

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Boxford Village Hall and also by Zoom Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), P Edwards, T Munson, D Warren, B Hurren (District Cllr) and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: were received from M Wooderson and L Wortley. D Hattrell (Clerk) also sent apologies and attended by Video link. J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: D Warren reminded the meeting his property is nearby the proposed Sand Hill Development.

MINUTES OF 23RD NOVEMBER 2021: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident questioned about the Cemetery and Churchyard gates. Work is on-going and a meeting was to be arranged. A volunteer has agreed to decorate the bus shelter. The standard of street cleaning was raised and T Munson reminded Councillors to let her know priorities ahead of the contractors weekly visits. The condition of the telephone box was being reported. Representatives who are starting the Friendship Group attended to update the Parish Council. An Agenda item was agreed to consider contributing £175 for hire/publicity/refreshments to help with the start up. A representative from the school governors shared concerns about the boundary wall between the school and churchyard. It is too low in relation to school regulations. He agreed to contact the County Council in the first instance. Finally the school swimming pool needs refurbishment and he was looking for support towards surveyors costs of around £2.5k. The intention is to make it a community pool. A suggestion was made of approaching the Community Council. The Clerk will check whether the Parish Council are permitted to contribute to such a school project.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: It was resolved to add a Finance Agenda item to the February Meeting of "Boxford Friendship Group donation" - **Action Clerk**. The School Governors are seeking help with professional fees to determine the best approach to the renovation of the swimming pool facility. It was agreed to seek their proposal in writing and include as a Finance Agenda item at the February Meeting - "Professional fees in relation to the Swimming Pool Facility at the School" - **Action Clerk**. Meanwhile the Clerk will check with SALC any limitations of support to the School.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch had sent apologies but had circulated his report ahead of the meeting and confirmed he was following up the issues raised at last meeting. His report covered that the Bramford to Twinstead Pylon Consultation was open and will run until 21st March. Unfortunately the Public Meeting on the subject scheduled for 18th February has been postponed. He urged everyone to respond to the Consultation ahead of the deadline. He reported that Children's and Adult Car Services are at the heart of the County Council's new budget plans. In relation to COVID 19, thankfully the infection rates in Suffolk were beginning to reduce. Virtual fostering and adoption sessions continue.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported in relation to budget, the District Council are currently looking at an increase of 2% on their share of the

Council Tax for the 2022/23 year. Whilst they had made savings on travel and floor space at Endeavour House, the increased workload throughout the pandemic have increased costs. Babergh, like all other councils, get no direct funding from National Government anymore. Their Income is from council tax, new homes bonus, a percentage of new business rates, revenue from investments and the solar panel project along with charges from their services. Although the District Council collects the council tax for all of the authorities, they only keep about 8.5%. around 80% is allocated to the County Council, just over 9% to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the remaining 1.5% - 2% going to parish and town councils. Cllr Hurren would like to think that although not perfect, the district council respects the taxpayers money and spends wisely on the services they provide and at the end of each financial year it is audited to make sure that this is so. They also have a strict procurement policy and always ask for multiple tenders for work and use local traders and sources within the boundaries of Baberghmidsuffolk in the first instance and the wider Suffolk area after that.

They had returned to virtual meetings, due to the upsurge of the omicron strain of Coronavirus, but are now back to face to face meetings with some restrictions and sensible precautions.

However many staff and councillor meetings along with tenants and meetings with members of the public are still being held via Teams and Zoom. This does save money and hopefully they can soon cut down on our hired space at Endeavour House.

Their tree for life initiative to gift a tree to families to plant for a newborn child to grow up with and cherish, has gone well again this year and he understands has exceeded the numbers given out last year, this supports their green initiative and hopefully will make the next generation aware of the value and frailty of our planet and eco system and protect it into the future.

Finally on Planning, Cllr Hurren confirmed that we still have a serious planning application to handle and resolve and also a planning appeal at Goodlands Farm to address, along with the horrendous parking transgressions throughout the village and he intends to address them firmly. Also the dreadful housing issues in our general needs housing that he stated have become such a blight throughout our community and on other peoples and neighbours lives.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 5th January 2022 were **£49970.08** in the Community Account, **£13402.51** in the Deposit Account and **£59832.20** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£123204.79**.

The following pre-agreed payments for November and December were made: -

November:-

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1235.75	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	PKF Littlejohn LLP	360.00	External Audit Fee
Funds Tr	James Dowd	320.00	Church Clock
Funds Tr	M A Crighton	185.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	UK Safety Mgmt	132.23	Electric & socket tests - Bell Ho
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	42.00	Cemetery path treatment
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	34.50	Hall hire

December: -

Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1229.45	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts	84.00	Cemetery path treatment

The Finance Sub Committee Minutes and Precept working sheet had been circulated to the Parish Council in good time ahead of the Meeting. The Parish Council considered the recommendations made.

