

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close on 4 March 2024, commencing at 19:30

Councillors Present: V Davies - Chairman, P Mclean, A Brindle, P Sullivan, N Zand, I Davies, C Sheppard, K Macklin, P Dengate, B Hinder, M Beckwith and Mrs D Baylis – Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs P Huntingford, S Mayes and H Bryant - Apologies accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None declared
3. **Motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for all items in the confidential section.**
It was proposed by Cllr V Davies, seconded by Cllr P Mclean and all agreed that the press and public be excluded from all items in the Confidential Section.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings 22 January and 26 February 2024**
All agreed.
5. **Matters Arising From the Minutes**
None.
6. **Crime Report and Police Issues**
Report noted. The Clerk read the report from Community Beat Officer Jacob Troth. The Clerk was asked to relay feedback on the report. Cllrs Brindle and Hinder asked to sign up for the Patrol and Visibility initiative in Boxley Village.

Public Session at the discretion of the Chairman. Parishioners may address the meeting with regard to any item on the Agenda (time limited to 3 minutes per person). Items not on the Agenda must be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Non-parishioners are only able to address the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman.

No members of the public were present.

7. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**
The following have been previously circulated:
 - 7.1 **Environment Committee Meeting 5 February 2024.**
Noted.
 - 7.2 **Finance and General Purposes Committee 15 January 2024**
Noted
8. **Finance**
 - 8.1 **Bank Balances**
Noted
 - 8.2 **Finance General**
The Clerk reported on the issues with Nest Pensions and HMRC.
9. **Policies and Procedures**
 - 9.1 **Freedom of Information Policy**
It was proposed by Cllr K Macklin, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed that the policy be adopted by Council.
 - 9.2 **Publication Scheme**
It was proposed by Cllr K Macklin, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed that the policy be adopted by Council.

9.3 **Records Management Policy**

It was proposed by Cllr K Macklin, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed that the policy be adopted by Council.

9.4 **Mission Statement**

It was proposed by Cllr K Macklin, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and all agreed that the policy be adopted by Council.

10 **Monthly Website Update**

Report noted. Cllr Dengate if the slow responses from TEEC had improved and the Clerk said that they had.

11. **Reports from Boxley Parish Councillors/Office**

11.1 **Office Staff Report**

Report noted.

11.2 **Councillors Reports**

Cllr Brindle reported that the second meeting of the Joint Traffic Working Group would be on the 7th March.

Cllr Mclean asked about the late notification of the traffic closures around the Bearsted Road improvements. Cllr Hinder reported that he had spoken to the project manager and the information released on the 4th was for blanket closures to allow the work to go ahead. The actual road closure dates would be shorter and notifications sent out earlier to allow for publication to residents.

11.3 **Borough/County Councillor Reports**

Cllr Hinder reported that the MBC budget for next year had been passed. There would be an ECM before the 2 May elections to look at the Local Plan. The Clerk was asked to look into the Community Resilience fund for a grant.

11.3 **KALC Representative**

Cllr I Davies reported that a meeting had been held on the Monday 29 January. KALC's Parish Charter was being considered by MBC. The model Code of Conduct was being looked at. Draft minutes of the Parish Liaison meeting were available.

11.5 **Grove Green Community Hall Representative**

Cllr V Davies reported that they had applied for a Rural Prosperity Fund grant for the hall but were turned down on the basis that the hall was not considered rural in spite of Boxley being a rural parish.

11.6 **Sandling Village Hall Representative**

No rep present

11.7 **Vinters Valley Nature Reserve Representative**

A Trustees meeting had been held and they were looking into the purchase of a gazebo to increase the educational facilities of the Reserve.

There had been a lot of storm damage but the Thursday club had done an excellent job of clearing the fallen trees.

In the autumn 1,000's of snowdrops had been planted and they were now flowering along the long walk.

11.8 **Parish/Police Liaison Meeting Representative**

It was agreed to remove this item from future Agendas.

11.9 **Any other reports**

None.

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12. **Walderslade Woodlands**
The Deed of Variation has now been signed and the official document sent to the office. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thank to Kent County Councillor Sir Paul Carter for all his help in getting this completed. The Walderslade Woodland Group had done an excellent job of keeping the paths cleared of fallen trees during the recent storms even going out on additional days.
13. **Sandling**
No update.
14. **80th Anniversary of D-Day**
No update.
15. **Cluster Meetings**
None held.
16. **Matters for Decision**
The Clerk reported on issues being experienced by a Sandling resident with overgrown from a not maintained orchard behind their house causing damage to their fence and vermin to enter their garden. It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr C Sheppard and all agreed that the Clerk write to MBC on behalf of the Parish Council and ask them to issue a Statutory Notice to the land owners.
It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr C Sheppard and all agreed that the Clerk write to MBC on behalf of the Parish Council and ask them to issue a Statutory Notice to Tesco regarding the rubbish on their land adjacent to Grove Green Hall.
17. **Correspondence**
None received.
18. **Matters for Information**
None on this Agenda.
19. **Items for Next Agenda**
Noted
20. **Meetings**
Next Meeting Tuesday 2 April 2024 at Weaving Village Hall.

Confidential Section

21. **Personnel matters**
The personnel Committee had not need to meet so no report was given.
22. **Vexatious People**
No update.
22. **Lidsing Update**
More information had been submitted by MBC after the deadline for comments on the 14 February 2024. The Inspector has deemed the information put forward on the 15th as not material to his decision and would not be allowed further comments on these documents.
23. **Grant Application From Vinters Valley Nature Reserve**
A Grant application had been received from the nature reserve for money towards a gazebo to be used to educational classes. This would enable more educational activities to take place. In the past they have hired gazebos for their annual open day.
It was proposed by Cllr P Mclean, seconded by Cllr P Dengate and agreed with 2 abstentions to pay the entire amount of £2,247 as long as value for money can be ascertained in the form of further quotations.

Meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date