

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL (BPC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2024

BOXTED VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE James Ryan from Colchester City Council; Cllr Barber (Essex County Council (ECC)) and Cllr Tom Rowe (Colchester City Council (CCC)) and members of the public

24/17 Welcome and noting apologies.

Jamie Seakens welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Cllrs Smith and Pugh were absent.

24/18 Norwich to Tilbury NSIP process by James Ryan, NSIP Project Manager, Colchester City Council

James introduced himself as the officer responsible for Colchester City Council's response to the planning consultations and applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in respect of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Pylon route. To this end James is seeking to provide the best information to the CCC response to the Statutory Consultation that is due to start in Spring 24. National Grid (NG) will provide more detailed information to the Statutory Consultation process than we have seen thus far. He added that ESO will publish a report at the beginning of March 24 that looks at different ways to transfer electricity once it's landed from certain offshore windfarms and interconnectors off the coast of East Anglia to where it's needed. This report may influence Government policy which may in turn alter the project that NG have to pursue but it is anticipated that NG will move forward with the current pylon project which is what we will be consulted on.

The Planning Inspectorate examines the NSIP application and will make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State, who will make the decision on whether to grant or to refuse development consent. Development Consent Orders provide the legislation to take forward development without needing to apply for further planning consents.

CCC will submit a local impact report that demonstrates the harm that the project will cause to the area.

24/19 To declare that Steve Bays is no longer a parish councillor by reason of non-attendance. Steve Bays has confirmed that he has not been able and is not currently able to attend council meetings and agrees that his position should be filled by someone with more time. The council notes that the 'Casual Vacancy' process will begin with the ability for people to nominate themselves for the position. If more than one person nominates then a by-election will be held. If the vacancy is not filled via the Casual Vacancy process, then the position can be filled by co-option.

This was noted and agreed.

24/20 Declaration of Interests – None declared.

24/21 Public Participation Session

Members of the public raised the problem of household waste being piled in gardens along Dedham Rd. The Council could report that CB homes were aware of the problem which we had raised as an environmental concern and were going to remove the rubbish. CB homes had said that this would be a one-off gesture to remove the current problem but stressed it was not a service they would commit to undertaking. Cllr Rowe asked to be copied in to the correspondence.

The residents also spoke about the flooding situation in Cross Cottages, off Cooks Lane. Cllr Barber updated the meeting saying that the drainage would be investigated to see if a soak away facility has been removed/disturbed by the former garage site development.

24/22 Minutes of the last meetings of the Council held on 10th January 2024.

Councillors resolved to agree the minutes of the last meeting. Minor typos had been corrected.

24/23 City and County Council - To receive the verbal reports of the City Councillor and the County Councillor.

CCC charges being introduced for kerbside garden waste removal.

Also, as part of Colchester Local Plan development a call for sites was conducted. Results will be published shortly.

Repairs to the Severalls Bridge over the A12 will be repairs after carriageway widening.

The issue of traffic lights on the approach to the Northern Gateway were discussed and members agreed they would potentially add to the congestion.

BPC asked that pressure be applied to Highways to cut back the hedges at the chicane at Langham Rd as with no pavement and blind bends it was very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

Road gully clearing was raised but we wait on Essex Highways for action.

The bridleway BOXTED 19 which travels over the Black brook along the old 100 lane has visible damage to the bridge. Reporting it to Essex had resulted in no action. It was suggested we raise to the Environment Agency – enforcement.

24/24 Planning Applications

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

240261	08/02/2024 Consult ends 1/3/24	Lions Farm, Langham Lane	Outline application with some matters reserved for new two-bedroom annexe to support ageing relative with supported living on ground floor with two garages to the front with access from the existing drive. First floor office and games room. The roof to
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The Council resolved to submit a comment to the planning portal seeking tree and hedging to be planted and also for the annex to be used for the purpose applied and not to be extended to use as a business.

232867	14/12/2023 Consult ends 13/2/24	46 Straight Road	Extension and alterations to existing double garage for use as ancillary annexe.
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The Council resolved NOT to make a comment

240042	10/01/2024 Consult ends 6/2/24	Merryfields, Church Street	Proposed New Storm Porch with New Front Door and Sidelights
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The Council resolved NOT to make a comment

240083	16/01/2024 Consult ends 9/2/24	15 Hobbs Drive	Remove existing garden room and replace with an extension.
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The Council resolved NOT to make a comment

240117	23/01/2024 Consult ends 13/2/24	Lions Farm, Langham Lane	Use of part of existing barn for Class B8: Storage and Distribution, ancillary office, kitchen and toilets, and associated parking and turning provision. (Resubmission of 232503)
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The council felt that as this application was a resubmission the comments made originally would carry forward.

240199	01/02/2024 Consult ends 23/2/24	Classic Pot Emporium, 30A Straight Road	Application for removal or variation of a condition 2 following grant of planning permission. (222803)
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The Council resolved NOT to make a comment

240186	02/02/2024 Consult ends 26/2/24	Haus Penken, Cage Lane	Erection of first floor side extension (as previously approved under application 200785)
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The Council resolved NOT to make a comment

- .2 **Decisions** - Decisions made by Colchester City Council were noted.

