

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Boxford Parish Council Virtual Meeting Held on Tuesday 5th January 2021 7pm Hosted on Webex

Present:

Cllr. P. Thompson (Chair)

Cllr. M. Hayes-Newington (Vice Chair)

Cllr. J. Wilcox

Cllr. P. Harris

Cllr. J. Minchin

Cllr. J. Cole (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

Cllr. C. Rowles (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward) (until 7.30)

Cllr. D. Benneyworth (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

S Youldon – Clerk

Laura Farris MP for Newbury (7.25pm)

Absent:

Cllr. P. Kidling

| | Action |
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| Declarations of Interest: Cllr Hayes-Newington stated an interest as a riparian owner in the River and Flooding discussions. | Resolved |
| Minutes: The November and December EO minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record. | |
| Matters Arising | |
| West Berkshire Council Update: The PC thanked the ward councillors for the written December update. Cllr Bennyworth stated that the WBC hub support was continuing and that several grants schemes were in operation to assist businesses and residents through Covid. Several consultations were in progress, including the local plan and the town centre master plan along with a chance for residents to use the demo tool to try for themselves to balance the budget, details on the WBC website. It was noted that details of the CIL funding hadn't been received prior to Christmas and with the deadline being the 10 th January it was too late for the PC to submit an application. | |
| Laura Farris, MP for Newbury: Laura provided some useful input on the proposed cycle route to Newbury, suggesting a larger proposal connecting Lambourn too would provide a better opportunity to gain support and funds. Councillors raised concerns about District Council focusing schemes on Newbury and not listening to the surrounding parishes. Laura asked for specific examples to be sent to her direct. | MHN |
| Insurance Renewal: Clerk had obtained two comparable quotes for the insurance renewal; the current insurer offered the best price at £316.15. Councillors accepted the quote. | Resolved |
| 2021/22 Budget & Precept Request: Councillors reviewed this year spend to date and the forecasts for the next financial year. Current year spending was expected to be in line with the income and £9,951 of savings / contingency would be carried forward. Spending for 2021/22 spending was forecasted at £10,509.49, Councillors agreed a 1.5% rise in the precept to £8,650 to cover the annual spend and provide a small amount for projects. Clerk to submit. | Resolved SY |
| River Update: Cllr. Harris and S Youldon attended a site meeting with the flood warden and resident in mid-December. They raised concerns with the spread of the floating weed, general lack of river maintenance including fallen trees on the banks, the lack of Environment Agency response and the ditches along Westbrook. It was agreed that a Councillor would attend the 25 th January Flood forum meeting to hear points of concern from neighbouring parishes. It was confirmed that regular weed control is taking place at the Mill; PC asked for dates of this to be recorded, the Clerk would keep a written record of concerns and actions taken. Weed further upstream would be addressed to a point in the Spring working party. Fallen trees on the UK RI land to be reported by Clerk. The request re-dig the ditches along Westbrook was felt to be disproportional in costs and disruption to the benefits it would give. | MHN SY |
| Parish Plan: Sub-committee to meet virtually in the next month to run through the draft questionnaire and then circulate to Councillors for input. | PT, MHN Resolved |
| Village Playground: The Parish Council agreed to pay £6,409.92 plus VAT for the replacement swings and surface. Clerk has submitted invoice for £5,000 Members Bid from WBC, money should be received in January. Councillors agreed that if the VH paid the £1,209.92 it had from fund raising that the PC would transfer ownership to the hall committee. | SY |
| Highways: Clerk had met with highways to raise issue of standing water again opposite Westbrook, WBC officer wasn't hopeful that a cost-effective solution could be found, even though neighbouring property had offered access for a pipe through garden to ditch. Clerk to follow up and involve Ward Councillors in | SY |

