

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 13 JULY 2022 BOXTED VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Members – Councillors Steve Bay, James Collitt, Jonathan Hunt, Angela Mclauchlan, and Jamie Seakens (Chair)
Clerk – Karen Thompson

ALSO IN Members of the public attended.

ATTENDANCE:

22/127 Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present.

22/128 Apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Arabella Brentnall, Amin Dedhar and Gene Pugh had sent apologies which were accepted. Cllr's Barber (Essex County Council Division Councillor) and Chapman (Colchester Borough Council) had also sent apologies.

22/129 Declaration of Interests - to receive any interests relating to items on the agenda.

None received.

22/130 Public Participation Session

There was nothing raised.

22/131 Minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 8th June and 3rd July 2022.

Councillors are asked to agree the draft minutes of the last meeting as a true and accurate account of the proceedings.

Councillors resolved to agree the minutes of the last meeting.

22/132 Borough and County Council

To receive the reports of the District Councillor and the County Councillor.

There were no reports.

22/133 To note that no one applied to the casual vacancy advertised by Colchester Borough Council and decide to fill the vacant councillor position by co-option. (Options are to readvertise or to recall previous applicants.)

The Council resolved to advertise the Councillor vacancy with a closing date of 31st August so that interviews could take place at the September Council meeting. Individuals that have applied previously would be contacted and invited to apply again.

22/134 Planning Applications

.1 To consider commenting on the following applications and noting the decisions made:

221396	01/06/2022	Ivy Cottage, Queens Head Road, Boxted Colchester CO4 5RG	Proposed two storey rear extension and single storey side extension
221381 & 221380	30/05/2022	Peartree Cottage, Ellis Road, Boxted Colchester CO4 5RN	Listed Building: Proposed alterations, additions & replacement of openings, two dormer roof alterations to the front, addition of vehicle charging point to the rear and the demolition of summerhouse and replacement outbuilding
220981	19/04/2022	Songers, Cage Lane, Boxted Colchester CO4 5RE	Demolition of existing prefab garage and replacement with proposed oak framed cartlodge with store / office over.

The Council had no objections to the above application and would not, therefore, be submitting any comment.

A further application (see below) has been submitted and the Council did not object and would not be submitting any comment.

221660	01/07/2022	Essex Concrete and Fencing, 38 Straight Road, Boxted Essex CO4 5HN	Two storey side extension
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Decisions made by Colchester Borough Council were noted.

22/135 Parish Council Finance

.1 To receive the Parish Council Financial Report as at the 30 June 2022 (see attachments including bank statements).

The Financial Report was received. It showed a spend to date of £56,267 (inc of VAT) and receipts to date of £46,844. Bank balances were £52,045. The Council is still expected to break even in 22/23 with a transfer to reserves of £6000.

It was noted that the financial statement reflected a significant amount of spend on projects that will be reimbursed from the Colchester Borough Section 106 funds for Boxted.

.2 To approve the invoices presented.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Pay (inc PAYE, NI, pensions)	£1482.70
Clerk expenses (mileage, WFH allowance)	£ 99.80
Green recycling bins	£ 92.82
Playsafety - inspections	£ 386.40
Councillor training travel expenses	£ 63.70
Jubilee Events	£ 935.31
Viking - stationary	£ 152.00
Glasdon Dog bin	£ 275.35
RCCE Membership	£ 60.50
Vertas	£ 1294.15
Fisher Jones Greenwood – legal fees	£ 2407.20
HUB Pay Costs	£ 260.00
Wave water	£ 745.96

.3 To understand the Council reserves position (see attached)

The Council received a report that showed that the bank reserves at the beginning of the financial year was £61,500. This figure is artificially low as there is £6,000 VAT to be reclaimed that was spent last year but will be paid in this year. Start of year reserves were therefore £67,500. Of this £10,000 has been earmarked towards a bus shelter replacement. £15,000 has been ringfenced for the Hub building refurbishment and £15,000 to be contributed to the new play equipment costs. With the Council finances expected to provide for £6,000 addition to reserves the final reserves position should be in the region of £33,500.

22/136 To decide to enter into a contract with the preferred supplier for the Sports Pavilion and Hub refurbishment project subject to £98000 being granted from the Football Foundation. To publish the contract award on the UK Government Contract database.

The Council resolved that, subject to a grant of £98,000 being received from the Football Foundation and using £30,000 ringfenced for the project from reserves and the remaining £132,000 of S106 funds available, the refurbishment project was affordable, and a contract would be entered into. The details of the contract will be published on the Governments Contracts database.

22/137 Highways

To consider supporting the case for a crossing patrol officer and look to add budget provision for the cost of approximately £5k in next year's budget.

Cllr's Barber and Chapman (Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council) have agreed to fund a school crossing patrol officer for this financial year from their Locality Budgets. The Council hope that the number of families that take advantage of walking and using the Village Hall car park and overflow area increases so that Essex County Council deem a crossing officer as justified and therefore funded by the County.

The Council resolved to consider assisting with funding for future years at the budget setting time, January 2023. In the meantime, the Council will work with the school to get a crossing officer in place.

22/138 Recreation Ground

To consider local rabbit control voluntary services (see attached).

The Council resolved to seek the advice of a professional pest controller before deciding what action to take to control the rabbit population that create holes in the pitches potential causing a health and safety risk.

22/139 Policies

To approve the following policies:

- 1. Press and Media Policy**
- 2. Social Media Policy**

The Council resolved to approve the policies unchanged.

22/140 Clerks Report

To receive the clerks report including a list of resolutions agreed at earlier Parish Council meetings and note progress to date on the following (full report - see attachment)

The Council was concerned that the bus service to East Bergholt school was proposed to be withdrawn. Cllr Barber (Essex County Council) had written saying that Essex was looking at ways to deliver a service.

The Council discussed the requirement to apply for a Tree Preservation Order on the greensward area of land along the Dedham Road/Cooks Hill junction and resolved to ask Colchester Borough Council to transfer the greensward to the Parish Council.

The Council also asked if the highways devolution project was being finished or continued as it might be advantageous for Boxted to join. The Clerk said she would find out.

To note the removal of the fixed data point in the Hub ahead of refurbishment.

This was noted.

To consider supporting a Parish Council Boxtoberfest event in October 2022.

The Council did not decide on this.

22/141 Items for the next meeting agenda

Items would be forwarded to the clerk.

22/142 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 14th September 2022 at 730pm.