

MINUTES of the MEETING of BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 28th June 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Boxford Village Hall.

PRESENT: J Fincham-Jacques (Chairman), L Wortley, P Edwards, T Munson, D Warren, J Moles, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), B Hurren (District Cllr) and 22 members of the public attended in person. There was no Video link at the meeting as we had no requests this time.

APOLOGIES: were received from M Wooderson.

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

MINUTES OF 24th MAY 2022: These were accepted as correct.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

RECLAIM THE RAIN PROJECT: County Cllr J Finch introduced the representatives for the Reclaim the Rain Project - Tom Mann and Ruby Shepperson. The idea is to reduce flooding problems and to make good use of the water collected or diverted. The project would engage with the community and work in partnership. From over 37 expressions of interest, Boxford was chosen along with 2 other sites in Suffolk and 3 in Norfolk. Ruby is the project manager. The first phase will involve publicity and engagement with the wider community. Delivery will start from 2023. Leaflets were handed out and questioning followed regarding the funding and involvement of the Environment Agency. The representatives explained about the expertise on their team, and where the project covered areas of the Environment Agencies responsibility, they will be fully involved. The Neighbourhood Planning Group referred to their investigation as part of the preparations for the Neighbourhood Plan and the project representatives were most interested to learn of this work. The scheme at Finchingfield was raised as Boxford Scouts had visited that scheme. There is also scope to include surrounding Villages such as Groton and Edwardstone. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the representatives for attending and T Munson for all her on-going hard work on behalf of the Parish Council with this project.

PUBLIC FORUM: Neighbours had attended to share their concerns regarding the Planning Application including Listed Building for the re-positioning of the boundary wall and changing vehicular access at 30 Stone Street. The points raised related to highways safety and heritage issues. There were also concerns that the required notices were not provided. This application was to be discussed under the Planning Agenda item later in the meeting. B Hurren was requesting the Planning Officer attends the site to fully appreciate the issues involved. Another resident explained that as mentioned at a previous meeting himself and other residents have carried out a survey of the Village identifying areas in need of attention. They had concerns regarding drainage and would like to see a schedule from County Highways in respect of clearance work. They also identified where the Village would benefit from a clean-up. The residents carrying out the survey volunteered to help as a working group to address some of these concerns. Members took the opportunity to thank the resident in this respect.

REVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC: All the items would be picked up under the various Agenda items.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and had provided his report in advance covering the East Anglia Green National Grid consultation and that fees were waived for road closures during the Jubilee. The priorities of the County Council were outlined at their Annual General Meeting. The County were supporting walk to school week and the 14th annual walking festival kicked off at Clare Castle Country Park. Suffolk Archives are inviting people to donate Platinum Jubilee souvenirs for a memory box. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. In response to the Public Forum item, J Finch confirmed that all the drainage projects were on the list and he would check progress regarding the requested speed surveys. T Munson suggested a walking bus could help School traffic congestion. The verge has been cut along the A1071 which is important for connectivity. L Wortley and B Hurren had been lobbying for some improvement in this respect.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr B Hurren attended and reported on the management of the road sweeping which is now in house at the District Council. He has been investigating the housing issues in Boxford which were gradually getting resolved. He confirmed, in the District, the threat of homelessness is at an all time high. He has asked for the grass bank on Swan Street near Homefield to be cut. The Sand Hill Plans were to go before Committee on 27th July. The District Council now has a new Cabinet. He had completed the work on the Church gates and suggested some preservative in the Autumn. He will attend to the Gunary Close noticeboard. J Moles questioned B Hurren about the housing issues and a nuisance tree on Homefield. There was discussion about the weight that will be paid to the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan at this advanced stage. B Hurren was to investigate further.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SUB-COMMITTEES: It was agreed to continue as before and review at next meeting as an Agenda item - **Action Clerk.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing well.

BUS SHELTER: Members were pleased with the decoration of the Bus Shelter and was thankful to Barry Rule for his hard work in this respect. The importance of keeping the shelter in good order was raised. It was agreed to take up the kind offer made by Colin Parr, resident, to organise working parties of volunteers. Members would like to see the full survey details he has undertaken and also to consider the proposals for the Bus Shelter which would need to involve investigation with the Babergh Heritage Team of what would be permitted - **Action Clerk to respond to C Parr.**

DOG POO BAG DISPENSER: It was agreed for T Munson to discuss the idea of installing a dog bag dispenser on the Playing Fields. The importance of also checking with the Community Wardens regarding the regular replenishment of the bags was noted.

