

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 10th April 2024 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 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to describe what the Council did over the last year, hear from some projects within the village and to hear the views of residents.

2. Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th March 2023

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

Boxted Parish Council Annual Report 2023-2024

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.

Our cafe tenant, Doug Harper, runs a very successful and popular hub café providing a great addition to the recreation ground and village hall facilities.

The community hub building after the refurbishment is being used by the various sports teams.

The council saw a position come vacant in February which will hopefully be filled shortly.

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. The new memorial bench, designed and made by Julian Carter, around the centre tree is a fantastic addition to the green.

Boxted Wildlife group now organise monthly walks and are looking to maintain better 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.

Our phonebox library continues to operate with a new volunteer who will take a spring clean of the box and refresh the stock.

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 have almost completed the build of housing on the former garage site. The footpath should reopen in the near future.

We continue to try and establish Boxted Primary School as a feeder school to Trinity School in Chesterwell, but this has been resisted so far. We have been notified that Boxted School will be a named feeder to The Gilberd.

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 have installed car park lighting that can be turned on at the village hall. The Dedham Vale Dark Skies project advised on what lighting would cause minimal light pollution which we have now in place.

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.

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 Tom Rowe and Lewis Barber, 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)

Arabella Brentnall

James Collitt
Amin Dedhar
Jonathan Hunt
Angela McLaughlin
Gene Pugh
Lee Smith

Karen Thompson is the clerk to the council.

Cllr Tom Rowe is our ward councillor at Colchester City Council.

Cllr Lewis Barber is our Essex County Council Member.

For council information

clerk@boxted-pc.gov.uk

www.boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk

4. Financial Statement

The financial report as of 28th February 2023 was presented which shows the council is in good financial health. The surplus made in this financial year will be spent on projects that were planned but not yet delivered such as new bus shelter on Dedham Rd, table-tennis provision, replacement of knee-high fencing as our current telegraph poles are leaking oil.

Reconciliation			
BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL Financial Report to End February 24			
2021/22 £			2022/23 £
61,488.31	Opening balances at 1st April 2023		68,381.48
389,074.17	PLUS receipts (as detailed overleaf)	104,272.20	
381,151.02	LESS outgoings (as detailed overleaf)	93,023.39	11,248.81
-2,078.86			
68,381.48	Closing balances in hand at end January 2024		70,640.27
47,760.50	Lloyds BPC Current a/c 5800 (including uncleared funds (-))		62,491.75
-	Lloyds BPC Business Saver (Deposit) a/c		-
12,763.93	Lloyds BPC Sports & Social Club ..1368		7,754.55
943.88	Caxton FX Card Balance		393.96
0.00			
61,488.31			70,640.27
		check sh/bc ZERO	-
	Reserves at 1 April 2023	60,000	
	Ringfence 1 - Replacement Bus shelter	16,000	
	General Reserve remaining	36,000	
	Plus planned increase in reserves	6,000	
	Needed for short fall of refurbishment project	-	
	Expected Reserve at 31 Mar 24	40,000	

Boxted Parish Council Financial Report to 29 February 2024					
22/23		2023/24			
		Actual to date	Budget	% of Budget	Forecast
				11 of 12	
RECEIPTS (page 1)					
55,104.00	Precept	60,517.00	60,507	100	60517
1,287.00	LTS	1,287.00	1,287	100	1287
0.00	Bank interest	0.00	-	0	0
54,013.69	VAT refunds	0.00	10,000	0	10000
71,759.53	Grants	27,717.51	28,000	99	27717
195,409.99	S106 reimbursement	0.00	-	0	0
0.00	Events	350.00	-		350
1,494.00	Misc/Donations	927.69	-		930
379,078.21	Total BPC Asst	90,799.20	99,794	91	100801
Hub & Sports & Social Club					
0.00	S&C Donations	0.00	-		0
3,994.00	Lease fees	5,632.00	6,144	92	6144
6,001.96	Hirings	7,841.00	10,184	77	8000
0.00	Not used	0.00	-		0
0.00	Misc/Grants (inc Covid)	0.00	-		0
9,995.96	Total S&C Asst	13,473.00	16,308	83	14144
389,074.17		104,272.20	116,102	90	114,945

