

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 11 MAY 2022 BOXTED VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Members – Councillors Steve Bays, Arabella Brentnall, James Collitt, Amin Dedhar, Jonathan Hunt, Angela Mclauchlan, and Jamie Seakens
Clerk – Karen Thompson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Several members of the public attended along with Cllr Chapman of Colchester Borough Council

22/82 Election of Chairman

Jamie Seakens was elected the uncontested Chair of Boxted Parish Council.

22/83 Receiving the Chairman's Acceptance of Office

The Acceptance of Office was signed and received.

22/84 Election of Vice-Chair

Jonathan Hunt was elected the uncontested Vice-chair of Boxted Parish Council.

22/85 Receiving the Vice-Chair's Acceptance of Office

The Acceptance of Office was signed and received.

22/86 Election of chairman of Hub Working Group and Village Hall Management Committee (currently Cllr Mclauchlan).

Arabella Brentnall will Chair the Hub Working Group and Angela Mclauchlan will act as chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

22/87 Apologies and reasons for absence

Cllrs Pugh had sent apologies which were accepted.

Cllr Barber (Essex County Council Division Councillor) was also absent.

22/88 Declaration of Interests - to receive any interests relating to items on the agenda.

Steve Bays declared an interest in Item 22/93 East Anglia GREEN Project as the proposed route may impinge his house/land. The Council resolved to permit Cllr Bays to participate in the agenda item.

22/89 Public Participation Session

Members of the public asked what the Councils plans were regarding the newly launched public consultation on the planned deployment of 400kV cables carried by 50m high pylons across East Anglia to take electricity generated from two offshore wind farms in the North Sea through East Anglia down to Tilbury. East Anglia GREEN Project. This is dealt with at Item 22/93.

As part of Mental Health Awareness, Week Roger Newnham talked about our local Essex Men's Shed in Boxted (Colchester North Men's Shed) and encouraged interested people to come along and see the people in the shed at work.

Residents were disappointed to see the reluctant approval of the planning application submitted by Colchester Borough Homes to build 7 dwellings on the former Garage site near Cross Cottages and asked who they should liaise with regarding issues before building starts. At present there are concerns regarding overgrown vegetation obscuring road/pedestrian visibility of the highway. Cllr Chapman said he would take the concerns to Colchester Borough Council.

22/90 Minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 13th April 2022.

Councillors are asked to agree the draft minutes of the last meeting as a true and accurate account of the proceedings.

Councillors resolved to agree the minutes of the last meeting.

22/91 Borough and County Council

To receive the reports of the District Councillor and the County Councillor.

Cllr Chapman spoke about the recent local elections which sees Colchester Council under 'no overall control'.

He added that Cllr Lewis Barber has been appointed deputy cabinet member to Cllr Lee Scott at Essex Highways with a brief to focus on sustainable transport.

22/92 Planning Applications

.1 To consider commenting on the following applications and noting the decisions made:

221057	27/04/2022	21 Straight Road, Boxted Colchester CO4 5HJ	Erection of an agricultural building
------------------------	------------	--	--------------------------------------

The Council did not object to the above application. It was resolved to seek that hedging and trees be preserved and improved to minimise the risk to Boxted Neighbourhood Plan SM1 concerning visual amenity and noise pollution.

The Council also resolved to request sensitive lighting conditions in line with the Dedham Vale Clear Skies Project.

221011	22/04/2022	The Haven, Dedham Road, Boxted Colchester CO4 5SG	Garden Annexe
------------------------	------------	--	---------------

The Council did not object to the above application. This is an Annex intended for family occupation and therefore the Council resolved to request conditions to be set prohibiting independent sale of the Annex, independent let of the Annex and business operation from the Annex.

220981	19/04/2022	Songers, Cage Lane, Boxted Colchester CO4 5RE	Demolition of existing prefab garage and replacement with proposed oak framed cart lodge with store / office over.
------------------------	------------	--	--

220980	19/04/2022	Songers, Cage Lane, Boxted Colchester CO4 5RE	Demolition of existing prefab garage and replacement with proposed oak framed cart lodge with store / office over. (resubmission of 213484 and 213485)
------------------------	------------	--	---

The Council had no objections to the above two applications and would not, therefore, be submitting any comment.

.2 The Council also noted planning decisions made by Colchester Borough Council.

.3 To note the informal notification that the application 220148 – Garage site was approved and to decide any action that Council can take.

