

# BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk



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Kent ME5 9RU

To Parish Councillors, members of the public and press.

Date 29 September 2014

Members are hereby summoned and notice is given that a **Meeting of the Parish Council** will be held at **St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green** at 7.30pm on **Monday 6 October 2014** when it is proposed to transact the following business:

- |   | Time guide  |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>Apologies and absences.</b>   | (7.30)  |
| To receive and accept apologies for absence.  |   |
| 2. <b>Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying.</b>  | (7.31)  |
| Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk. |   |
| 3. <b>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1 September 2014.</b>  | (7.33)  |
| To consider the minutes of the meeting and if in order sign as a true record (pages 3-5).   |   |
| 4. <b>Matters Arising From the Minutes.</b>   | (7.35)  |
| 4.1   | Minute 2661/10.2 WW1 commemorative plaque. The plaque has been delivered and arrangements are being made for installation.  |
| 4.2   | Minute 2680/12.3 Celebrating Boxley Warren Awards for All application. Clerk to complete work and liaise with Cllr Harwood. |
| 5. <b>Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.</b>   | (7.38)  |
| 5.1   | To receive crime statistics report if received.   |
| 5.2   | PCSO coverage see report (page 5).  |
| <b>Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting.</b>  | (7.42)  |
| 6. <b>Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.</b>   | (7.50)  |
| For the parish council to receive the minutes. Members are allowed to ask questions of the Committee Chairmen but may not initiate a discussion.  |   |
| 6.1   | Environment Committee meeting 1 September 2014 (pages 5-7).   |
| 6.2   | Environment Committee meeting 8 September 2014 (pages 7-10).  |
| 7. <b>Finance.</b>  | (7.54)  |
| 7.1   | To note payments made out of meeting 02.09.14 - 29.09.14 (pages 11-12).   |
| 7.2   | To note receipts for the period 27.08.14 – 29.09.14 (pages 13-15).  |
| 7.3   | To note Account balances as at 26.08.14 (page 15).  |
| 7.4   | To authorise payment of accounts (list to be supplied at meeting).  |
| 8. <b>Policies and Procedures Review.</b>   | (8.00)  |
| 8.1   | Community Inclusion Policy see report (pages 16-19).  |

- 9 **Annual Competency Reports.** (8.10)  
To consider the Chairman's and Clerk's reports on the recent reviews (pages 19-20).
- 10 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.** (8.15)  
To allow our Ward councillors to report and discuss matters affecting the parish.
- 11 **Reports from councillors/office.** (8.22)  
Members/staff who have attended any meeting on behalf of the parish council are invited to give a brief summary.
- 12 **Matters for Decision.** (8.27)  
12.1 Streetlife.com: report (pages 20-21).
- 13 **Matters for Information.** (8.33)  
To consider any information received.
- 14 **Next Meeting.** (8.34)  
Monday 3 November 2014 at European School of Osteopathy, Boxley Village, ME14 3DZ commencing at 7.30 pm. Councillors' reports and requests for items to be included on the agenda to be submitted no later than 27 October 2014.

*Pauline Bowdery*

Pauline Bowdery  
Clerk to the Council.

Items to be returned to a future agenda: Quality Parish Council application.  
In accordance with policy the meeting should close no later than 9.30 pm but the Chairman has power to extend it by 30 minutes.

**Supporting agenda papers for the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Monday 6 October 2014.**

**The Chairman will assume that these have been read prior to the meeting.**

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Councillors wishing to suggest changes to any policy document or procedure in this agenda should notify the office, in writing, at least three working days in advance of the meeting. This will allow details to be circulated at the meeting (or in advance if particularly contentious).

**Item 3 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the European School of Osteopathy, Boxley Village on Monday 1 September 2014 commencing at 7.34 pm.**

Councillors present: Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mr V Davies, Mrs P Brooks, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mr B Hinder, Mrs W Hinder, Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk, Borough Councillor D Butler and two members of the public/press.

**1. Apologies and absences.**

Cllr Hinchliffe (family commitment), Cllr Macklin (absent), Cllr Smith (unwell) and Cllr Spain (holiday).