FINANCE: The Bank balances as at 1st June 2022 were **£58209.54** in the Community Account, **£13402.84** in the Deposit Account and **£61348.69** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£132961.07**

The following pre-agreed payments for May: -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount	Details
Funds Tr	Employment Costs totalled	1260.42	Salary, ERS NIC & Pension
Funds Tr	Smith of Derby Ltd	3166.92	Clock Restoration
Funds Tr	BC Hurren	525.00	Church Gates
Funds Tr	M A Crighton	185.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	Boxford Village Hall	69.00	Hire
Funds Tr	Topline Pest Control	60.00	Cemetery Contract
Funds Tr	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	42.00	Cemetery Path

Appointment of Internal Auditors: Our details are currently with SALC for the Annual Internal Audit. Members noted that they were pleased with the quality and scope of audit provided by SALC and agreed to appoint them for a further year.

Review of Internal Controls: The Internal Controls document had been circulated ahead of the Meeting and members resolved this still meets our needs.

CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the Meeting. All matters were noted. A polite letter to Riddelsdell was agreed asking them not to park their tractor on the grass area opposite - **Action Clerk**.

CEMETERY: The Meeting was updated regarding the boundary wall and Church Clock. The request from a neighbour to consider thinning some of the trees and bushes in the Churchyard overshadowing her garden was not considered, so will be listed under the Cemetery Agenda item for the July Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

JUBILEE GARDEN MAINTENANCE (ENTRANCE TO THE CAUSEWAY): Enquiries would be made with the Village Gardening Society in the first instance.

URGENT REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:

L Wortley was pleased to report the Footpath leaflet project was now proceeding at a pace. Fly tipping of trees had been reported.

The meeting closed at **9.44 p.m.**

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

- A) The Planning Authority did not wish to Object to works to trees in Conservation Area at 14 Clubs Lane, Boxford - **DC/22/02557**.
- B) Non Material amendment in relation to the position of the dwelling and external facing materials was approved at the site of Former Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery - **DC/22/02559**.
- C) The Planning Authority did not wish to Object to the felling of cypress at Kiln Place, Cox Hill - **DC/22/02838**.
- D) The Planning Authority did not wish to Object to work to ash trees at 24 Stone Street - **DC/22/02846**.
- E) Planning Permission was granted for a dwelling at Unit 1 Hawthorn Business Park, Calais Street - **DC/22/02186**.

The following applications were discussed: -

- 1) Householder Application to extend 7 Boxford Lane - **DC/22/01950**. The Parish Council had No Objections, however, we asked the Planning Officer to ensure there will be no loss of amenity to the neighbouring property. This was considered between meetings to meet the deadline.
- 2) There were No Objections between meetings to the Conservation Area Tree Applications at Kiln Place, Cox Hill and 24 Stone Street. The Planning Decisions are listed above.
- 3) Householder Application for proposed storage shed and garage to rear at Kiln Place, Cox Hill - **DC/22/02765**. The Parish Council had No Objections between meetings.
- 4) Planning Application including Listed Building for repositioning of boundary wall and upgrading vehicular access at 30 Stone Street - **DC/22/02565 and 02979**.
Members voted unanimously **to Object** to this application. Neighbours had expressed concerns in the public forum and had also reported that consultation letters were not received by them as neighbours to the proposals. The Parish Council Objected both **on heritage and highways safety grounds**. The removal and repositioning of the ancient boundary wall would have an adverse impact on the history and appearance of the hamlet. The wall is within the curtilage of Listed Property and therefore should be protected. The proposed re-location would result in unjustified harm to the heritage assets at this location. The proposed entrance is close to the pinch point on a blind corner in both directions. The granting of this application would result in unacceptable harm to both highways and pedestrian safety. From local knowledge, the road here already has more traffic than it can cope with, so no further access should be granted.
- 5) Consider the application to extend Kiln Place Cox Hill - **DC/22/03032**. The Parish Council had No Objections subject to the Planning Officer being satisfied that these substantial extensions do not have an impact on neighbour amenity.
- 6) Any other urgent planning matters: A meeting was to be arranged to plan for the Sand Hill application Planning Committee Meeting - **Action All**.