It was resolved to increase the Precept by 1.9% (cost to residents) at £41247 for the 2022/23 year. T Munson spoke in favour of setting aside funds for the Playing Field as suggested by the Playing Field Management Committee and recommended by our Finance Sub Committee. In relation to the Playing Field long term reserves, it was resolved that this Parish Council aspires to reserve £5000 per year subject to an annual review and receipt of audited accounts from the Playing Field Management Committee.

The Precept form was duly signed for submission to Babergh District Council.

Consideration was given to making a donation towards Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. It was resolved to contribute £100 - **Action Clerk.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group had attended a Video Conference Working Party Meeting on 18th January. The Chairman was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. However, L Wortley, P Edwards, T Munson, D Warren and the Clerk were present from the Parish Council. They were joined by H Phillips and D Burden (Joint Chairs of the Steering Group), A Long (Planning Consultant), A Good and R Loose from the Steering Group. All the documentation had been issued to the Parish Council in good time ahead of the Meeting and full explanations were made and questions answered. The next steps were out-lined subject to official approval by the Parish Council at this Parish Council Meeting. Following submission to Babergh District Council, a further consultation is carried out followed by Independent Examination and then Referendum before incorporation into the Local Plan. Increasing weight is paid to the plan as it moves forward in these final stages.

The Parish Council voted unanimously to support the draft plan as presented for submission to Babergh District Council. H Phillips agreed to take this forward with the Planning Consultant.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. All matters were noted.

CEMETERY: P Edwards explained about instructing a professional to oversee the boundary wall to the Churchyard restoration. This will be from the tender process to gaining Church approval and completion of the work. The Parish Council agreed with this approach and authorised P Edwards to take this forward.

URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: T Munson reported that so far only limited responses have been gained to the notices in Box River News about Community Transport. D Warren confirmed the Village Hall are happy for SCOPE charity to proceed to install their clothes bank in place of the one at the Village Hall currently.

The meeting closed at **8.55 p.m.**

Planning Meeting Held by Boxford Parish Council in Boxford Village Hall and by Video Conferencing on Tuesday 25th January 2022

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

- A) The Planning Authority had **No Objections** to the felling of sycamore at White Hart Inn, 11 Broad Street - **DC/21/05854**
- B) Listed Building Consent was granted to replace windows and doors and carry out internal alterations at 13 Swan Street - **DC/21/05520**
- C) The Planning Authority had **No Objections** to the Conservation Area tree pruning at 9 Broad Street - **DC/21/06370**
- D) Out-line Planning Permission **was Refused** at Land South of Hadleigh Road, Boxford as there were no exceptional circumstances for a new isolated home in the countryside and insufficient information about the flood risk or harm to heritage assets - **DC/21/05993**.
- E) Planning Permission **was granted** for 1.5 storey studio building at 30 Stone Street - **DC/21/06221**.
- F) Discharge of Conditions application for fenestration was approved at Mill House, 3 Church Street - **DC/21/06601**.
- G) The Planning Authority **did not wish to object** to the felling of some sycamore and ash trees at The Paddock, School Hill - **DC/21/06847**.
- H) Planning Permission had been **granted** for side extension and alterations at 13 Daking Avenue - **DC/21/06271**.

The following applications were discussed: -

- 1) Conservation Area tree application at 9 Broad Street - **DC/21/06370**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between Meetings.
- 2) Extensions and alterations at 13 Daking Avenue - **DC/21/06271**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between Meetings.
- 3) Studio building at 30 Stone Street - **DC/21/06221**. The Parish Council confirmed they had no reason to object to this application on planning grounds, however, did communicate some concerns to the Planning Authority that with any future application, there is a danger of over development of this site.
- 4) Reserved matters at site of former Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery - **DC/21/06513**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.
- 5) Entrance extension to garden studio at 22 Swan Street - **DC/21/06814**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.
- 6) Conservation Area tree application at The Paddock, School Hill - **DC/21/06847**. The Parish Council and Tree Warden had **No Objections** between meetings.
- 7) Planning and Listed Building applications for Swimming Pool at Kemball Ho, 22 Broad Street - **DC/21/06832/33**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.
- 8) Conservation Area tree application at Box River Ho, 1 Broad Street - **DC/22/00003**. The Parish Council and Tree Warden had **No Objections** between meetings.
- 9) Consideration was given to the application for close board boundary fence and access gates (retention of) at Old School House, School Hill - **DC/21/06968**. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.
- 10) Any other urgent planning matters: **Nothing was raised**.