

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BOXFORD PARISH ROOM/HERITAGE CENTRE ON THURSDAY 23rd MARCH 2017 AT 19.00

Present: Cllr Mr. M. Hayes-Newington (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. V. Sandars
Cllr Mr. A. Britton
Cllr Mr C. Oliver-Bellasis
Mrs. K Clinton (Clerk)
3 Members of the Public

Action

Agenda: Lime Trees - To consider the proposals from West Berkshire Council

1. There were apologies from Cllr. Bryant, Andrew Lyle, Paul Kilding and Peter Thompson
2. Declarations of Interest - none.
3. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and respond to West Berkshire Council's response to the Parish Council application for the felling of the diseased lime trees outside the church. Initially a notification had been received 6 hours before the deadline, to withdraw or amend the application. Following an apology from the tree officer for late notification and a meeting on site between the Chairman and Clerk, Andrew Lyle Churchwarden and Andrew Giles the tree officer, West Berkshire Council made a counter proposal namely:
 - To retain the trees, crown reduced, at the Parish Council expense;
 - Picus investigation on the disease in the trees funded by the District Council
 - Future pollarding funded by the Parish Council – quote from email “(WBC) could assist the PC with the repollarding on a cyclical basis of 5-10 years”

The Chairman summarised the options available:

- 1) Continue with current Planning Application. Cut the trees down and replace with 3 x variety less susceptible to Honey Fungus. This could result in a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) from WBC, which would halt the planning application.
- 2) Continue discussion with WBC on their counter proposal.

Action: It was agreed by a vote of 3 to 1 that unless a written undertaking from West Berkshire Council for the liability and cost of maintenance of the trees for their lifetime was received from the District Council, the Parish Council would have no choice but to continue with their planning application as per their resolution of 6th March 2017 “on the grounds of safety, environment and public consultation.”

A letter to West Berkshire would be drafted accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.