24/25 Parish Council Finance

- .1 **To receive the Parish Council Financial Report as at the 31 January 2024 (see attachments including bank and card statements).**

The financial statement was received, and the following was noted. Spend to date after ten months of the financial year was £80,091 and receipts were £102727. Bank holdings were £82,028 with all precept for 23/24 received.

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

The following invoices for the month were seen and approved for payment.

Parish Council

Pay	2398.49
HMRC back payment 17-18, 22-23	54.07
Clerks' expenses (working from home allowance, mileage)	113.30
Green recycling bins	70.54
Cloudy IT licenses	96.60
Hosting domain name	9.99
Property 360 final refurb payment	7025.10
Microsoft training - cloudy IT	42.00
Reimburse bulbs - Scott	55.94
Vertas quarterly bill	1679.87
WordPress subscription	72.00
Ingleton Wood Hub refurb final payment	636.73
Hall hire	20.00
Goff Heating oil	1,598.10

Village Hall

Michelle Gourlay (cleaning)	434.50
Property 360 lights repair	328.80
Plumbing parts 3 - Screwfix	17.68
Goff heating oil	995.72
Dean & Co - curtains	1453.50
Viking sundries	179.45
MA Plumbing - disabled toilet	50.00

End

24/26 Grant Application

To consider the grant application made by Boxted Cricket Club for £260 (see attached).

The council resolved to grant £260 to Boxted Cricket Club for replacement of their nets.

24/27 Boxted Bridge

To note the summary from Cllr Barber of the meeting with Cllr Tom Cunningham at Boxted Bridge in January:

1. Ed Morton, if he is agreeable, to meet with Highways officers and Cllr Cunningham.
2. Essex Highways to consider installation of pedestrian/cycling crossing point during what appears to be a prolonged closure.
3. We are to request safety audit report on the apex of the bridge and whether flattening is necessary if it was to proceed.
4. Substantial update on the planning application.
5. Plan B should the planning application not be supported at both authorities.

Boxted Council added that we have asked for a value for money report - a fundamental part of the decision-making process before submitting to planning. And awareness that the local flood plain assessment is for the wider area and not specific to the bridge surrounds. 500m from bridge floods much more regularly than Level 3 and is actually 3B. Obviously any planning for works (also affecting value for money) would need to recognise additional cost of working in a higher flood assessment. This was noted.

24/28 Neighbourhood Plan

To note that we have requested initial advice from Colchester Council. This was noted.

24/29 Cooks Hill Dedham Road Corner

To note the response from the LHP request (attached) to look at increased parking at Cooks Hill/Dedham Rd corner and also to consider the attached draft email to push for transfer of responsibility of the land described as A to Boxted for future greenspace improvement. The council resolved to pursue a request to transfer the land to the parish council.

24/30 Royal British Legion Site Future

To note the formation of Friends of Boxted a Community Interest Company (CIC) which is hoping to raise and seek grant funds for the purchase of the freehold of the Royal British Legion site in Boxted. If successful they will open the building as a village pub. Note a CIC is a special form of non-charitable limited company, which exists primarily to benefit a community or to pursue a social purpose, rather than to make a profit for shareholders. The parish council has written a letter supporting the aims of the CIC. This was noted.

24/31 Recreation Ground

- .1 To note that Anglia Landscapes will be doing the ground preparation to facilitate a new container. This was noted.
- .2 To note that best and final offers received from two grass cutting contractors (see attached). The council resolved to let the grass cutting contract to Moser Groundcare with effect from 1 July 24.
- .3 To note that a quote for £540+VAT has been received to improve the hard standing outside the Village Hall side door for vehicles to park and decide if this is acceptable. This is Council land. The council resolved to accept the quote.
- .4 To address litter and barrier issues.
The council requested that the groundsman check the closure of the internal barrier in the evenings as often as possible and also check the far external aspects of the field and hall car park for litter.

24/32 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).
The meeting noted the update and agreed to request a portrait of the King for the village hall.
- .2 To note that CB homes will remove the built-up household waste at a Cross Cottage property as an environmental exception. It will not be done again. This was noted.
- .3 To note that MetroRod will carry out gully clearing at a Quoting £880 + VAT with additional costs for traffic management and breaking out of gullies. This was noted but it was decided to wait for Essex Highways action.

24/33 Items for the next meeting agenda

The following items are planned for the next meeting agenda:

- LGA New Model Code of Conduct
- Payrates for staff not on NALC styled contract of employment.

24/34 To agree the date for the Annual Parish Meeting for residents.

The annual parish meeting of a parish with a parish council must take place between 1 March and 1 June and must take place no earlier than 6pm. Suggested date is Wednesday 10th April 2024 immediately before the Parish Council meeting for April. The council agreed the Annual Parish Meeting date as 10th April 2024 at 7pm. This will be followed by the April Parish Council meeting.

24/35 Date of Next Meeting - The proposed date of the next meeting is 13 March 2024 at 730pm. Delegated authority being granted to the Clerk with authorisation from the Chair for emergency and time critical issues.

The following Council meeting dates were confirmed (published on noticeboards):

10th January
14th February
13th March
10th April
15th May (note 1 week later than usual due to staff availability)
12th June
10th July
No meeting in August
11th September
9th October
13th November
No meeting in December
8th January 2025

Signature _____ Signed by _____