

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 8th March 2023 in the Village Hall at 7PM

Called by Jamie Seakens

Present

Chair – Cllr Jamie Seakens
Councillors Brentnall, Collitt, Hunt, Pugh, Smith and MacLauchlan
Clerk – Karen Thompson
Members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chair, Jamie Seakens, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting of Boxted Parish Council for 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to describe what the Council did over the last year and our plans for the next year and to hear the views of residents.

2. Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 March 2022

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairman's report

It is usual for the Chair of Boxted Parish Council to summarise the council activities for the financial year in a report that is available to the Annual Parish Residents Meeting.

Last year we were lucky to attract a new tenant to run a café at the community hub. Doug Harper came in until the planned building refurbishment, took an enforced break and has restarted again. He runs a very successful and popular hub café providing a great addition to the recreation ground and village hall facilities.

The community hub building has undergone a refurbishment seeing improved changing facilities for the sports teams and Boxted runners. We have decent officials' rooms, individual showers, more toilets, a committee room and kitchenette. The café has improved access, large bi-fold windows looking onto the field, new flooring, lighting as well as increased kitchen space for food preparation. The cost of the project was just a bit more than £250,000 which was part funded from S106 money held by Colchester Council for Boxted as an offset for the disruption that the Hill Farm development caused the village, and Football Foundation (part of the FA) support.

The council saw two positions becoming vacant during the year which were filled by Steve Bays and Lee Smith. All council positions are subject to election, which takes place on the 4th May 2023.

The village green continues to develop and look lovely with the much-appreciated support of the volunteer Boxted Wildlife Group. The green has two areas planted with wildflowers. Hedging and

bulbs have been supplemented around the perimeter. We still have to install the memorial bench, designed and made by Julian Carter, around the centre tree.

Boxted Wildlife group now organise monthly walks and are looking to maintain access to public footpaths in the village.

We are lucky to have a volunteer group of litter pickers that will be working with Boxted Wildlife to have a spring clean litter pick in April.

Cllr Lewis Barber continues to support Boxted on County Council matters including Highways (potholes and verges) and facilitating information exchange on the Essex Highways plans to completely replace the beautiful, historic, and important Boxted bridge over the Stour in the Dedham Vale AONB. The Parish Council continues to support the Save Our Bridge campaign to try and persuade Essex Highways to restore rather than replace Boxted bridge.

Colchester Homes were successful in their application to turn their garage site into additional homes. The parish council worked hard to require them to support the current level of parking enjoyed by Boxted Cross residents but with little success. We expect that Dedham Road will be much more congested when their development starts.

We are still working with Essex and Colchester Councils to try and establish Boxted Primary School as a feeder school to Chesterwell, but this has been resisted so far.

The overflow parking on the recreation ground has been used a lot and has hopefully reduced the school drop off/pick up parking congestion.

We are using the council facebook page to make available useful information and regularly writing reports in the Langham with Boxted Parish Newsletter.

The usual parish council functions have run smoothly with good financial management and record keeping. The minutes might seem a bit dry when you read them, but they accurately capture the decisions that the council makes.

Looking forward to the next year we hope to provide better lighting of the village hall car park and install table tennis/pétanque. We are also supporting the King's Coronation Celebrations planned for Sunday 7th May on the recreation ground.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every current and recent member of the council, our clerk, groundsman, and cleaning staff, for their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to improving Boxted as a lovely place to live. I also want to thank Nigel and Lewis, our representatives at Colchester City and Essex County Councils. Being a councillor isn't always easy, and we all lead busy lives, but effective committed parish councillors mean that Boxted stands the best chance of being a great place to live, work and play.

Do come along to our meetings, you are very welcome.

Your Current Council is:

Jamie Seakens (Chair)

Steve Bays

Arabella Brentnall

James Collitt

Amin Dedhar

Jonathan Hunt

Angela McLaughlin

Gene Pugh

Lee Smith

Karen Thompson is the clerk to the council.

Cllr Nigel Chapman is our ward councillor at Colchester City Council but is standing down at the May 2023 elections.

Cllr Lewis Barber is our Essex County Council Member.

For council information

boxtedparishcouncil@gmail.com

www.boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk

Financial Statement

The financial report as of 28th February 2022 was presented.

