

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2024

BOXTED VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Members – Councillors Jamie Seakens (Chair), Arabella Brentnall, James Collitt, Amin Dedhar, Jonathan Hunt, Lee Smith and Angela McLauchlan
Karen Thompson - Clerk

ALSO IN Representatives from Boxted Runners were present

ATTENDANCE:

24/1 Welcome and noting apologies.

Jamie Seakens welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Cllrs Bays and Pugh were absent.

24/2 Declaration of Interests – None declared.

24/3 Public Participation Session

A member of the public wanted to suggest that the Parish Council plant a spruce in the village which could be lit at Christmas time. There had been money raised from residents that could part fund a tree with some added from the Council. This was an agenda item 24/11 which was taken out of turn and decided next.

24/11 Proposal to Plant of a Norway Spruce Tree on Village Green

The council resolved to plant a spruce at the front of the village hall with funding in part from money raised from residents and the shortfall made from the council. Mr Sheil agreed to source and plant a bare rooted tree approximately 5 feet tall.

24/4 Minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 8th November 2023.

Councillors resolved to agree the minutes of the last meeting.

24/5 City and County Council - To receive the reports of the District and County Councillors.

To receive the verbal reports of the City Councillor and the County Councillor.

No councillors were present. The clerk reminded the councillors that Cllr Lewis Barber, with Cllr Darius Laws had arranged a Boxted Bridge meeting with the new Essex Highways portfolio holder, Cllr Tom Cunningham on Thursday 11th Jan. Cllr's Hunt and Brentnall agreed to attend.

24/6 Planning Applications

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

232867	14/12/2023	46 Straight Road	Extension and alterations to existing double garage for use as ancillary annexe.
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The Council resolved to NOT submit a comment to the planning portal as there was no objection to the application.

232823	12/12/2023	2 Cross Cottages, Dedham Road	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 and 15 of planning permission 220148
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The Council resolved to NOT submit a comment to the planning portal as there was no objection to the application.

.2 Decisions - Decisions made by Colchester City Council were noted.

24/7 Recreation Ground Gass Cutting Contract

To decide the award of the grass cutting contract from April 24 (see attached – In confidence document).

The council noted that two of the best quotes were very close in value and resolved to ask each of the contractors to confirm if this was the best and final offer.

24/8 2024 Budget

To decide the budget for 24/25 and agree precept request. (see attached 2 documents).

The council considered the draft budget and decided to remove the CCTV item from the precept request and would fund from reserves if the project was implemented.

The council also wanted to understand the energy costs associated with the Hub in December 2023 and asked if the clerk could secure a breakdown of costs by day.

The 24-25 budget was set at total receipts of £19,251 and spend of £85,301.

The council resolved to request a precept of £64,673. This would be an approximate increase of 7.5% to the parish council element of the Band D Council Tax to £103.74 per annum.

24/9 Parish Council Finance

.1 **To receive the Parish Council Financial Report as at the 31 December 2023 (see attachments including bank and card statements).**

The financial statement was received, and the following was noted. Spend to date after nine months of the financial year was £ 71,749 and receipts were £ 101,550. Bank holdings were £89,192 with all precept for 23/24 received.

.2 **To approve for payment the invoices presented.**

The following invoices for the month were seen and approved for payment.

Parish Council

Pay	2398.49
Clerks expenses (working home allowance, mileage, sundries)	107.92
Green recycling bins	70.54
Cloudy IT licenses	96.60
ICO fee	35.00
Moser Groundcare – pitch improvement	3,396.00
Mileage claim	£9.00

Village Hall

Michelle Gouray (cleaning)	569.46
Floor and chair clean Crystal Clean	475.00
Vacuum - amazon via clerk	79.00
Management Fee CHIP	750.00

End

24/10 Boxted Bridge

To note the request for a restatement of the actual flood risk assessment for the land surrounding Boxted Bridge and the Environment Agency response to leave it unchanged at the lower risk level.

The council noted that the Environment Agency were unwilling to change the overall flood risk assessment for area.

Cllr Brentnall suggested that when Anglian Water need to close the Thorrington/Higham Rd to lay the new pipeline then the current diversion would not be available, and it was difficult to see another route.

Councillors were reminded of the visit of the lead for Highways at Essex County Council, Cllr Tom Cunningham planned for Thursday 11th January to visit the bridge to understand the concerns raised. Cllrs Brentnall and Hunt planned to attend.

24/11 Proposal to Plant of a Norman Spruce Tree on Village Green This was taken after Item 24/3.

24/12 Recreation Ground

To note the progress on dealing with anti-social behaviour. The clerk informed councillors that she knew of an individual living in the village that may know more about the anti-social behaviour. Councillors agreed that the advice of the police should be sought before taking any action.

24/13 To note that Trinity School do not intend to designate Boxted Primary as a feeder school.

The council was disappointed that efforts to persuade Trinity School to nominate Boxted Primary School as a feeder school had been unsuccessful and resolved to write to Essex Council, Colchester Council, and the MP for the area.

24/14 Clerk's Report

.1 **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).**

- **Donation to Village Hall from Drama Group £922** – This was noted.

The clerk advised that little progress has been made on seeking transfer of the land at the corner of Cooks Hill and Dedham Rd and asked if the council wanted to continue with this. The Council resolved to chase Colchester City Council again.

The clerk advised that we had not submitted a Tree Preservation Order application for the tree on the corner of Cooks Hill and Dedham Rd and asked if the council wanted to continue with this. The Council resolved to apply.

Cllr Hunt said that the Wildlife Group Flower Walk had walked around the Recreation Ground and said that there was a lot of litter around the edges of the field and asked if the Groundsman could litter pick.

Minutes of Boxted Village Hall AGM showing hire fee increase (see attached) – These were not available.

24/15 Items for the next meeting agenda

The following items are planned for the next meeting agenda:

- Explore PC arranging for road gully clearance

24/16 Date of Next Meeting - The proposed date of the next meeting is 14th February 2024 at 730pm. Necessary decisions being taken before then using delegated authority after consultation via email with one or more councillors. This was agreed.

Signature _____ Signed by _____