

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING in BOXFORD** on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 7.45 p.m. at Village Hall, Boxford.

**PRESENT:** See attached list. The meeting was chaired by Julian Fincham-Jacques (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Debbie Hattrell (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) was also present. Around 23 parishioners including Councillors attended.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from V Strafford and D Talbot Clarke.

**MINUTES OF 9th May 2017:** The previous Minutes were proposed and accepted as a true record.

**POLICE REPORT:** PC Robert Sippitt attended and reported on crime trends in the area including Ram Raids and Theft of tools from vans. He confirmed the appointment of PC Jon Gerrish, an Engagement Officer for the Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team, who will become our contact point. Finally he confirmed how crime statistics can be accessed via the websites [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) and [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk). PC Sippitt was questioned on the lack of figures for on-line fraud, enforcement of parking issues and potential Police Surgeries in the Village.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Councillor Bryn Hurren attended and discussed matters from 2017/18. These included the Local Plan Consultation, pressure to build more houses, CIL - planning tax, the Boundary Review, Environmental schemes, budget, move to Endeavour House, the development of Corks Lane former HQ and that the merger considerations had been dropped. He spoke of his personal responsibilities on the Council and challenges in the Parish. He was questioned about recycling, house building targets, traffic issues in the village, the move to Endeavour House and the District Council Investment policy.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr James Finch attended and out-lined the financial priorities of the Council over the coming 4 years and the need to increase basic Council Tax by 2.99% and in addition 2% for the National Adult Social Care Precept. He highlighted the Councils work with vulnerable children, older people and maintaining our roads. Due to his personal circumstances, he needed to step down from his role of Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. He was slowly returning to his normal County Councillor duties as his health was improving.

**FINANCE:** The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer reported on the past years accounts. Following an increase to residents of 1% on the Precept and higher income from burials, overall expenditure came to 83% of budget. The Cemetery costs decreased compared to last year. The Fireworks were the same cost as the previous year and was funded by the Community Council from the proceeds of the event. On Street Lighting, the amount for power and maintenance decreased due to LED upgrades, however, the upgrade work remains incomplete and unbilled, so we have over £5000 outstanding which we are holding in reserves. Under Grants we resumed the Village Hall Grant this year. There was a break in paying this Grant due to the provision of the Village Hall Stage. Additionally we contributed towards a new Defibrillator for 3PR and towards the Event at the Playing Field celebrating 50 years. The reserves for capital expenditure on Street Lighting and future Burial Provision totalled £46,000. Following the Finance Report, the issue of improving foot access to Stone Street was raised and discussed.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman thanked Cllr Mathew Wooderson for his work opposing further Goodlands development on behalf of the village. He thanked all the volunteers for their work at the Bus Shelter. In relation to the development proposed by Hopkins Homes, the Parish Council has made it clear that support would not be given if safe pedestrian access is not provided to the centre of the Village. Approaches from developers were expected on a regular basis and the need for a Neighbourhood Plan was recognised. He was also pleased the Parish Council continues to support Village Organisations. The Chairman thanked all his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for all their support and hard work throughout the year.

**REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:** Reports were given by the Community Council, Playing Fields, Village Hall and the Gardening Society. Ward Baker, Chairman of the Community Council, out-lined the events that took place in another busy and successful year and thanked all the

helpers. David Burden, Chairman of the Playing Field Management Committee out-lined all the uses of this valued village facility. He also thanked local architect Paul Kirkham for producing the drawings for improvements to the Pavilion. He thanked his Committee and various other Village contacts who have helped with the Playing Field over the past year.

**ELECTORS QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:** The issue of visibility at the Stone Street junction and the support to retain the Village Postman were raised.

**The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.**