

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom Video Meeting.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), S Mattocks, M Wooderson, D Hattrell (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: A Sargeant (Vice Chairman), P Wallis, J Finch and B Hurren (District Cllr).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 1ST JUNE 2020: Accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: A progress report was requested in relation to the maintenance of the Churchyard wall. It was confirmed that the white lining on the road has been approved and once applied, the maintenance can be progressed. Following the Daking Avenue resurfacing, the yellow lines will require painting.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: In relation to the repainting of the yellow lines at Daking Avenue, it was agreed to seek assistance from J Finch if the lining doesn't appear in due course following the works.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch had sent apologies. His report out-lined Covid-19 related news including the critical test and trace. People undertaking journeys on buses are being encouraged to travel at quieter times if they can. The temporary relaxation of concessionary travel rules will end shortly. The County Council's Renewable Energy Fund is open to eligible businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint through solar power. Virtual Events will take place on the subject of fostering and adoption as demand has increased significantly. He is pleased to report that the re-surfacing of Daking Avenue has now been completed and that it has been well received by residents.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren sent his apologies. His report out-lined that the priorities from Babergh District Council is to get services running again. The brown bin collection has resumed and recycling centres re-opened. During the lockdown fly tipping increased along with the volume of refuse waste and glass at the bottle banks. Planning continues and Committee Meetings have resumed which included the Decision to approve the Sand Hill development despite the strong objections including from the Parish Council. Parking Enforcement has now passed to the District Council. Their main focus has been the fight against Coronavirus and he praised the work at District, Parish and local volunteer level and front line workers. Unfortunately scams and fraud are on the increase currently, so in his report he urged vigilance.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 1st July were **£52822.50** in the Community Account, **£13399.01** in the Deposit Account and **£54363.57** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£120585.08**.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
<u>As at 1st July</u>			
Funds Tr	D K Hattrell	889.30	Clerk's Salary
Funds Tr	HM Revenue	39.43	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
Funds Tr	SCC - Pension ACC	278.39	Clerk's Pension
Funds Tr	M A Crighton	185.00	Cemetery Contract

Members then considered a contribution towards the Footpath Leaflets - which included contributions so far from the County Council of £400 and Boxford Society of £100. This leaves a shortfall of £300. Members were minded to support, however, had a question as to whether the scheme could attract sponsors from local businesses in response to advertising. It was agreed for the Clerk to enquire with the Footpath Warden - **Action Clerk**.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: There was nothing further to report at this stage as the Steering Group was due to meet that week. The Steering Group will need to consider their position following the disappointing Planning Committee Decision which did not give any weight to the Neighbourhood Plan in Boxford in view of its early stage.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. No response has been given from Flagship in relation to preventing the driving along the croft. No action points resulted.

CEMETERY: Administration and grave marking is on-going. Our representative for the Cemetery, A Sargeant, has agreed to review the sycamore trees in the Cemetery with a Tree Surgeon.

UPDATES FROM THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE: Consideration is being given by Village organisations to the government guidance on re-opening Community Buildings and Play Parks. The Playground at the Playing Field has been re-opened with appropriate safety signage.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Members were reminded that the August Parish Council Meeting only takes place if there is current Planning to consider. An extraordinary meeting may be required depending on developments with a potential legal challenge to the Sand Hill Planning Decision.

The meeting closed at **9.01 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council at Bell House, Boxford on Monday 6th July 2020

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

A) Planning permission has been refused at Homestead, Hadleigh Road for a dwelling and detached garage - **DC/19/04816** - this is due to insufficient ecological information. An assessment on bats would be required as there are plans to demolish the existing bungalow.

B) Consent has been granted to fell willow tree and replace with a feature tree at Ramree, Clubs Lane - **DC/20/02234** - In view of the condition of the tree, the Parish Council had **No Objection** to the felling. However, a comment was made that this was a magnificent tree in recent times and the reason for its sudden decline should be given. Obviously a replacement tree that should be equally magnificent in time is vital and the exact timing and specification for this should be made.

The following were discussed: -

1) Twelve, 12 The Causeway, Boxford. Application to reduce hornbeam by 40% - **DC/20/02301**. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline. There were **No Objections**.

2) Land At Orchard House, Roylands Lane, Boxford - **DC/20/02336** - Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved, access to be considered) for the erection of 1 single storey dwelling and garage. There were **No Objections**.

3) Riverhall, Ellis Street - **DC/20/02311**. Trees in Conservation Area application. There were **No Objections**.

4) The Sand Hill Development Approval was then discussed. The meeting was closed to allow others to contribute. The village objector who spoke at Planning Committee had followed up with some questions to the Monitoring Officer. Members commented that the lack of face to face or even video contributions was a disadvantage compared to previous Committee procedures. A brochure provided by Catesby, the applicants, to the Planning Committee Members was discussed. Concerns were expressed that the Planning Officer demonstrated undue support to the scheme, the Planning Committee demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the Planning Policy team position and too readily dismissed their own relevant policies despite having adequate land supply. Consideration of a Community Building became central to discussion by the Planning Committee where the application only includes an allocation of land for such a Building (not a demonstration of need nor the funds to construct and manage a building).

The merits of other local Appeals were then discussed whilst the meeting was still closed. These included those at East Bergholt and Long Melford. .

The meeting re-opened and S Mattocks proposed that this Council seek legal advice on the merits of a Judicial Review to challenge the Planning Decision with costs up to the region of £5,000 to secure the opinion. This was seconded by M Wooderson and unanimously carried. We had already contacted B Hurren to see if the District Council could be asked to provide the meeting transcript. It was agreed for the Chairman to seek quotations for the legal work and others in the meeting will feed information into that process - **Action Chairman**. It was agreed to also seek information from East Bergholt Parish Council in relation to their legal challenge - **Action Clerk**.