

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 5th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), R Balls, C Hughes, S Impett, D Waspe, D Talbot Clarke, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public (V Strafford).

APOLOGIES: A Sargeant.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBER: Members invited Vince Strafford to be coopted onto the Council following an interview process at the end of the last Parish Council Meeting. Vince Strafford confirmed his willingness to join the Parish Council and joined the meeting and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form. The Resignation of John Moles was noted and a further vacancy exists. The District Council has been informed and following the required notice period, an election may be called or otherwise the Parish Council will be free to co-opt a further member.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 21st NOVEMBER 2016: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Nothing was raised.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: Not applicable.

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

➤ **Suffolk County Council commits to pursuing principles of devolution further**

At its full council meeting on Thursday 24th November, Suffolk County Council voted to support a number of recommendations towards looking at the potential for a future devolution deal for Suffolk. The vote was 57 in favour and there were 7 abstentions. The full recommendations discussed and agreed were as follows:

This Council agrees:

1. To reiterate the commitment given previously by the Council to devolution as a means of delivering accelerated growth in the local and national economy and of helping local people and places to fulfil their potential;
2. To authorise the Leader and Chief Executive to:
 - a) seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the Government's intentions in relation to devolution
 - b) work with Government and local partners to agree an alternative devolution deal as soon as possible
3. That further reports are presented to the Council and Cabinet, as appropriate, as the devolution process progresses.

All seven other local authorities in Suffolk have voted on these recommendations – namely Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St Edmundsbury, Babergh, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils have all agreed these principles.

➤ **Your chance to have your say in budget setting process**

People in Suffolk are being asked to share their views on what matters most to them to inform the budget setting process.

As grant funding from central government continues to reduce, Suffolk County Council is required to make savings of **more than £46million in 2017/18**, followed by further savings in the years after. This means the council needs to look at where it should prioritise spending and how it can make savings across the services it provides.

As part of the public engagement, people are being asked where they think Suffolk County Council should prioritise spending. The survey closes on 30 December 2016 and the budget report will be considered by the Suffolk County Council Cabinet on 24th January 2017, who will make recommendations to Full Council on 9th February 2017.

To have your say, visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/budgetsurvey2017

➤ **Help for Family carers**

Suffolk County Council has released a new video and booklet giving an insight into what it means to be a carer.

The Council and Suffolk Artlink have worked in partnership to produce the video and booklet which bring together the stories of carers living in Suffolk. Carers have shared their advice and experiences of the carer's assessment process, their ways of coping and how this role has changed their lives.

A carer is anyone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who cannot manage without help. This can be due to illness, frailty, mental health need, substance misuse or disability.

The aim of the video and booklet, 'Talking Care' is to help further inform people about the carer's assessment and what the assessment could mean for them.

Anyone who provides unpaid care can ask for a carer's assessment from Suffolk County Council as long as the person you care for lives in Suffolk. A joint assessment for you and the person you care for can also be carried out.

To request a carer's assessment, contact Customer First by telephone on 0808 800 4005 or by email at customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk

More information can be found on our website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-you-and-others/what-is-a-carer/carers-assessment/>

➤ **Wash Lane, Boxford**

I am aware that due to a high level of traffic using this lane for the flooding works at the bridge, the road is very dirty. The Highways team have been made aware of this and will attend to this at the conclusion of these works.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: Cllr Bryn Hurren reported on the developments regarding Devolution which is evolving including talks with North Essex. Attention has been given to budget which is very challenging. The grant will end completely in 2020, so various income sources are essential. The potential to influence further housing was mentioned through a Neighbourhood Plan. There is constant pressure to build houses currently. B Hurren agreed to chase the progress towards the footpath surface improvement near Station Field. The fence at the top of the bank at Homefield has been repaired. Members of the Parish Council expressed concern that the Garage Plans have been passed and of the wording used.

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 leave the Parish Council lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve - **Action Clerk to confirm to the County Council.**

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 5th December 2016 were £24876.72 in the Community Account, £13335.08 in the Deposit Account and £41101.24 in the Reserve Account making a total of £79313.04. It was agreed to add the contribution towards the insurance costs of the Church to the Agenda for the January Meeting - **Action Clerk.** The Precept calculation was discussed and the principle of a Standstill Precept as far as residents are concerned with a 1% increase was proposed by S Impett. This was seconded by D Talbot Clarke and unanimously carried. Members thanked the Chairman for organising the Christmas tree for the Churchyard.

The following payments were approved: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	D K Hattrell	882.44	Clerk's Salary
Funds Tr	Inland Revenue Only	62.98	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
Funds Tr	SCC – Pension ACC	281.90	Clerk's Pension
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	180.00	Sweeping
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	200.00	Contr. towards Charity Dance
Funds Tr	J Fincham-Jacques	75.50	Christmas tree expenses

An extension to 10.00 p.m. was agreed to complete the meeting.

CEMETERY: S Impett reported on the meeting in the Churchyard where A Sargeant attended on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed to investigate the responsibility for the path which was installed by the District Council and also the boundary wall. The terms of the transfer of responsibility of Churchyard maintenance needs to be examined to determine whose responsible for the maintenance of the boundary wall - **Action Clerk.** A memorial application for the late Joan Knewell was duly approved. The Churchwardens have reported the Church Clock timing being out by 20 minutes weekly instead of 10. It was agreed for the Clerk to telephone M Nutt - **Action Clerk.**

VILLAGE CAR PARK: This item was deferred to January - **Action Clerk.**

RESERVING POLICIES: This item was deferred to January - **Action Clerk.**

STREET LIGHT FOR SAND HILL: This item was deferred to January - **Action Clerk.** However it was noted that all the lights at Station Field were still on all the time and it was agreed to report to County Street Lighting - **Action Clerk.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: The Chairman agreed to follow up with B Hurren about a quote for the Bus Shelter - **Action Chairman.** The Clerk confirmed she had checked with the County Council about the outstanding street lighting upgrades and this was being followed up in respect of the Stone Street lights.

The meeting closed at **9.57 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 5th December 2016

The following decisions were advised by the Planning Authority: -

1) Permission had been granted for garage and workshop at Riddelsdell Brothers, 4 Ellis Street - **B/16/00479/FUL/SAS**

It was agreed to write to the Head of Planning out-lining concerns - Action Clerk.

2) Work can proceed to reduce silver maple at 4 Butchers Lane - **B/16/01489/TCA**

3) Permission had been granted to replace conservatory roof and cladding at 47 Daking Avenue - **B/16/01234/FUL**

4) Work can proceed to fell apple tree and crown reduce ash at Greenbank, Ellis Street - **B/16/1409/TCA**

5) Work can proceed to crown reduce walnut tree at 28 Cox Hill - **B/16/01175/TCA**

The following applications were discussed: -

A) **B/16/01571** - Application for Listed Building Consent for internal alterations, insertion of rooflight and window and removal of outbuilding at 24 Ellis Street. **No Objections**

B) **B/16/01613** - Notification under Part 6 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 - Erection of agricultural storage building at land to the east of White Street Green, Polstead. **No Objections.**