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
Financial Report to 28 February 2023

Reconciliation

2021/22		2022/23
£		£
<u>75,306.15</u>	Opening balances at 1st April 2022	<u>61,468.31</u>
122,705.73	PLUS receipts (as detailed overleaf)	389,015.81
136,543.57	LESS outgoings (as detailed overleaf)	383,526.14
<u>-13,837.84</u>		<u>5,489.67</u>
 <u>61,468.31</u>	Closing balances in hand at 28 February 2023	 <u>66,957.98</u>
 47,760.50	Lloyds BPC Current a/c..5800 (including uncleared funds (-))	51,265.07
-	Lloyds BPC Business Saver (Deposit) a/c	-
12,763.93	Lloyds BPC Sports & Social Club ..1368	15,183.88
943.88	Caxton FX Card Balance	509.03
0.00	Caxton FX Currency Acct	0.00
 <u>61,468.31</u>		 <u>66,957.98</u>

Boxted Parish Council
Financial Report to 28 February 2023

2021/22	2022/23	Actual to date	Budget	% of Budget	Forecast
RECEIPTS (page 1)					
52,090.00	Precept	55,104.00	55104	100	55104
2,256.00	LCTS	1,287.00	1287	100	1287
0.00	Bank interest	0.00	0	0	0
14,036.34	VAT refunds	54,013.69	30000	180	54000
0.00	Grants	71,769.53	0	99000	
235.50	S106 reimbursement	195,409.99	10000	1954	195500
112.00	Events	0.00	0	0	0
36,298.73	Misc	19.00	0	19	
105,028.57	Total BPC Acct	377,603.21	96,391	392	404910
Hub & Sports & Social Club					
0.00	SSC Donations	0.00	0	0	0
1,555.40	Lease fees	3,482.00	3960	88	4455
8,025.94	Hirings	7,930.60	6512	122	7182
95.82	Not used	0.00	0	0	0
8,000.00	Misc/Grants (inc Covid)	0.00	0	0	0
17,677.16	Total SSC Act	11,412.60	10472	109	11,637.00
122,705.73		389,015.81	106,862.68	364	416547
PAYMENTS (page 2)					
Parish Council Amenities					
4,186.76	Plants and Grass	4,488.38	7186	62	6000
626.78	Sports & play equip	350.75	1750	20	500
2,058.59	General Maintenance	1,145.64	2600	44	1200
1,100.32	Recycling bin Contract	548.40	480	114	600
0.00	Trees/Hedging	1,600.00	750	213	1600
1,127.45	Village Green	476.06	3000	16	500
225.00	Camping Close	0.00	100	0	0
2,404.43	Legal Fees/Advice	2,006.00	3000	67	3750
550.00	Village hall room hire	220.00	340	65	240
-60.50	Insurance	2,562.52	2452	105	2562
0.00	Audit	695.00	600	116	695
653.98	S 137 donations (£10160.64)	1,500.00	600	250	1500
£9.93 per elector 23/24					
22,087.07	Subs/registrations/fees	574.88	650	88	650
1,746.03	Salary, PAYE, NI, Pension	19,396.55	20500	95	22500
823.50	Equipment and Software	163.74	1500	11	200
252.49	Mileage/travel	610.91	700	87	700
0.00	Sundry	103.92	100	104	105
161.36	Stationery/printing/lit/postage	140.29	200	70	200
540.00	Training courses/seminars/mtgs	213.70	500	43	250
102.50	Special events/publicity/election	1,004.99	1000	100	1100
69,209.55	Section 106 projects Spend	276,288.71	10000	2763	277000
107,795.31	Total Parish Council main lines	314,090.44	58,008	541	321,852.00
New Projects					
	PROW (Rights of Way)	229.46	100	229	230
	Transfer to reserves - never use	0.00	6000	0	0
107,795.31	Total PC including new projects	314,319.90	64,108	490	322,082
Hub & Sports & Social Club					
4,153.99	Electricity/Oil	2,313.53	3000	77	3000
147.35	Water	1,228.73	400	307	1600
2,846.58	Pay (inc Cleaners)	2,860.00	3100	92	3120
389.00	Broadband	407.98	410	100	420
3,043.73	Repairs/Equipment/Inspections	3,245.34	4500	72	3250
1302.3	Trade Waste	1,230.30	1344	92	1344
11,882.95	Total SSC	11,285.88	12,754	88	12,734
119,678.26	Gross Outgoings	325,605.78	76,862	424	334,816
16,865.31	Vat paid reclaimable	57,920.36	30,000	193	58,000
136,543.57	Total Gross Outgoings	383,526.14	106,862	359	392,816

The financial statements show that the Council used some of its reserve to part finance the refurbishment of the Community Hub building.

4. Questions from the public

A member of the public spoke of the planned Forest Church which is hoped will start in Boxted which may seek a grant from the Parish Council.

The existing youth groups in Boxted meet on the 2nd Friday each month and cater for children of primary school age followed by the group for secondary school age.

The Good Neighbours Scheme is still running well although not as busy as it was during Covid restrictions.

Meeting closed.