

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Boxford Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.00pm in The Heritage Centre

Present:

Cllr. P. Thompson (Chair)

Cllr. M. Hayes-Newington (Vice Chair)

Cllr. P. Kidling

Cllr. J. Wilcox

Cllr. C. Rowles (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

S Youldon (Clerk)

Apologies:

Cllr. P. Harris

Cllr. V. Sandars

Cllr. D. Benneyworth (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

Cllr. J. Cole (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

	Action
<p>Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Hayes-Newington declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the discussion on flooding. The Council agreed a dispensation as they had considerable knowledge of the land and they participated in the discussion on flood response planning.</p> <p>Minutes: The January minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p>	Resolved
<p>Matters Arising</p>	
<p>Flood Response Planning & Current Status: It was reported that following the wettest February on record the river was very high and fast flowing, all 3 gates at the Mill House were open to assist the flow. It was also noted that the water is accumulating on the Water Meadows, so although precarious, it was agreed that considering the amount of rainfall, the river and ditch networks were coping well. Praise was also given to WBC for the work they have done on flood prevention further upstream as this was also helping the current levels.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that a plan should be put in place in case of emergencies, this doesn't just cover flooding, it would also cover other emergency situations. The plan would contain a list of key contacts within the Parish and within the emergency organisations. It would identify the main person for liaising with emergency services whilst waiting for qualified help to arrive. As part of this, a list would also be held of vulnerable people within the parish, to ensure they have what they need in an emergency. Councillors to start to put together details. It was agreed that this plan would be held by 3 Councillors and would not be shared for data protection reasons. With regards the purchase and holding of flood equipment, it was agreed that logically there were no materials worth holding. The previously affected properties all now had their own individual threshold protection and pumps, therefore any holding of sandbags (which WBC no longer support) was not felt to be appropriate.</p> <p>Highways – Update on Drainage: The blocked drain problem on the bend between The Church and the bridge remains, Clerk liaising with Highways on this. The puddling on the bend by the Jubilee bench and at the end of Westbrook has been reported and WBC are investigating. It was agreed that removal of the mud on the road at the end of Westbrook by the farm would help the latter problem – Clerk to ask farmer. Cllr. Rowles informed the PC that over 370 single cases of flooding on highways have been reported since December, and the PC recognised that it will take some time to deal with these issues. One point was made that there should be a common-sense approach to clearing grips/drains with teams working to clear all in that area rather than dealing with on a problem by problem basis. WBC are apparently working on this and are in the process of scheduling works, a copy of which should be available end of March. Cllr. Rowles to pass on the feedback.</p> <p>Bus Shelter: A new glass pane has been ordered for the bus shelter at the cost of £310 plus VAT. Agreed this was not worth an insurance claim. The new glass should be installed in the next 4-5 weeks.</p> <p>Railway Shelter: Following months of preparation, the railway was shelter was finally lifted and delivered to its new location on the Gloucester Warwickshire Railway line Friday 28th February. The Archive and Restoration Trust will be restoring the shelter to its former glory and will share photos of their progress. They are keen for any railway artefacts from the Lambourn Valley, Clerk can share details to anyone</p>	Resolved All SY SY CR Resolved Resolved

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<p>interested. Thanks were passed to the Councillors that helped clear the area behind the shelter on the Sunday following the collection.</p> <p>As previously proposed, Councillors agreed the installation of a new information and notice board combined on the concrete base, together with potentially a bench and somewhere to stand bikes. Clerk presented costs from £1,200 to £2,500 for an oak combination version with A1 information board and A2 notice board. Councillors agreed cost of £1,200 for Scott Youldon, who made the new central notice board, to make this one. Graphic panel to be put together by the Boxford History Project and to include a map of the village footpaths. Clerk to liaise. Leadtime expected to be 6-8 weeks depending on artwork.</p> <p>Parish Plan: Cllr. Hayes-Newington to put together draft of questionnaire and circulate to Councillors for comment.</p> <p>Extension of Superfast Broadband: The request for Gigaclear to continue the installation of fibre optic cable across the river to Westbrook and up towards the Lambourn Road had been put to Gigaclear. They currently have no plans to do this as there is FTTP (Fibre to the Cabinet) installation in the vicinity, however, if there was sufficient interest, they would revisit this decision. Agreed that this should form part of the Parish Plan questionnaire to gauge initial interest.</p> <p>Footpaths: No issues to report.</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting & Annual General Meeting: It was agreed that the Parish meeting should be moved to the 18th May to avoid the bank holiday week. Both meetings would be held in the Church. Clerk to circulate invites nearer the time on Parish email and book the Church. Cllr. Thompson to provide refreshments.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>SY</p> <p>MHN</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>SY</p> <p>PT</p>
<p>Planning Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19/01844/FUL The Bell at Boxford – Cllr. Rowles updated the PC on the current status – a response from the applicant in regard of the provision of affordable housing onsite was still outstanding. It was stated that should no provision be made the application would be turned down on these grounds, otherwise it looks likely that it will go to the Planning Committee around May time. Cllr. Thompson has approached neighbouring property and asked them to present at the planning meeting alongside the PC. It was agreed that the application to identify The Bell as a Community Asset should be started – Clerk to progress this. ▪ 20/00289/HOUSE & 00290/LBC Little Thatch – New fence / pedestrian gate and brick pliers plus small retaining wall with fence over. Councillors agreed a response to support the application, noting that it seems unnecessary for these two applications as it does no harm to the setting of the building or the historic interest. <p>Councillors did raise concerns about the current planning department, the process and decisions being made. Cllr Rowles agreed to share these concerns with the Chief Executive of WBC, Nick Carter.</p> <p>It was stated for the record that the following applications had been received / decided since the January meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20/00234/HOUSE Bargate House, Westbrook – Proposed side extension and internal alterations. ▪ 19/03142/LBC2 Little Thatch – Replace front elevation windows with leaded light windows. WBC Granted. ▪ 19/02644/FUL Oak Mead, Wickham Heath – Convert garage to office/storage space – PC responded with No Objections. WBC Granted ▪ 19/02742/LBC2 Little Thatch – Re-point brickwork with traditional lime mortar – PC responded with No Objections. WBC Granted ▪ 19/02692/MDOPO The Old Rectory, Winterbourne Road – Remove planning obligation of accommodation for elderly relative. WBC Granted <p>HELAA – Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment – Parish Councils had been asked to comment on the new Local Plan and have been given until the 27th March to comment. It was agreed that this gave very little time for consideration and public consultation and Cllr. Rowles agreed to feed this back. The proposed plan identified no sites within Boxford for development and made no changes to the current</p>	<p>SY</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>CR</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>All</p> <p>CR</p>