**2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying.**

None received.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7 July 2014.**

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising From the Minutes.**

4.3 Minute 2661/10.2 WW1 commemorative plaque. As work had to be undertaken on the parish council's logo the Chairman will approve the proof. **Action: Chairman and office.**

**5. Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.**

5.1 **Received** crime statistics report for 28.06.14 – 23.08.14. It was noted that the PCSO had not recently attended a meeting of the parish council. The Clerk was asked to raise this with him as members welcomed the opportunity to discuss issues with him. **Action: Clerk.**

5.2 KCC briefing on Anti-social Behaviour Community Trigger. **Noted and received.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.40 pm to enable Cllr Waller to ask a question of the KM's Sandling correspondent as there was confusion about the venue for a forthcoming PCSO surgery (of which the council was unaware). The meeting reconvened at 7.44pm.

**6. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.**

**Noted and received.**

6.1 Environment Committee meeting 14 July 2014. Cllr Waller informed the Clerk that item 9.2 (removal of a tree stump by the Yew Tree pub) was still unresolved. The Clerk was requested to remind the relevant authority. **Action: Office.**

6.2 F&GP Committee meeting 15 July 2014.

6.3 Estates Committee meeting 12 August 2014.

6.4 Environment Committee meeting 18 August 2014. Member's received notification of an addition, recording the bus services response to MBC, to the draft minutes. **Noted.**

## 7. Finance.

- 7.1 Payments made out of meeting 08.07.14 – 26.08.14. **Noted.** A question was asked about which the Clerk thought was payment for new allotment keys but she would confirm this via e-mail. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.2 Receipts for the period 30.06.14-26.08.14. **Noted.**
- 7.3 Account balances as at 26.08.14. **Noted.** The Clerk was asked to amend a description that was wrongly entered.
- 7.4 Payments of accounts. **Authorised.**
- 7.5 2015/2016 Draft Budget. Members were asked to notify the parish office of any projects that they wish to have considered for inclusion in the draft 2015/16 budget. **Noted.**

## 8. Policies and Procedures Review.

- 8.1 Land and building purchase policy. **Agreed** with the addition of the word "allotments" to the type of use for which land would be purchased.
- 8.2 Internal Complaints. **Agreed.**
- 8.3 Housekeeping reviews undertaken of Draft minutes on website (refreshed with a note about notifying councillors that draft minutes have been placed on the website) and dispensations. **Noted.**

## 9. Matters for Decision.

- a. Civic recognition recommendations. No new recommendations received. **Noted**

## 10. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Clerk reported that only four residents (0.0568% of the electorate, 2 for and 2 against) had replied to the parish council's request in the Downs Mail and on the website and noticeboards for comments on whether a Neighbourhood Development Plan should be progressed. This was **noted**. After discussion, and taking into consideration that this should be a community-led project, Cllr Dengate proposed seconded by Cllr Wendy Hinder **that due to the lack of public response to defer deciding whether to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan until such time as the situation may change requiring a revisit.** **Agreed** with Chairman abstaining.

## 11. Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

Cllr Wendy Hinder's report covering the problems still occurring on the clearway at Old Chatham Road and a fly-tipping issue in Yelsted Lane was **received**. After discussing the blocking of footpaths and pavements by vegetation and learning that KCCH&T say that only one cut per year is now funded, it was **agreed** that a letter should be sent to County Councillor Carter about the need for extra maintenance in Walderslade as previously agreed and that an article would be placed in the Downs Mail. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Butler gave comments on the clearway issue and the invitation to parish councils to attend a meeting with MBC to discuss the local plan.

A leaflet drop to properties in Walderslade and Lordswood concerning the proposed 450 house development at Gibraltar Farm, Medway was briefly discussed. The Clerk confirmed that delivery was in hand.

