

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 12 JULY 2023 BOXTED VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Members – Councillors Jamie Seakens (Chair), Arabella Brentnall, James Collitt, Amin Dedhar, Jonathan Hunt, Angela Mclauchlan

ALSO IN None

ATTENDANCE:

23/99 Welcome and noting apologies.

Jamie Seakens welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Cllr Gene Pugh had submitted apologies and the clerk was absent due to illness. Cllr Steve Bays and Lee Smith were not present.

Cllr Dedhar took the meeting notes.

23/100 Declaration of Interests – None declared.

23/101 Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

23/102 Minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 12th June 2023.

Councillors resolved to agree the minutes of the last meeting with a clarification to 23/99.2 to reflect that the clerk would bring back recommendations for reducing financial risk.

23/103 Borough and County Council - To receive the reports of the District and County Councillors. To receive the verbal reports of the District Councillor and the County Councillor.

None received.

23/104 Planning Applications

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

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| <u>231476</u> | 20/06/2023 | Boxted Methodist Church, Chapel Road | Application for approval of details reserved by condition 7 of application 221753 |
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The Council had no objection to the planning application and resolved not to submit any comments to the planning portal.

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| <u>223183</u> | 01/02/2023 | Anglian Water Pipeline, Dedham to Great Horkesley | Proposed hybrid planning application for section of the proposed Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Pipeline Scheme with full planning consent sought for a pipeline and associated above ground infrastructure; and outline consent for above ground infrastructure |
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The Council resolved to submit a comment requesting that damage to the natural environment, wildlife habitat and established flora/fauna be minimised and mitigated.

.2 Decisions - Decisions made by Colchester Borough Council were noted.

.3 To establish a working group to start the review the current Neighbourhood Plan and propose changes and improvements.

There was agreement that a group should be established to push forward on changes to the Neighbourhood Plan and the establishment of a formal working group should be on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting. There was a desire to look at protecting views of the Dedham Vale AONB, protecting hedgerows, protecting against light pollution including greater policy around the Dedham Dark Skies project, and protecting landscape character. In the meantime, the Council resolved to seek advice from Colchester City Council as to whether this work would constitute minor changes or require a full new Neighbourhood Plan project.

.4 To respond to the NG Norwich to Tilbury Pylon project consultation. Cllr Hunt would attend the consultation event in Langham and draft comments for Council's agreement.

23/105 Parish Council Finance

- .1 **To receive the Parish Council Financial Report as at the 30 June 2023 (see attachments including bank and card statements).**

The financial statement was received, and the following was noted. Spend to date after three months of the financial year was £34,673 and receipts were £62,371 as 50% of the Council precept was received in April. Bank holdings were £ 91,924.

- .2 **To approve for payment the invoices presented.**

Due to clerks' absence, there were no invoices to be approved. They would be approved at the next meeting.

23/106 Review of Policies

- .1 **To approve the Asset Register (see attached).**

It was noted that there was one addition error in the Asset Register which was noted and approved.

- .2 **To approve the Risk Register and Management Policy (see attached).**

The Risk Register was not available to review and will be held over to the next meeting.

23/107 Recreation Ground

- .1 **To note the planned siting of a memorial bench in the field has been agreed.** The site was noted as the far side of the field.

23/108 Highways Issues

- .1 **To consider how to encourage planting of native hedgerows along Straight Rd.** This will be considered as part of the updated neighbourhood plan.

- .2 **To consider a (if any) response to the closure of Boxted Bridge.** It was agreed that Boxted Council would support the continued actions of the Save Our Bridge campaign by adding the Council as a signatory on the recent letter and press articles.

- .3 **To note the resident's correspondence regarding public footpath closure and to see if Cllr Barber at Essex County Council has an update.** Cllr Barber was not present and Jon Hunt agreed to follow up with him for an update.

23/109 Clerk's Report

- .1 **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).** This was noted.

- .2 **To note the Village Hall Management Committee meeting agreed minor improvements to the Village Hall including new acoustic absorbing noticeboards.** This was noted.

- .3 **Training – to note the recent Safeguarding Training and recognition that the clerk and/or councillors do not need DBS checks as they don't come into contact with children/vulnerable adults in the course of their work.** Noted and agreed.

- .4 **To consider the following lighting solution to the village hall car park.** The Council was concerned that high mounted lights and resolved to seek the advice of the Dedham Vale AONB Dark Skies advisor before deciding on a lighting solution.

23/110 Items for the next meeting agenda

The following items are planned for the next meeting agenda:

- Risk Register and Management Policy
- Presentation by County Broadband
- Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

- 23/111 Date of Next Meeting - The proposed date of the next meeting is 13th September 2023 at 730pm. Note that no meeting is scheduled for August. Necessary decisions being taken before then using delegated authority after consultation via email with councillors.** This was agreed.

Signature _____ Signed by _____