

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT BOXFORD VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2016 AT 8PM

Present: Mr.M.Hayes-Newington (Chairman)
Mr.A.Britton
Mr.P.Kilding
Mr.C.Oliver-Bellasis
Mrs.V.Sandars
Mr.P.Thompson
Mrs.S.J.Appleton (Clerk)

9 members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P.Bryant.

1. The outgoing Chairman Paul Kilding welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2016 were unanimously approved and signed.
3. **Chairman's Report**

Paul Kilding the outgoing Chairman talked for an hour answering questions and pointing out the considerable achievements of this community in the projects that had been delivered throughout the year. He said that although some were dismayed at apparent disunity, the fund raising of nearly £3000 in the space of four weeks for a defibrillator after a well known member of the village had a heart attack showed that Boxford's community spirit was alive and well. Support for a series of events - for the archaeological dig in the summer with over 100 people attending the Open Day, community work in the children's play area, the fund raising events for the Boxford Boars cricket team, the opening of the Parish Room/Heritage Centre and even Clean for the Queen rubbish collecting, demonstrated that people were genuinely engaged in a happy village environment. West Berkshire Council had nominated the Boxford History Project for a heritage community award in recognition of its work on the Roman Boxford Project. He thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for their support throughout the year. In thanking Joy Appleton who was retiring after 18 years, he remarked that she had saved the parish nearly £40,000 in salary costs over that period.

The future of the old GWR waiting room at Southfields had galvanized many people to vote and he hoped that those who had supported retention and refurbishment of this village icon would come forward to fund raise for it. In response to a question about a possible relocation of the building to a site opposite the existing bus stop, he said that West Berkshire Council had advised that there was insufficient room on the verge. Traffic speed was again mentioned particularly on Rood Hill and the Parish Council would consider options. He complimented Cllr. Paul Bryant on his staunch and successful support of the Parish Council request for a 20mph speed limit in Westbrook - against police recommendation. In response to questions relating to funding of salt bins and the like, he said that he had attended a meeting with West Berkshire Council and it was clear that because of budget cuts from Central Government, the District Council was in the process of delegating such items to Parish Councils to fund, as they did not have the means to carry out in the future what had been taken for granted in the past.

Concerns about overhanging trees in Winterbourne Road and improvements to the Parish Council noticeboard were noted. The future of the lime trees outside the church was raised following West Berkshire Council's tree officer confirmed that at least one tree had honey fungus and should be felled or severely reduced. An arborist's report had been received and the PC and the PCC would be making a joint submission to West Berkshire Council. The possibility of a village newsletter was supported and arrangements for distribution would be confirmed. One parishioner thought that an edited version of the positive Chairman's Report should be circulated. Once again Paul Kilding thanked everyone for attending.

4. Financial Report

The Clerk, Joy Appleton, referred to the Receipts and Payments Summary for the year ended 31st March 2016, which had been circulated. Mrs. Christina Lyle had examined the accounts. This showed the precept at March 2016 as £7333. Payments included £3491 for repair to the children's play area funded by Cllr. Bryant's successful member's bid. There were no questions.

5. Parishioners' Questions

There were no further questions.

6. Boxford Endowed Charities Report

The correspondent, Joy Appleton, reported that there had been no disbursements from The Boxford Relief in Need Charity. There was £702.32 in the two accounts. The Rector chairs the trustees of this ancient charity and disbursements are only available to individuals. The Boxford Public Gravel Pits Charity had been wound up after the funds had been equally distributed between the Village Hall and the church.

Mike Appleton formally offered a vote of thanks to the outgoing chairman and the councillors for their work in the village.

The meeting closed at 21.15 after which refreshments were served.