location for school children waiting for their buses and also in anticipation of residents in the new Sand Hill Development. C Hughes therefore proposed the principle of looking to purchase and install a bus shelter. This was seconded by S Impett and unanimously carried. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain brochures to bring to a future meeting - **Action Clerk**.

POTENTIAL SIGNAGE AT CYGNET COURT: S Green explained the issues and members sympathised with the problem and, as it is private land, were interested in what the residents were proposing. Additionally, it was agreed to write to the District Council following their decision to pass the Cygnet Court plans in addition to the Goodlands development which will add to traffic concerns on this private access. It was agreed to suggest they have a moral responsibility to explore traffic calming measures with the County Council to ease the predictable consequences - **Action Clerk**.

CEMETERY: The contractor had been authorised to treat the paths with moss killer. The application for permission to add inscription was considered, however, members could not understand how this was to be achieved. It was agreed to seek additional information from the Stone Mason - **Action Clerk**.

LIGHTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE: It was agreed to purchase new Christmas Tree Lights that are compliant with the up to date regulations. D Waspe is to research and purchase some new lights, if possible. The Chairman agreed to forward a link he has received - **Action Chairman and D Waspe**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: J Moles expressed concerns about the process of housing allocation that he was investigating. D Waspe was concerned about the condition of the pavement up School Hill. It was agreed to instruct our Street Cleaning Contractors to clear and dispose of mud and leaves - **Action Clerk**. S Impett agreed to organise the removal of the Christmas tree to the recycling point - **Action S Impett**. R Balls agreed to take down the lights and return them to Bell House - **Action R Balls**. It was noted that the phone box had been cleaned by BT. It was agreed to include an **Agenda item** for next meeting of the maintenance cost of the Defibrillator at the Fleece - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.