

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 9th March 2022 in the Village Hall at 7PM

Called by Jamie Seakens

Present

Chair – Cllr Jamie Seakens

Councillors Brentnall, Collitt, Dedhar, Hunt, Pugh and MacLauchlan

Clerk – Karen Thompson

Several members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chair, Jamie Seakens, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting of Boxted Parish Council for 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to describe what the Council did over the last year and our plans for the next year and to hear the views of residents.

2. Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2019

The minutes were approved after the date was corrected.

3. Chairman's report

It is usual for the Chair of Boxted Parish Council to summarise the Council activities for the financial year in a report that is available to the Annual Parish Residents Meeting.

The lifting of Covid restrictions has meant that much of Boxted activities have resumed with the Village Hall seeing regular booking back in place. Sadly, the tenants of the Community Hub Café didn't bounce back and surrendered their lease in Autumn 2021. We have been lucky to attract a new tenant for a short-term, until a refurbishment takes place, when they could resume with a longer lease. The opening hours have increased, and the café is again a key amenity for Boxted.

The Council saw two positions becoming vacant during the year with the departure of both Cllrs Damen and Chaplin. One of the positions was filled by Mr Dedhar who joined in February. The other vacancy is being advertised which we will hopefully co-opt into.

A Committee was set up to investigate the costs of various projects to provide better facilities for the Village which was possible because of Section 106 funding from the Hill Farm housing developers. This contractual agreed money must be spent on the Community Hub building and playing field. To date we have installed a water fountain, bike racks, picnic benches, artificial wicket at the cricket wicket, outdoor gym equipment, a rebound wall,

additional small children's play equipment, a mega swing, aerial runway, large climbing piece, a roundabout for all abilities, sunken trampolines, and improved trim trail. The 5-aside football area will be installed in the Summer, and we also hope to be able to install outdoor tables tennis and/or petanque.

We were also able to change the surface on part of the Recreation Ground so that winter overflow parking is possible. We do hope this relieves parking pressure on the village especially at weekends when the football pitches are in use.

We saw our County representative Cllr Anne Brown retire after many years of supporting Boxted and we now have Cllr Lewis Barber supporting Boxted on County Council matters including Highways (potholes and verges).

One of the causes that Anne Brown supported was the conservation of Boxted Bridge in the Dedham Vale AONB. In the face of Essex Highways determination to demolish and replace the bridge with a much larger bridge supporting HGVs, the Parish Council supported the Save Our Bridge campaign. We facilitated meetings with Essex Highways to try and persuade them that demolition and replacement isn't acceptable, we spoke at Essex County Council meetings, we strongly objected to the Highways planning application, and we hosted a very well attended public meeting. The Council is hopeful that Essex Highways will rethink the plans and reconsider conservation and renovation.

The Council has worked with residents to try and facilitate enough parking provision to cater for the current garage site and new properties proposed as part of Colchester Borough Homes planned development and build of 7 residential units on the site behind Cross Cottages. Without sufficient provision car parking will displace onto the already congested Dedham Road making the centre of the village. Again, the Parish Council submitted a strongly worded objection, and we are waiting on the outcome.

The village successfully objected to the erection of a 50-foot high grey 5G mast and humming green boxes on the village green verge. The offer to work with the 5G mast planners to find a more suitable location has not yet been taken up.

We are still working with Essex and Colchester Councils to try and establish Boxted Primary School as a feeder school to Chesterwell.

There is a fantastic group of residents interested in biodiversity that have formed a volunteer group and are working with the Council to plant and maintain the wildflower areas of the village green and village green hedging and will turn their attention to public footpaths and bridleways this year.

We are using the Council Facebook page to make available useful information and regularly writing reports in the Langham with Boxted Parish Newsletter.

The planned spend on the Community Hub building should hopefully see improvements to the kitchen side in the café, large bi-fold doors added as well as the sports side being modernised with single shower cubicles, a small meeting rooms and better facilities for officials. We are hopeful for financial support from the Football Foundation to achieve these changes.

The usual parish council functions have run smoothly with good financial management and record keeping. The minutes might seem a bit dry when you read them, but they accurately capture the decisions that the Council makes.

Looking forward to the next year when we will refurbish the Community Hub building, add a 5-a-side football facility and install table tennis/petanque. We are also supporting the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations planned for Sunday 5th June on the Recreation Ground.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every current and recent member of the Council, our Clerk, Groundsman and cleaning staff, for their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to improving Boxted as a lovely place to live. I also want to thank Nigel and Lewis, our representatives at Colchester Borough and Essex County Councils. Being a councillor isn't always easy, and we all lead busy lives, but effective committed parish councillors mean that Boxted stands the best chance of being a great place to live, work and play.

Do come along to our meetings, you are very welcome.

Your Current Council is

Jamie Seakens (Temporary Chair)
Arabella Brentnall
James Collitt
Amin Dedhar
Jonathan Hunt
Angela McLaughlin
Robin Oxford
Gene Pugh

Karen Thompson is the Clerk to the Council.

Cllr Nigel Chapman is our Ward Councillor at Colchester Borough Council but is standing down at the May 2022 elections.

Cllr Lewis Barber is our Essex County Council Member.

