

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 4th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

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

APOLOGIES: None were received

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 6th JUNE 2016: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Items raised included the state of the roads and pavements on Daking Avenue which have been reported to County Highways. A limited amount of patching has been done which is not comprehensive enough. A neighbour attended to hand a copy of a letter from her representatives to Babergh Planning in respect of the proposed amendments at Riddelsdell Garage.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: County Councillor J Finch confirmed he would investigate the surfacing issues.

POLICE REPORT: No report was provided.

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

➤ **Devolution- Update**

All councils and both LEP Boards debated the Deal at Full Council meetings during the last week of June. All Suffolk Councils voted in favour. Four District Councils in Norfolk voted against. Devolution is still moving forward and it will be up to the Secretary of State to decide what impact the Norfolk Councils will have on the deal.

Formal consultation on the proposed powers (Governance) of the Mayor and Combined Authority will be carried out during **July** and **August**. The outcome of the consultation will be submitted to the government in early September, with a further meeting of the full council to be held by the end of October to consider giving consent to the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the two counties. The details of the consultation questions are still being drafted by Council Leaders and Government.

The highlights of the Deal which Councils voted on are:

- ! A single pot of £25m a year of new money for the next 30 years (£750m) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs. 40% of the 'single pot' will be revenue, which can support capital borrowing

- ! £100m, over five years, of new money to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk. Recognising the housing market conditions in Norwich and Ipswich, Government will also provide the Combined Authority with an additional £30m over five years, split equally for Norwich City and Ipswich Borough, to meet its housing needs
- ! A guaranteed £225m transport budget for the next four years
- ! Control of an existing c£20m a year Adult skills funding to ensure the training offer matches the needs of local businesses and the local labour market
- ! Control of an existing c£2m Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE grant) to enable funding to better meet the needs of local Norfolk and Suffolk employers
- ! Greater control over who delivers transport services in Norfolk and Suffolk, and how they are delivered, rather than it being imposed on us by Central Government

Councils will need to agree the powers of the Mayors and combined authorities before the end of **October**. Before the end of **November** views from public consultation are reported to the Secretary of State for him to consider before creating combined authorities and putting in place arrangements for mayoral elections in May 2017

Following his report J Finch was questioned on the plans to widen the A14. He confirmed the junctions are the main issue. He confirmed devolution will give more authority to the region. Members took the opportunity to thank J Finch for organising the white lines on Broad Street to address an access issue for a resident. The graphics for brown signs for the by-pass were being considered.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: Cllr Bryn Hurren reported further financial planning at the District Council in light of the decision to leave the EU. Locally the Fleece is under new management. Station Field is proceeding at a pace and the 5 private houses have been sold. B Hurren was not involved with the detail, however, he was told all buyers had strong local connections. There is high demand for the Local Needs Housing. He has attended various meetings with the playing fields to assist with their projects. Following his report, concern was expressed at the lack of information of a Planning Event arranged by Babergh Council at the Village Hall. B Hurren will investigate this matter together with the upkeep of the triangle of land at Homefield mentioned at previous meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. It was agreed to give the go ahead in respect of the boundary between the School and Churchyard. R Balls agreed to take this forward.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 4th July 2016 were £24986.87 in the Community Account, £13331.76 in the Deposit Account and £39576.25 in the Reserve Account making a total of £77894.88. It was agreed to instruct Suffolk Tree Services to fell the Cemetery diseased oak in accordance with their quotation. The Clerk reported on the VAT position in relation to the two projects at the Playing Fields. The Parish Council will be unable to assist in respect of the purchasing of the sit on mower as it is being purchased from Playing Field

Management funds and they will derive a benefit, so it is not deemed to be a non-business activity under the VAT rules. In relation to the cricket wicket, the Clerk needs to make a phone call to the VAT office but this appears to fall within the rules subject to the Parish Council authorising the work and the Invoice being made out to the Parish Council. It was agreed to go ahead subject to confirmation from the VAT office. It was agreed to increase the Clerk's pay in accordance with the slight increase to the National Pay Scale.

