

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom Video Meeting.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), T Munson, P Edwards, M Wooderson, D Warren, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) and 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: A Sargeant (Vice Chairman) had previously sent his apologies for not attending video conference meetings for medical reasons and this has been accepted. C Britton had sent apologies. District Cllr B Hurren had planned to attend, however, was delayed at another meeting and emailed his apologies during the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Nothing was declared.

MINUTES OF 26TH JANUARY 2021: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: The handrail proposal leading to the Cemetery entrance gate was chased. It was reported that the Church Clock has stopped again. The condition of the Playing Field car park was raised.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: The Cemetery was to be discussed later in the meeting. The Clerk will contact our clock contractor - **Action Clerk**. H Philips reported on the project already underway with the Playing Field Management Committee in relation to the Car Park and options to improve or expand it.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on the continued focus on Covid 19 with the rapid increase in cases at the beginning of the year reversed and substantial progress made with the Vaccination program. The message was to continue to stick rigidly to the guidance to protect the NHS and save lives. Locally volunteers were thanked for helping support the vaccinations. More rapid testing centres are opening including at The Stevenson Centre in Great Cornard, Nayland Fire Station and the United Reform Church in Hadleigh. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service was praised for its work throughout the pandemic. The County Council is concerned by recommendations for new pylon lines in Suffolk. The County Council has completed the sale of Chilton Woods land for the development of 1150 new homes by Taylor Wimpey, a quarter of which will be affordable for rent or shared ownership. The 2021 Census is to go ahead in mostly digital form. Further virtual fostering and adoption sessions are taking place. Following his report, J Finch was questioned about the Chilton Woods development, the delay with yellow lines at Daking Avenue, the poor surface of Brook Hall Road and road damage caused during the on-going development at Boxwood Hall. In relation to the latter point, J Finch will follow up once the development is completed. He agreed to chase again for the yellow lines which have been delayed considerably since the surfacing and any poor road surface and pot holes should be reported on the Highways Reporting tool in the first instance.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren was unable to attend however had provided a report in advance covering that the 2021 Census is now upon us with publicity and information appearing daily in the media. Although the main operation is government

sponsored, it will be down to local district councils to see that the questionnaires are completed including home visits to those who forget. Despite the vast majority of concerned stakeholders advising that local elections should be delayed, the Local and PCC elections will be held on 6th May. For those that feel unsafe to visit a Polling booth, it is advised to apply for a postal ballot. These elections are important as they will elect our County Council representatives for the next four years as well as County Police Chiefs. The matter of car parking charges is nearing completion with an agreement that the free period will be cut to one hour. This should allow for car parking options at the local shopping centres and provide a possible increase of revenue to enable the District Council to pay the Business rates. B Hurren confirmed much of his time has been taken up this past month with the latest application for 6 dwellings on land south of Daking Avenue.

The general feeling at Babergh Council is quite positive with the workforce having come through a difficult period in a positive way and are looking forward to a calmer and brighter future. Having said that there has been unrest between groups of Councillors and concerns about general decision making and publicity. With regard to his locality budget, unless he gets last minute ideas he intends to divide it between a grant for better access down to Primrose Wood and a grant to keep our newsletter solvent during some rather difficult times.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 1st February 2021 were **£47144.22** in the Community Account, **£13401.19** in the Deposit Account and **£56493.46** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£117,038.87**.

Consideration was given to the Service Level Agreement for Street Cleaning with the Community Wardens for 2021/22. It was resolved to sign and return the agreement - **Action Clerk**. The Chairman had discussed the Locality funds with B Hurren between meetings and he explained how B Hurren was intending to use these funds. It was agreed to include the May printing costs for Box River News as an Agenda item for the March Meeting with a suggestion that they also approach the other Parishes represented - **Action Clerk and Chairman**.

The following pre-agreed payments for January were made: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
<u>As at January</u>			
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1263.54	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	Teacher Stern	9047.00	Legal Costs
Funds Tr	Sudbury Town Council	869.94	Street Clean Contract
Funds Tr	Vertas Group	556.97	Playingfield Grass Contr
Funds Tr	Topline Pest Control	30.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	72.00	Clear moss cemetery path

The bank authorisation card had finally reached the Chairman, so on-line payments have now resumed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: H Phillips (joint Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group) attended and reported that the consultation on the emerging policy ideas had taken place. The positive feedback received led to further engagement. The Neighbourhood Plan is in the drafting stage and various action points are feeding into the process. Other actions may come later. Liaison is happening with the District Council to avoid clashes. Public presentation events are planned for 8th and 10th July in the Village Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. Members were supportive of an approach from a family member to erect a memorial bench. As the suggestion was on or around the Playing Fields, H Philips agreed to investigate a suitable location. The Clerk agreed to forward relevant details to him - **Action Clerk.**

CEMETERY: It was noted the Village Hall have approached us to assist in reducing or removing trees which are close to the Hall. Details were passed to our Cemetery Representative. In order to give further support to Cemetery matters, P Edwards volunteered to join A Sargeant on the Cemetery Sub Committee. This was agreed and the Clerk will email relevant information to both A Sargeant and P Edwards - **Action Clerk.** P Edwards was happy to follow up on the handrail project for the entrance gate to the Cemetery.

UPDATES FROM THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE: The Chairman and Clerk have made contact again with the Community Response and no further financial support was needed at this stage.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Members and the Chairman firstly expressed their sadness at the loss of Eddie Kench. He will be sadly missed. His contributions over the years to the village including Box River News and wider village life were substantial and thoughts are with his family. On a separate subject, H Philips had confirmed that the Constitution of the Playing Field Management Committee gives the right to Village Organisations including the Parish Council to appoint a member to the Committee. Their AGM is being held in April. It was agreed to include this as a March Agenda item - **Action Clerk.**

The meeting closed at **9.00 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council by Video Conferencing on Tuesday 23rd February 2021

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

A) Reserved matters had been approved for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for detached dwelling and detached garage on the site of former Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery -

DC/20/05690

- B) Listed Building Consent had been granted for renovations and repairs to external and internal walls and ceilings including additional partition wall to living room at 30 Swan Street - **DC/20/05025**
- C) Approved discharge of conditions under mitigation had been made at the site of former Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery - **DC/21/00430**
- D) Planning Permission had been granted for single storey rear extensions and part conversion of garage into gym at 17 Goodlands - **DC/20/05733**

The following were discussed: -

- 1) 3 The Causeway** - Application for planning permission for first floor extension (re-submission of expired approval B/14/01461) - **DC/21/00840**. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

- 2) The Old Manse, 63 Swan Street** - Application for Listed Building Consent for the installation of air Source Heat Pump to outbuilding - **DC/21/00832**. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

- 3) Twelve, 12 The Causeway** - Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - **DC/21/00927**. Members had **No Objections** subject to the Tree Wardens inspection and recommendations.

- 4) Any other urgent planning matters:** The Chairman gave an update on the Sand Hill Legal Challenge confirming correspondence was on-going between our legal advisers and those acting for Babergh District Council. On another subject, T Munson is researching green planning matters and will report back in due course.