Financial Statement

The financial report as of 28th February 2022 was presented.

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL
Financial Report to 28 Feb 22

Reconciliation

2021/22 £		2121/22 £
54,439.34	Opening balances at 1st April 2021	75,306.15
82,022.84	PLUS receipts (as detailed overleaf)	120,420.54
61,156.03	LESS outgoing (as detailed overleaf)	131,042.28
20,866.81		-10,621.74
75,306.15	Closing balances in hand at 28 Feb 2022	64,684.41
52,158.69	Lloyds BPC Current a/c..5800 (including uncleared funds (-))	49,837.48
-	Lloyds BPC Business Saver (Deposit) a/c	-
22,148.96	Lloyds BPC Sports & Social Club ..1368	13,959.10
998.50	Caxton FX Card Balance	887.83
	Caxton FX Currency Acct	0.00
75,306.15		64,684.41

Boxted Parish Council
Financial Report to 28 Feb 2022 (2 pages)

2021/22		2021/22				
		Actual to date	Budget	% of Budget	Forecast	Notes
	RECEIPTS (page 1)			9 of 12 %		
51,718.00	Precept	52,090.00	52090	100	52090	
5,718.00	Grants inc LCTS	2,256.00	1287	175	2256	475 water disp
0.00	Bank interest	0.00	0		0	
0.00	VAT refunds	14,036.34	3000	468	14050	
0.00	Sales	0.00	0		0	
0.00	Misc	37.50	0		40	
0.00	Events	112.00	0		115	
50.00	S106 Drawdown	35,526.20	10000		70000	
57,486.00	Total BPC Acct	104,058.04	66,377	157	138551	
	Hub & Sports & Social Club					
0.00	SSC Donations	0.00	0		0	
92.40	Lease fees	1,060.40	5592	19	1050	
1,466.70	Hirings	7,206.28	9600	75	8000	
355.74	Internet reimbursement from Le	95.82	381	25	96	
22,622.00	Misc/Grants (inc Covid)	8,000.00			8000	
24,536.84	Total SSC Act	16,362.50	15573	105	17146	
82,022.84		120,420.54	81950	147	155697	

PAYMENTS (page 2)						
Parish Council Amenities						
4,205.00	Grass and hedging	4,186.76	5385	78	5385	
330.96	Sports & play equip	626.78	4200	15	1000	
14,632.15	General Maintenance	1,735.19	2300	75	2300	
2,539.00	Trees	825.00	528	156	800	
0.00	Camping Close	0.00	1000	0	0	
342.40	Legal Fees/Advice	62.60	4050	2	3000	Hub lease
20.00	Village hall room hire	205.00	388	53	250	
2,354.97	Insurance	2,404.43	2428	99	2404	
545.00	Audit	550.00	739	74	550	
0.00	Village Hall	-60.50	1000	-6	-60	
150.00	S 137 donations (2021 £8.41 per elector so max £9436.02)	0.00	600	0	1000	
573.39	Subs/registrations/fees	653.98	650	101	650	
16,506.46	Salary, PAYE, NI, Pension	20,052.42	17000	118	22000	
389.36	Equipment and Software	1,578.54	630	251	1578	Water disp
643.92	Mileage/travel	769.50	410	188	770	
62.62	Sundry	252.49	100		300	
0.00	Covid19 emergency	0.00	100		0	
158.46	Stationery/printing/lit/postage	161.36	350	46	175	
344.00	Training courses/seminars/mtgs	360.00	500	72	500	
0.00	Special events/publicity/election	102.50	1000	10	103	in case poll reqd
3,080.98	Section 106 Spend	69,209.55	10000		70000	
46,878.67	Total Parish Council main line	103,675.60	53,357	194	112705	
New Projects						
0.00	Set up footpath rangers	0.00	400	0	0	
0.00	Village Green set up	607.46	2000	30	1000	
1,233.50	Dog bins and signage		0		0	
0.00	Additional Trees in village	0.00	1000	0	0	
0.00	Transfer to reserves - never use	0.00	5000	0	0	
	Recycling bin Contract	235.84	400	59	250	
0.00	Village Green maint -ongoing	210.00	1800	12	500	
48,112.17	Total PC including new projects	104,728.90	63,957	164	114455	

Hub & Sports & Social Club					
2,353.36	Electricity/Oil	2,270.19	4590	49	3000
177.62	Water	147.35	2154	7	400
1,480.44	Pay (inc Cleaners)	2,543.41	3319	77	3000
429.83	Broadband	356.66	381	94	381
3,846.04	Repairs/Equipment/Inspections	3,043.73	3231	94	4000
1268.74	Trade Waste	1,193.80	1318	91	1318
9,556.03	Total SSC	9,555.14	14,993	64	12099
57,668.20	Gross Outgoings	114,284.04	78,950	145	126554
3,487.83	Vat paid reclaimable	16,758.24	3000	559	13500
61,156.03	Total Gross Outgoings	131,042.28	81950	160	140054
24,354.64	Profit/(Loss)	£6,136.50	0		15,643

The financial statements show that the Council has a healthy reserve which should be maintained if the Hub refurbishment is successful in attracting a football foundation grant.

4. Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Meeting closed