

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Boxford Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.00pm via Video Conference

Present:

Cllr. P. Thompson (Chair)

Cllr. M. Hayes-Newington (Vice Chair)

Cllr. P. Kidling

Cllr. P. Harris

Cllr. V. Sandars

Cllr. J. Wilcox

Cllr. C. Rowles (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

Cllr. D. Benneyworth (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

Cllr. J. Cole (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

S Youldon (Clerk)

	Action
Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.	
Minutes: The March minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.	Resolved
Matters Arising	
Covid-19: Clerk reported that amazing work has been done by the volunteers, a weekly prescription delivery rota has been put in place, in its 7th week with 3 volunteers covering. A weekly rota for a foodbank delivery has been put in place, in its 5 th week of deliveries and run with 2 volunteers on the rota. Clerk has had an additional 14 adhoc request for help around the parish, although proving fairly time-consuming making arrangements all requests have been fulfilled. The Councillors thanked the Clerk for the sterling work done in co-ordinating volunteers. Clerk also reported that West Berkshire Council Support Hub is referring any contact they have and providing useful guidance and support. Cllr. Rowles to feedback.	
Parish Plan Update: Clerk had circulated questionnaire from the original Parish Plan, Cllr. Thompson & Cllr. Hayes-Newington to review together when restrictions allow.	PT MHN Resolved
Newbury Museum: Had been in touch asking if the PC would like to donate towards the purchase of a post medieval Silver gilt dress hook discovered locally in 2018. PC have referred to Boxford History Project.	
Playground Improvements: Cllr. Rowles shared details of the 3 rd July extension to the Members Bid funding which the VHC could use to apply for grant money for playground improvements. Cllr. Thompson to discuss with VHC and feedback to Cllr. Rowles. It was agreed that PC CIL money could assist with the match funding.	PT PT
Village Information Board: Construction has been delayed due to lockdown. Cllr. Thompson to speak to contact with reference to create the artwork with the Boxford History Project for the graphic panel.	Resolved
Parking at the Bell: PC had received complaints of HGV parking at The Bell. Cllr. Rowles had actioned this and a WBC officer had been out and spoken to the landlord. The commercial vehicles were removed, and The Bell has updated their website to state no commercial vehicle parking.	All
Community Asset Application The Bell: Clerk has drafted the asset application, copy to be circulated to Councillors for input before finalising for submission.	
Footpaths: Complaint about the overgrown hedge along the footpath leading from Westbrook to the recreational ground. Clerk to raise with owners again, stating that further action will be taken through WBC if necessary. It was noted that footpath 15 has become overgrown and needs cutting back. Clerk to report. Complaints have also been received regarding dog fouling on footpaths, Councillors agreed that best action would be signage. Cllr Rowles to investigate options through WBC, Cllr. Hayes Newington to also investigate alternatives and report back.	CR MHN
Councillor Vacancy: Cllr. Sandars had given notice to step down, Councillors thanked Cllr. Sandars for her time, input and commitment. Clerk to notify WBC Election officer and publish Casual Vacancy Notices. Councillors to make enquiries throughout the parish.	All
AGM & Parish Meeting Arrangements: Clerk explained that the new Covid-19 regulations only allow Parish Councils to hold ordinary meetings over video conference. Therefore, both the AGM and Parish Meeting would follow at a later date or be postponed until May 2021, with both the Chair and Vice Chair remaining until the AGM can be held. Councillors to discuss further at the July meeting	
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<p>West Berkshire Council Update – Kintbury Ward Councillors</p>	
<p>The April WB Councillors report had been forwarded prior to the meeting. The Councillors noted that WBC was beginning to move towards the recovering phase and people were starting to move back to their original roles. It was also noted that they had some concerns on the change to the Planning Committee procedure brought in due to Covid-19. The new procedure only allowed representatives to provide written arguments prior to the meeting, allowing no question / answer session. They raised concerns on how long this would continue, as did the Parish Councillors, especially in relation to the how this may affect The Bell application. It was also reported that Cllr. Bennyworth had moved on to the Western Area committee.</p>	
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<p>Cycle Route: Cllr. Rowles to try and obtain details of land ownership for the old railway line. Further update at the July meeting.</p>	<p>CR</p>
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Meeting Closed at 8.14pm.

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