

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING in BOXFORD** on Tuesday 12th April 2016 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 27 parishioners including Councillors attended.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from V Hobbs and D Lamming.

**MINUTES OF 1st April 2015:** The previous Minutes were proposed and accepted as a true record.

**POLICE REPORT:** The Police report produced by PC Matt Paisley was read to the meeting as follows:-

*The last 12 months have seen Suffolk Constabulary face some significant challenges. It has been well publicised in the press, and through communications direct to Parishes, that the financial climate had resulted in the need to refocus how we deliver our service across the County. Whilst the economy gave us the push required to redefine the Constabulary, it also allowed every department to examine the work we do day to day and establish our core roles, taking into account the areas of work that cause us and our communities the most threat, risk and harm.*

*The Suffolk Local Policing Review has now been completed and introduced some fundamental changes that will impact our local communities. The nature of work handled by us, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, is becoming more focussed upon reducing demand to us and other agencies. In order to do this, PCSOs will now have additional specific responsibilities in key areas that will allow them to liaise directly with agencies who are best equipped in the problem area. For example, there will be an officer who concentrates on licensing issues and retail, another will work closely with vulnerable communities and mental health. However, to get the most benefit from these roles, the PCSOs will now only work office based hours, albeit still spread across 7 days. This will of course mean that the monthly Parish meetings will no longer be attended by Police. PCSO Laura Mansell has been allocated as our Parish Council liaison officer, so in addition to her other tasks she will be building relationships with all Parishes within the Sudbury SNT boundary. Whilst we have seen a reduction in the number of PCSOs working on our SNT (10 down to 6), the remaining officers are all part of the former team, versed with great experience, knowledge and expertise on the geography. The 4 Constables that were previously allocated have been reduced, and replaced by 3 new officers, although all three have extensive local knowledge having policed the area at some point in their careers.*

*The other headlines from the review are that all front desks in the County, bar Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft, have closed. As a consequence of this, we will no longer deal with lost and found property as there is no legal obligation on the Police to take on this task.*

*The review has encompassed every area of front line Policing. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure full public awareness, we do appreciate that some of you may not have received the full message. Therefore, if you would like further information, please contact me, Sgt. Matt Paisley by email [matthew.paisley@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:matthew.paisley@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)*

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Councillor Bryn Hurren attended and discussed highlights and achievements for 2015/16. The Council tax had risen by 3.5% and they were managing with less staff. He stated service had reduced as a result, however, they were achieving a great deal including safety related services and waste collection. The Devolution deal was being considered. Cllr Hurren discussed other topics including the new homes bonus, planning changes, tourism, housing need, the Right to buy and the successful solar panel scheme. Locally the cricket pitch 106 grant had been secured. He spoke of the importance of local businesses and facilities and the need for better signage to support the businesses. His involvement at the Quay Theatre continues. Finally he mentioned local planning including contentious applications and was pleased with the outcome on Sand Hill to meet Local Needs.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Councillor James Finch attended and summarised achievements over the last 12 months. These included the freeze in Council Tax for 6

years in a row. He confirmed the exception to this was the National Adult Social Care Levy at 2% . In education, results were improving and Suffolk's Children's Services had been rated Good by Ofsted. Suffolk's better broadband program continues and finally a Devolution Deal had been offered.

**FINANCE:** The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer reported on the past years accounts showing expenditure at 61% of budget. The Grants given during the year were £1750 to the Church, £1472 for the Playing Field grass cutting, £3942 for the Village Hall Stage, £671 as 50% contribution for Fen Street flood improvements and £50 for the power costs of running the community defibrillator on the wall of The Fleece. Monies continue to be set aside towards future Burials and Street Lighting. The 1st phase of the LED lantern upgrades had been completed at Homefield, Running Waters, The Causeway, Ash Street and Daking Avenue. Around £12000 of further work had been authorised at Boxford Lane, Butchers Lane, Cox Hill, Fen Street, School Hill and Stone Street. Some remaining lights in the centre of the village were not to be upgraded.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman delivered the attached report. He outlined key achievements during the year and thanked his colleagues on the Council for all their support. He spoke of the various village organisations and businesses that enhance village life.

**REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:** Reports were given by the Community Council, Playing Fields, 3PR, on Primrose Wood and the Boxford Community Car Scheme. 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.

**ELECTORS QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:** Questions were brought relating to roadworks on School Hill, drainage issues arising from Goodlands, poor quality pot-hole repair, signage for Primrose Wood and Local shops signage from the A1071.

At the end of the meeting, E Kench proposed on behalf of the meeting a vote of thanks to the Parish Council and Village Organisations for making the Village a most desirable place to live. .

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.**