

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL (BPC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 730PM IN BOXTED VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Members – Councillors Jamie Seakens (Chair), Arabella Brentnall, James Collitt, Amin Dedhar, Jon Hunt, Angela Mclauchlan, Lee Smith and David Taplin.

ALSO There were no members of the public in attendance.

PRESENT

26/17 **Welcome and noting apologies.** Jamie Seakens welcomed everyone and noted the apologies of Cllr Gene Pugh and the Clerk, Karen Thompson.

26/18 **Declaration of Interests** – None declared.

26/19 **Public Participation Session.**
No members of the public present.

26/20 **Minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 14th January 2026**
Councillors are asked to agree the draft minutes of the last meeting as a true and accurate account of the proceedings (see attached). These were agreed by all to be an accurate record of the meeting.

26/21 **Colchester City Council (CCC) and Essex County Council (ECC)**
To receive the verbal reports of City Councillors and County Councillor. None presented.

26/22 **Planning Applications**

.1 **To consider the following planning applications and any other applications arriving after the date the agenda is published:**

Reference	Address	Description	Action
260116	19/01/2026 Isola, Ellis Road	Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use as a C2 Children’s home.	None
260053	21/01/2026 46 Straight Road	Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning permission 240834	None
260035	06/01/2026 Clives, Church Street	Proposed single storey side and rear extension, and part single part two-storey extension to rear.	None

.2 **Decisions**
Decisions approved by Colchester City Council were noted.

.3 **Decisions** refused by Colchester City Council were noted.

26/23 **PP26 Land North of Straight Road**
To note that Colchester Planning indicate that it should be possible to align some of any new social housing with our Housing Needs Survey outcome prioritising those with a connection to Boxted. This will require a resolution for BPC to formally request this now. It was resolved to seek any allocation policy for Social Housing to include an element of housing made available to those people with a connection to Boxted as identified in the 2025 Housing Needs Survey.

Mr A Coley, Chair of the Lawford Housing Enterprise Trust would be amenable to addressing the Council, if thought to be useful. It was agreed this wasn’t needed at the present time.

26/24 **ECC consultation on the Permanent Prohibition to Motorised Vehicles over Boxted Bridge.**

- .1 **To note the agreed objection to TRAF/8871 which, if implemented, would permanently prohibit motorised vehicles using Boxted Bridge (see attached).** This was noted.
 - .2 **To consider contributing to a fundraising request to conduct dynamic load testing (see attached).** It was resolved to contribute £500 and to promote the crowdfunder via social media.
- 26/25 Parish Council Finance**
- .1 **To receive the Parish Council Financial Report as at the 31 January 2026 (see attachments including bank and card statements).** Receipts to date were £ 84,587. Spend was £90,809 inc VAT which will be claimed back. Bank holdings were £ 67,006. The Council request a situation update regarding FA pitch improvement grants.
 - .2 **To approve for payment the invoices presented for January. Parish Council.**
There were no invoices presented due to the absence of the clerk. They will be presented at the next meeting.
- 26/26 PCC application for donation toward Church graveyard work**
To consider a request for Parish Council support toward the St Peters Church graveyard improvement project which has a budget of £10,000 (see attached). It was resolved to donate £100.
- 26/27 Poor's Land Camping Close Charity**
To acknowledge the planned meeting of Trustees after this meeting. This was postponed to a future meeting with a decision to investigate the powers of the charity to spend funds on a ground's improvement project.
- 26/28 Policies for Review and Adoption**
- .1 **To review and adopt Freedom of Information Policy (see attached).** This item was deferred to the next meeting.
 - .2 **To review and adopt Data Protection/GDPR Privacy Statement (see attached).** This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 26/29 Date and format of Annual Parish Meeting for Residents**
To agree the date and format for the Annual Parish Meeting which is the meeting for residents. It is required to be held between 1 March and 1st June. It could be scheduled for the same date as Parish Council meeting which fall on 11 March and 8th April.
The council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting before the Parish Council meeting on 13th May 2026.
- 26/30 Clerks Report**
To receive the clerks report. This was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.
- 26/31 Items for the next meeting agenda**
The following items are planned for the next meeting agenda:
- Play equipment repairs
 - Policies FOI, Data Privacy
- 26/32 Date of next and future meetings**
The proposed date of the next meeting is 11 March 2026 at 730pm. Delegated authority being granted to the Clerk with authorisation from the Chair for emergency and time critical issues. This was agreed.
- 26/33 To exclude members of the press and public from the meeting. Motion to exclude public & press: In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted namely the consideration of lease clauses and lease fees. The Public and Press be excluded from this meeting and will be instructed to withdraw. This was done.**
- 26/34 Community Café**

To consider a requested change to a condition of the Community Café lease. The Council approved the draft response to current tenant request which would require the café to operate 6 days a week from the Easter Holidays onwards.

26/35

Consideration of Pay Increases for staff not governed by national pay scales

To consider rates of pay for April 2026 – March 2027 (see attached **confidential** paper). This was deferred to the next meeting.

Signature _____ Signed by _____