The Council confirmed that it knew the planning committee decided to approve the planning application, albeit reluctantly. However, before commencing any build, CB Homes are required to add back the two visitor slots that had been removed in an amendment, there was also a requirement for sewage treatment works to confirm they had suitable sewage handling capacity or for CB homes to provide an onsite solution to wastewater. The planning application also referred to moving the bus stop to the corner of Cooks Hill and Dedham Road which the Council expressed misgivings concerning usability and damage destruction to trees on the greensward. The Council resolved to write to Essex Highways and Cllr Barber suggesting a more suitable location.

22/93 East Anglia GREEN UKPN project

To note the formal consultation for the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) project which is a proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. It would, as proposed, bring 400Kv pylons through the south of Boxted village.

The Council had seen the various residents concerns and also the suggestion that the project should look to keep the cables offshore until closer to Tilbury. One of the concerns raised and agreed by the Parish Council is the lack of knowledge among Boxted residents. A resident agreed to create a leaflet that could be made available, and the Council agreed to use social media to promote better understanding. Residents would be encouraged to join the campaign group 'Norfolk Suffolk Essex Pylons', provide feedback to the project, copy comments made to Colchester Borough Council and our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin. Cllr Lewis had asked for support in a letter he was writing to be published in local press objecting to the pylons and pushing for them to be laid offshore.

22/94 Parish Council Finance

.1 To receive the Parish Council Financial Report as at the 30 April 2022 (see attachments including bank statements).

The Financial Report was received. It showed a spend to date of £42,221 (inc of VAT) and receipts to date of £29,244. Bank balances were £48,490.

It was noted that the financial statement reflected a significant amount of spend on projects that will be reimbursed from the Colchester Borough Section 106 funds for Boxted.

.2 To approve the invoices presented for December.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Pay Costs	1877.83
Expenses (mileage, wfh allowance, cctv sign, magnets, IA postage, keys)	129.80
Hall room hire fee	20.00
Green recycling bins	64.70
RCCE Training	60.00
Fillpots - plants	99.00
Naturescape (village green)	534.01
Hall Hire	20.00
Plants for V Green	31.06
Ingleton Wood	4,649.54
Spiegel Press (condolence book)	62.95

22/95 Biodiversity Group

To receive a report from Cllr Hunt regarding the work of the Biodiversity Group.

Cllr Hunt said that the Village Green was benefitting significantly from the work of the Biodiversity Group and a thank you was made to the resident that donated some hedging from their garden to help infill some of the gaps.

A village footpath walk was planned and was hoped to be the start of establishing walks that are documented in a form that is accessible to residents.

Cllr Hunt explained that he had submitted a bid to the Dedham Vale AONB grant scheme which, if successful, would allow us to install informative boards at the Village Green explaining the wildflowers and the project to establish biodiverse areas. The Council resolved to earmark £750 a part-funding for the information board project.

He went on to suggest a scheme whereby on a set morning, people would be encouraged to put their unwanted items on their driveways which would be free to take by others – a sort of local recycling. At the end of the day, all items left on driveways would be taken back in. The Council agreed that the idea could be tried.

22/96 Neighbourhood Plan

To note the advice (see attached) from Colchester Borough Council Place Strategy Manager regarding the process to be followed to update the Boxted Neighbourhood Plan, which is extant until 2029. To consider creating a Parish Council Committee to take forward changes that would include policies that gives protection to the Dedham Vale AONB views.

The Council considered the advice and resolved to speak to Colchester Borough Council and RCCE with a clear idea of the views of the Dedham Vale AONB which might be protected via a changed Neighbourhood Plan.

22/97 Recreation Ground

To note the following:

- **The Platinum Jubilee events on Sunday 5th June including Pet and Dog show, Silver Band, Cake judging, Fancy Dress and live music.**
- **Petty Vandalism to the outdoor gym fencing**
- **The possibility of the Recreation Ground car park being a pop-up donation point from 10-3pm and give residents the opportunity to donate un-wanted items but also bring bikes along for free Dr Bike checks (date to be agreed).**

These items were noted, and the Council gave its support to the pop-up donation point for Colchester Borough Council.

22/98 Hire Fees

To note the current club hire fee is £266 pcm (field and changing rooms) and to consider scheduling a rate revision for post hub refurbishment.

This was noted and a hire fee review would be scheduled for Oct 2022.

22/99 Clerk's Report

To receive the clerks report including a list of resolutions agreed at earlier Parish Council meetings and note progress to date on the following (full report - see attachment)

The clerks report summarised the work last month, the status of the Jubilee events, the status of the Hub refurbishment project with the issuing of the tender specification, stroll with a patrol, S106 drawdown progress and general email statistics. This was noted.

22/100 Items for the next meeting agenda

The following were noted:

- Financial Regulations
- Standing Orders
- Internal Control Processes
- Possible nest swing installation and costs
- Consideration of allotment provision

22/101 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 13th July 2022 at 730pm.