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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| conversation. Interesting documents received on the management of rural roads, Clerk to circulate, may be of interest for the parish plan. Installation of grips agreed with Highways Officer to prevent the flooding at the end of Westbrook. | Resolved |
| Footpaths: PC thanked Cllr Rowles for organising repair on the steps from Westbrook. Positive feedback received on the job done. | Resolved |
| Information Board Graphic: Clerk to chase up AONB map from the North Wessex Downs. Cllr Hayes-Newington to draft note for parish email to request high resolution village images. Aim to have a mock-up ready for review at the March meeting. | SY MHN |
| Planning Applications | |
| To state for the record | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 02/02174/HOUSE Highlands RG20 8DH – proposed single storey rear kitchen extension (vaulted roof) with associated internal alterations. Proposed open porch over front door entrance. WBC granted | Resolved |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20/02428/LBC2 3 Woodmansfield, Lambourn Road – listing building consent amendment to application 19/00900/LBC2. Councillors agreed No Objections, WBC granted | Resolved |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20/02472/FUL – Coxedd Farm, Westbrook, RG20 8DL - full planning permission for the conversion of the existing southern barn into a C3 residential dwelling, with associated residential curtilage, parking and landscaping, together with the demolition and removal of the northern barn and smaller ancillary buildings elsewhere within the site. Clerk to request update from planning officer. | SY |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 02/02680/FULD – Land to the rear of Alder House – full planning permission for erection of a single detached dwelling with garage, together with access and landscaping (Knapps Farm plot 4) Councillors agreed response of No Objections. | Resolved |
| Finance | |
| Balances, Invoices & Receipts: | |
| Account Balances as of the 4 th January Current account £1,894.66 / Deposit account £11,174.88 | |
| The following payments / receipts have been made since the November meeting: | |
| 12/11/20 Transfer of CIL funds £1,300 to Current Account | |
| S/O 28/11 Clerk Wages November £147.80 | |
| S/O 28/11 AD Clark grounds maintenance £508.33 | |
| CHQ 100401 04/12 NWD Donation S136 £203.50 | |
| CHQ 100402 04/12 WEL Medical defib battery £199.14 (inc £33.19 VAT) | |
| CHQ 100403 04/12 Cheque cancelled (swing deposit cheque lost in post and cancelled) | |
| 14/12 Transfer for swing deposit from savings to current £1,538.38 | |
| CHQ 100404 22/12 Full payment of swings £7,691.91 (inc £1,281.99 VAT) | |
| 22/12 Transfer for swings payment from savings to current £6,153.53 | |
| S/O 28/12 Clerk Wages December £147.60 | |
| S/O 28/12 AD Clark grounds maintenance £508.33 | |
| BACS 28/12 HMRC Q3 PAYE £110.80 | |
| The following cheques were signed: | |
| 05/01 CHQ 100405 Zurich Insurance £316.15 | |
| 05/01 CHQ 100406 Clerk expenses July to December £27.52 stamps and printer ink. | |
| 04/01 VAT claim for 2020 completed, payment of £1,705.36 expected late January | |
| Reports | |
| Cycle Route: Clerk to try and arrange meeting with WBC to discuss best way to put plan together. Agreed that making the plan as much about access from Newbury to the AONB was as important as access to town from surrounding villages - to be incorporated into proposals along with feedback from the MP. | SY, PT |
| VHC update: No meeting has recently been held, but it was confirmed that income is still coming in from the pre-school which was helping to keep the hall going financially. | |

BOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

| Any Other Business | |
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| The Bell: Cllr. Minchin asked what was the latest on The Bell as several rumours had been going around the village. No one knew for sure, Councillors to try and obtain information. Parishioner input on what they would like to see from the Pub would be included in the Parish Plan questionnaire. | All |
| Covid-19: Clerk to add a note on the next parish email to remind residents that help is available should they need it and also ask volunteers to come forward. | SY |
| Gigaclear: The matter of the lack of superfast broadband from the river up to the lower Lambourn road was raised again, Cllr Cole offered to raise the subject with the project manager at WBC. Clerk to forward details of conversation to date. | |

Meeting Closed at 8.57pm

The 2021 meetings will be held: 2nd March; 4th May; 6th July; 7th September; 2nd November.

Signed: *S Youldon* – Clerk, 7th January 2021

DRAFT