

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 7th January 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Bell House, Stone Street Road, Boxford.

**PRESENT:** J Fincham-Jacques, M Wooderson, V Strafford, R Balls, A Sargeant, H Phillips, D Hattrell (Clerk), B Hurren (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 3 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** P Wallis

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

**MINUTES OF 3RD DECEMBER 2018:** Accepted as correct.

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

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:** The Church has confirmed we can proceed with the Tree work in the Churchyard. Ourselves or the Tree Surgeon just needs to apply for Conservation Area Consent. They have also agreed in principle to the Memorial tree subject to a more suitable location being agreed, they will contact the family. On other matters, the car being driven along the croft was raised again and that cars park too close to the Bus Shelter. At Goodlands, the question of the footpath to Primrose Wood was raised as that was part of the original permission. An enquiry was made regarding checking the progress of the Cygnet Court build. Issues still arise from youths using the Bus Shelter as a meeting place and littering. Finally a resident spoke favourably about supporting the pub planning application to bring the lost facilities back to the village.

**REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC:** B Hurren agreed to chase up the Primrose Wood footpath issue raised. V Strafford spoke of encouraging discussions with the Sudbury Community Wardens. They should be able to help with various issues around the Village. It was agreed to invite them to a Parish Council Meeting to discuss what they have to offer - **Action V Strafford.**

**COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr James Finch attended and reported that the options report to relieve Sudbury road congestion was published on 5th December 2018. A list of suitable schemes to improve junctions will be drawn up. The County Council is considering removing its grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau by phasing it out over a couple of years. It was reported that the Sport and Physical Activity sector is worth £270m a year to the Suffolk Economy. Cllr Finch is arranging drop in sessions in the vicinity to provide information to potential Foster Carers. On local matters, he confirmed he was following through the drainage at the croft and the lining to prevent parking too close to the bus shelter. Following his report, concern and questioning followed in relation to the reduction in funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr Bryn Hurren attended and confirmed following the late receipt of information from Central Government, budget is being worked upon. The increase is likely to be at 3% to residents. Further recycling is encouraged to avoid unnecessary expenditure on landfill tax. With elections coming up, communications are restricted in the period of purdah. On local issues, he attended Cecil's funeral which was a sad but good occasion and well supported. He was supportive of the comments made in the public section in respect of improvements to the White Hart to help with the re-opening of this village facility. He continues to monitor the work at the old Homefield flats. The bottlebanks are in place at their new location.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** V Strafford reported on a 25% return rate and that most of the analysis had been completed. New volunteers had come forward and he intended to clarify with them their understanding in this regard - **Action V Strafford**.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and members had noted the on-going progress of each item. H Phillips updated the Parish Council on the Allotment Allocation complaint. Whilst no vacancies exist currently, some may arise soon. He continues to pursue the case.

**STREET CLEANING PRIORITIES:** Some concerning matters had been observed in relation to the Street Cleaning specific to leaf blowing. It was agreed for M Wooderson to draft a suitable communication to our contractors to seek explanations and consider whether changes are needed - **Action M Wooderson**. Other options will also be considered for future contracts.

**NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES FOR BOXFORD & GROTON UNITED CHARITIES:** Following a letter from Boxford and Groton United Charities on 17th November 2018, M Wooderson proposed to nominate the following to act, or to continue to act, as Trustees, for a period of 3 years from July 2018: -

Dr John Flather

Mr Victor Rice

Mr Michael Norman

Mr Guy Godfray

This was seconded by R Balls and unanimously carried.

**FINANCE:** The Bank balances as at 7th January 2018 were £33033.43 in the Community Account, £13364.04 in the Deposit Account and £48776.71 in the Reserve Account making a total of £95174.18.

The following payments were approved: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Funds Tr	D K Hattrell	846.23	Clerk's Salary
Funds Tr	Inland Revenue Only	47.98	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
Funds Tr	SCC Pension ACC	278.74	Clerk's Pension
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	216.00	Sweeping&treatingCemetery path
Funds Tr	R K Balls	56.88	Salt & Christmas Tree

The Precept form was duly completed and signed in accordance with the Precept of £38020 agreed at the December Meeting.

**CEMETERY:** A Sargeant confirmed he carried out the Risk Assessment in the Churchyard and Cemetery resulting in 3 memorial stones requiring laying down for safety reasons. No other hazards were identified.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** R Balls will attend to the salt boxes. It was agreed to include an Agenda item for next meeting of "Village Hall Roof Repairs Project" - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to ask P Wallis for the Tree Surgeon details to enable us to make contact directly.

**Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.**

**Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 7th January 2019**

**The following Decisions were advised from the Planning Authorities: -**

A) **30 Stone Street DC/18/02462** - Outline Application for new dwelling - Permission was Refused

B) **Clayfield Farm, Hadleigh Road DC/18/04875** - Planning Permission had been granted for single storey dwelling to serve agricultural business.

C) **Chequers, 7 Church Street DC/18/03131** - Condition 4 - Requirement for Inspection had been approved.

D) **15 Homefield DC/18/4775** - Condition 4 (Surface water discharge prevention) and Condition 8 (Refuse and Recycling Bins) were approved.

**The following were discussed: -**

1) **White Hart, Broad Street - DC/18/05386/87** - Planning & Listed Building Application for single storey rear extension, removal of timber stair enclosure, erection of external stair and associated access door plus concrete hard standing and removal of infill brick plinth, door and window. The Parish Council strongly recommend approval.

2) **Other Planning matters** - Short notice has been given of a public consultation in the Village Hall by Catesby Homes and the numbers of properties are higher than the Parish Council was led to believe. Further information had been requested. The Parish Council were invited to attend ahead of the public on the day. Further enquiries are being made about the use of the land behind Bell House. Interested parties are being contacted and enquiries are being made about the cost of providing and running a Village Car Park. A question was raised about whether the land is suitable for development as a car park in view of flood defenses and whether pre-application advice had been sought from the Planning Authority.