Boxted Parish Council Financial Report to 29 February 2024					
22/23		2023/24			
		Actual to date	Budget	% of Budget	Forecast
				11 of 12	
PAYMENTS (page 2)					
Parish Council Amenities					
4,488.38	Plants and Grass	12,033.40	7,000	172	12000
1,576.09	Sports/playrec equip	3,616.12	1,600	241	5000
1,826.04	General Maintenance	9,557.36	2,600	382	9500
602.32	Recycling bin Contract	692.80	848	107	693
1,600.00	Trees/Hedging	485.00	2,800	18	500
780.86	Village Green	1,898.38	1,400	136	1850
0.00	Camping Close	0.00	-		0
2,006.00	Legal Fees/Advice	3,754.51	1,600	251	3750
340.00	Village hall room hire	185.00	380	51	205
2,562.52	Insurance	2,732.56	2,787	99	2732
695.00	Audit	1,310.00	1,000	131	1310
1,750.00	S 137 donations (£10160.64)	162.36	1,000	16	390
574.88	Subs/registrations/fees	650.40	702	93	702
21,370.91	Salary, PAYE, NI, Pension	21,830.11	22,880	96	24780
241.74	Equipment and Software	2,143.79	1,618	141	2500
646.91	Mileage/travel	602.88	768	80	756
194.57	Sundry	1,547.18	100	1547	1600
140.29	Stationery/printing/lib/postage	22.87	218	11	75
213.70	Training courses/seminars/mtgs	490.00	500	98	500
1,025.99	Special events/publicity/election	2,012.11	1,600	134	2025
	Transfer to reserves		6,000		5000
	Final payment to Property 360				5855
276,288.71	Wildlife Biodiversity	1,918.66	1,000	192	2000
318,824.91	Total Parish Council main lines	87,886.68	68,446		83,723.00
New Projects					
	PROW +dogbin contract	682.50	600	0	682
	Petang/Table tennis	0.00	6,600		5500
	Notice board	0.00	600		500
	New Dog bin on PROW	0.00	600		500
	New shed	0.00	2,000	0	2000
	Knee High Fencing	0.00	2,600		2500
318,824.91	Total PC including new projects	88,569.09	87,846	101	95,405.00
Hub & Sports & Social Club					
4,115.95	Electricity/Oil	10,573.58	3,000	352	10500
1,228.73	Water	0.00	400	0	1600
3,120.00	Pay (inc Cleaners)	3,146.00	3,100	101	3120
448.36	Broadband	463.60	410	113	450
3,509.52	Repairs/Equipment/inspections	2,013.52	4,600	45	2200
1342.1	Trade Waste	1,366.70	1,344	102	1366
13,754.66	Total S&C	17,563.40	12,764	138	19236
332,589.67	Gross Outgoings	86,911.48	80,888	106	114,641
	Ver paid reclaimable	7,111.90	10,000	71	10,000
332,589.67	Total Gross Outgoings	93,023.39	90,888	103	124,641
58,484.80	Profit/(Loss)	618,380.71	26,403		- 9,696
Notes					

5. **Wildlife Group** – Jon and Camille Hunt talked about the formation of the wildlife group in Boxted which is a group of dedicated volunteers, supported by the parish council and working with the Dedham Vale National Landscapes team, to improve the biodiversity and green spaces in Boxted. The group have run some excellent and well attended education activity days and talks.

The monthly walks are proving very popular and interesting signage is planned for the village green showing what is planted.

6. Possible Plans for the Royal British Legion (RBL) – Chris Broad explained that the owner of the RBL site and building intended to sell. A group was formed which established the building and site as an community asset which allowed some time for a purchase bid to be investigated. The group has formed a CIC which is an organisation that rather than making a profit is established to serve a community aim and this means the group can now apply for funding. If all of this was successful, and the site could be purchased, then the plan would be to open as a community public house.

7. Harpers Caffé – Doug Harper talked about the very successful community café. It is proving much more popular than many envisaged with community groups meeting (knit and natter and bingo) and various sporting groups also supporting the café. Harpers Caffé is a sponsor of one of the Boxted Lodgers Football teams. The current lease runs until 2027 (which ties with Dougs retirement plans) and given the success that Harpers have had it is hoped a new leasee would not be hard to find.

8. Public Discussion

The topics discussed including the difficulty in getting road drains and gullies cleared which is exacerbated by the sometimes-poor maintenance of ditches. The pumping station capacity and drainage problems that result for homes. The formal bus stops that have been installed and the danger that some present. The last topic discussed was the external lighting at the school and the conversations being had with the Dedham Vale Dark Skies project which may result in more effective lighting that saves electricity and pollutes the area less.

The meeting closed at 745pm.