The following payments were approved: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	D K Hattrell	832.08	Clerk's Salary
Funds Tr	Inland Revenue Only	45.50	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
Funds Tr	SCC – Pension ACC	261.10	Clerk's Pension
Funds Tr	Ken Grime & Son	504.00	Bell Ho Electrics
Funds Tr	M A Crighton	210.00	Cemetery and Causeway
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	180.00	Sweeping/litter

CEMETERY: SMI meeting with Pete Irving to look at the overhanging sycamore trees with a view to pollarding/cutting back. ((SMI met the tree surgeon and a quote has been received for £2680 to include work on 4 trees. A second quote will be required. New grave markers are required and it was suggested that the clerk contacts Hadeigh Town Council who run the Hadleigh cemetery. Fence being supported by posts: SMI spoke with Michael Gray and he reported that the fence was being replaced. **Action Clerk**

SALC: It was agreed that we would attend on a Rota basis and DTB agreed to attend the next meeting on 4 September. (This may be an issue as a number of members will be away and unable to attend the Parish meeting and therefore there may not be a quorum).

NEW STANDING ORDERS: DTC and RB suggest that we adopt. DTC went through the document and the following was agreed.

1t - 3 minutes

Public Participation - 3.g: **3 minutes/person** 3f: Total participation **15 minutes**. This could be amended for important issues of concern.

3w: Meeting should not exceed 2.5 hours. Extra meeting i.e Planning 45 minutes.

Section 4: Committees and Sub-committees. Proposed 42-53 in present orders to be added as an Appendix.

Section 5c: Annual Parish Meeting start time 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

Section 9: Notification of meeting and agenda (as now - is this 7 days?) If not properly noted the item has to re-submitted with 7 days notice.

15b.3 If an items is to be cancelled from the agenda 3 days notice must be given.

Financial: 18c - formal tender required if amount is likely to exceed £500.

Financial Regulations: 1.1.4: All grants must be agreed at council.

4: Budget Control. Full council for all items.

4.4: Salary reviews, other than clerk, to be reviewed in April (if pertinent)

4.5: Clerks Emergency Spending: £500

4.8 Financial Reporting at least quarterly and variant **MUST** be reported if over.

David Talbot Clarke would go through the remaining orders and pick out relevant alterations and send to SMI/clerk. **Action David Talbot Clarke**

BABERGH ALLIANCE: RB attended the meeting at Pinewood, Ipswich. Aims of the group are

1. Share relevant issues of mutual concern.

2. Provide advice and support to councils in the Alliance.

RB suggests we maintain a loose connection until RB/SG feel comfortable with joining.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: School Hill pathway needs clearing. RB reported that he had dealt with drains. JM is concerned that no businesses in Boxford have wheelchair access. At the Jubilee Gardens Martin Crighton agreed to carry out one cut (this has been done) . Need to find someone else to do this on a regular basis. (SMI may have this covered - to discuss at next meeting
Parking in Broad Street is excessive and is believed to be aggravated by the Bowls Club. A letter to the Bowls Club was agreed asking them, nicely, if they could use the playing field car park and walk down to the club to relieve pressure in the village.

Action Clerk

The meeting closed at **10.00** p.m.

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 4th July 2016

The following decisions were advised by the Planning Authority: -

1) Permission had been granted for a single storey rear extension at 48 Daking Avenue - **B/16/00623**

2) Work can proceed to fell a hawthorn tree at 8 Fen Street - **B/16/00703**

The following applications were discussed: -

A) **SCC/0132/16** - Application for a 4th clamp at the Anaerobic Digester plant at Boxford Suffolk Farms. **No Objections**

B) **B/16/00787** - Erection of single storey rear extension at 32 Homefield. **No Objections.**

C) **B/16/00812** - Application for Listed Building Consent for replacement windows at 3 Swan Street. **No Objections.**

D) **B/16/00479** - Amendments to garage and workshop with associated office/storage space at Riddelsdell Brothers, 4 Ellis Street. It was agreed to continue to object to the proposals as the amendments have not addressed the Parish Council's concerns. Although the height has been reduced, it is still two storey.