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settlement boundary. It was agreed that future development was inevitable and it was important that the Parish had some control over this. Consideration was made as to whether small changes to the settlement boundary would provide a future benefit. Councillors to consider further and report back before the 27 th March.	
Finance	
<p>Account Balance: The current account balance as of the 02/03 will be is £1,914.65; the deposit account balance will be £11,834.39. This includes the following transactions: 28/01 Chq 100389 AD Clark £991.06 28/01 Chq 100390 Pegasus Services, Scott Youldon – Notice Board £543.44 13/02 Transfer C Reeves Bus Shelter cleaning £23.00 28/02 S/O S Youldon February wages £147.80 The following items were signed at the meeting: Cheque to AD Clark final 2017-20 contract payment dated 31/03/20 £991.06 Letter to HSBC to set up monthly standing order to AD Clark commencing 28 April 2020 Cllr. Thompson has now been confirmed as a signatory.</p> <p>Community Infrastructure Levy Funds (CIL): Of the remaining £2,491, £1,200 has been allocated to the new information/notice board, along with £500 for seating and bike stands. It was agreed that the remaining £700 would be put towards new playground equipment through the Village Hall. Cllr. Thompson to confirm VHC requirements.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>PT</p>
West Berkshire Council Update – Kintbury Ward Councillors	
<p>Cllr. Rowles reported that the draft budget was due for discussion at the full council meeting on the 3rd March. Proposals were a council tax increase of 1.99% and a 2% rise in the Adult Social care precept, enabling the Council to deliver the necessary spending with no cuts to services. In addition proposed investments included over £7.5 million for new schools and expansion of existing; £1.2 million in large scale tree planting and over £10 million in improvement of roads and junctions through the district. Cllr. Rowles also informed PC of the latest consultations and strategies included the Anti-Social behaviour consultation and the Playing Pitch strategy. Full details of which can be found on the WBC website.</p>	
Reports	
<p>Cycle Route: Cllr Thompson liaising with contacts with WBC and cycling groups on this. Cllr. Rowles to try and obtain map of landownership through WBC. Cllr. Thompson to obtain further information on access rights through the British Railway Trust.</p> <p>Village Hall Committee: The committee are currently considering playground repairs – initial quotes are substantial. Cllr. Thompson to speak with the treasurer to obtain further details. Cllr. Rowles suggested a Members Bid grant.</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>PT</p> <p>PT</p>
Any Other Business	
<p>Parish Clean Up: Councillors agreed a date of 16th May for a Parish Clean Up. Clerk to circulate on Parish email. Councillors commented on the difficulty in holding these events with regards to road safety and support required from WBC on this – Cllr. Rowles to report back.</p> <p>WBC Environment Strategy Consultation: Cllr. Thompson had attended the strategy meeting held in February, he was disappointed to report that no consideration for planning had been made within the strategy, which showed it to be short sighted. He made the point of high-density housing in village locations and lack of viable public transport, increasing vehicles on the road. He also put forward the proposed cycle route and the importance of these features within the strategy.</p> <p>Conservation Area Assessments: The Boxford History Project had received a request from Cllr. Cole to get involved in the Conservation Area Assessment. Cllr. Rowles to ask for more information to be sent on to the PC.</p>	<p>SY</p> <p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

The remaining 2020 meetings will be held: 18th May AGM & APM in St Andrews Church,
6th July, 7th September and 2nd November.

Signed: *S Youldon* - Clerk 4th March 2020

Boxford Parish Council Clerk – Sarah Youldon
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