

# BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in St Andrew's Church

### Present

Cllr. P. Thompson (Chair)

Cllr. M. Hayes-Newington (Vice Chair)

Cllr. V. Sandars

Cllr. P. Kilding

Cllr. J. Wilcox

Cllr. P. Harris

S Youldon - Clerk

6 Parishioners

	Action
<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introduction:</b> Cllr. Thompson welcomed the Parishioners to the meeting and introduced the Councillors. He also thanked the two retiring Councillors – Alistair Briton &amp; Charles Oliver-Bellasis for their service to the PC over the last 4 years.</p>	
<p><b>Summary of 2018/19 &amp; Plans Going Forward</b></p>	
<p><b>Summary of 2018/19:</b> Former Chair, Alistair Briton presented the following summary on the last financial year. It has been a productive 2018/19 year for Boxford PC. During our 6 bi-monthly meetings this year and on an ongoing basis less formally, my fellow councillors and I have continued to fulfil our duties to the parish. In particular we have served the parish in a number of important ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have given detailed scrutiny to every planning application in the parish over the year providing comments and objections where appropriate.</li> <li>▪ We have provided continuous commentary to WBC on the state of the roads in the parish and pressed them for improvements.</li> <li>▪ We have provided similar feedback on the state of public footpaths in the parish.</li> <li>▪ We have addressed specific challenges in the parish for example the decision around the status of the old railway shelter which has been condemned.</li> <li>▪ We have also addressed and put in place new arrangements for the arrival of the GDPR to ensure compliance.</li> <li>▪ We have provided liaison between the PC, the Village Hall committee and the PCC with the aim of continuing to coordinate our work where possible.</li> <li>▪ We have arranged litter picking details on a number of occasions to address the increasing challenges in the parish around littering.</li> <li>▪ We have continued to provide careful and diligent oversight and management of the parish financials including a careful review and setting of the 2019/20 precept.</li> </ul> <p>We have also tried to be accessible to the parishioners through the year and giving guidance where possible. We are in fact approached on a multitude of areas many of which are not within our purview (many parishioners are unclear about what we can and cannot do in fact!) but nevertheless we do try to guide where possible.</p> <p>As outgoing Chairman (and having stood down at the recent elections), this is my last act of my most fulfilling 4 years as a member of the Boxford Parish Council I must thank my fellow councillors for their help and support, welcome Councillor Thompson as the new Chairman and thank our Clerk, Sarah for her hard work and organisation.</p> <p>To finish I should say that I passionately believe that as many people as possible should get involved in parish matters. We provide our service free of charge and give up our time for the betterment of the parish. Please get involved and, if you can't or won't, please try not to complain about the work done and effort made by those who do!</p>	

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<p><b>Plans for 2019/20:</b></p> <p>Cllr. Thompson shared the matters discussed at the AGM. Reporting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The PC is currently looking into options to replace the main noticeboard opposite the Mill House.</li> <li>▪ The good news, that it looks like the railway shelter will go to the Gloucester &amp; Warwickshire Railway trust for relocation and restoration.</li> <li>▪ The PC is looking into placing a notice and information board on the site of the old shelter along with a bench.</li> <li>▪ Highway resurfacing and patching work is on the WBC schedule and expected to start mid-July/August.</li> <li>▪ Discussions are underway to hold a village fete on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September following the Boxford Masques beer festival and hopefully coinciding with the Boxford Dig open day.</li> <li>▪ Clerk reported that volunteers were needed for a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and Flood Warden. Agreed this would be sent out on email.</li> </ul>	SY
<p><b>Comments &amp; Suggestions from Parishioners</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parishioner thanked the Councillors for their time and efforts on behalf of the Parish.</li> <li>▪ Concern raised over the lack of, and slight confusion on road names in the Parish with WBC referencing differently to actual property addresses, this had caused problems for the emergency services recently. Clerk to investigate what can be done and report back at the July meeting.</li> <li>▪ Dog waste bin in need of replacement at the Village Hall. Cllr. Thompson confirmed this was supplied by the VHC rather than the PC and agreed to pass on to the Committee for action.</li> <li>▪ Handrail on the footpath steps from Westbrook – parishioner asked if the second rail would be replaced, Clerk reported that WBC had refused to do this, as they deemed two rails unnecessary. Clerk to obtain quotes for the PC to install a replacement second handrail as it was agreed that this are very steep steps so two rails would be beneficial. Parishioner reported that the rail further up the same path on the second set of steps is not solid and not fit for purpose. Clerk to report to WBC.</li> <li>▪ Parishioner reported that cutting back was required on footpath 15 as the head height was getting lower. Clerk to report.</li> <li>▪ Parishioner enquired if there was any further news on planning at The Bell, PC confirmed that the original application for conversion to housing had been refused with the planning officer stating a considerable list of reasons for the refusal. PC confirmed that the planning application made by the same developer on the Winterbourne Arms had also been refused.</li> </ul>	<p>SY</p> <p>PT</p> <p>SY</p> <p>SY</p>

**Cllr. Thompson thanked the parishioners for their input and the meeting closed at 8.30pm**