## 12. Reports from councillors/office.

### **Noted and received.**

- a. KALC (Maidstone) Meeting 7 August 2014.
- b. Dove Hill Allotments official opening.
- c. Celebrating Boxley Warren Evaluation Report. **Agreed** this will be e-mailed to members and placed on the website and Facebook. **Action: office.** Cllr Bob Hinder notified members that the Friends of Boxley Warren Awards for All application had been refused mainly over the issue of land ownership. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Harwood, representative on the steering group, to see if this

could be resubmitted under the agreement that the group had with the land owner.  
**Action Clerk and Cllr Harwood.**

### **13. Matters for Information.**

#### **Noted and received.**

- 13.1 Thank you from a resident for the useful information on the noticeboards.
- 13.2 Kent County Playing Fields Association August newsletter.
- 13.3 Action for Communities in Rural Kent.
- 13.4 Kent Downs AONB Countryside Day 3rd October 2014 – Save the date.
- 13.5 Volunteer litter picking Walderslade Woods.
- 13.6 Open and accountable report.
- 13.7 Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report.
- 13.8. Converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Workshop.

### **14. Next Meeting.**

Monday 6 October 2014 at St John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green, ME14 5TZ commencing at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.

#### **Item 5.2 PCSO coverage** *Purpose of item: information.*

PCSO Quentin Carrington-Moss has now been seconded to another post and will be replaced with another PCSO and contact details are awaited.

#### **Item 6. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.** *Purpose of item: information.*

#### **Item 6.1 Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 1 September 2014 at European School of Osteopathy, Boxley Village, commencing at 8.52 p.m.**

Councillors present: Mrs Wendy Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr Bob Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mr A Springate and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk and for item MC/14/2395 Borough Councillor Derek Butler.

#### **1. Apologies and absences**

Cllr Hinchliffe (family commitment) and Cllr Spain (holiday).

#### **2. Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying**

Cllrs Dengate and Wendy Hinder declared that they had been lobbied and were predetermined on item MC/14/2395 Proposed development at Gibraltar Farm.

Cllr Bob Hinder declared that he had been lobbied on MC/14/2395.

All councillors declared that they had been lobbied on MA/14/0387 Highmill and 14/501511 Street Farm.

#### **3. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration**

14/502252/OUT – Outline application for a development of 8 no. houses with access considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration at Land at Junction of New Cut Road and Bearsted Road, Weaving, Kent. **Noted** this had not yet been fully registered with MBC so was not yet released for consultation.

14/502268/TPO. TREES - Oak (T1) - Crown lift up to 5.5m above ground level. Thin canopy by 10% focusing on conflicting branches at 3 Celestine Close, Walderslade.

*Do not object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

14/502456/TPO – Works to trees protected by TPO no 1 of year 1974 involving trimming and cutting back branches to clear adjoining roadway by 8 metres at Land Adjacent The Street, Boxley.

*Do not object defer to the views of the Landscape Officer.*

MC/14/2395. Gibraltar Farm, Ham Lane, Hempstead, Gillingham. Outline application with some matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout, scale) for construction of up to 450 market and affordable dwellings with associated access, estate roads and residential open space.

After discussion members **agreed objection** (two abstentions Cllrs Dengate and Wendy Hinder) proposed Cllr Dengate seconded Cllr Brooks.

Reasons for refusal:

1. The proposed development will be on greenfield land that is a substantial tract of undeveloped land extending from the North Downs as a green wedge into the heart of the urban area.

The area:

- Provides a wider landscape setting for Capstone Farm Country Park.
- Contributes to the setting of the Kent Downs AONB to the south and the M2 motorway.
- Contributes significantly to informal open space needs of the communities which adjoin it.
- Prevents coalescence of Lordswood/ Princes Park/Walderslade and Hempstead.

It is considered that development would be contrary to BNE25 Development in the Countryside, BNE34 Areas of Local Landscape Importance.

2. The likely proximity to wildlife habitats, ancient woodland and woodlands, with the associated lighting and activity and likelihood of informal and harmful recreational use, of the proposed houses and gardens, will further adversely impact on flora and fauna habitats and the visual amenity to the wider area. The proposal is therefore considered contrary to the provisions of paragraph 118 of the NPPF 2012 and BNE37: Wildlife Habitats.
3. It will have an unacceptable visual and sensory impact on the rural character of the area. The importance of which is identified in the Medway classification of it as an Area of Local Landscape Importance. It is considered that development will be contrary to section (ii) of BNE1: General Principles for built development.
4. It is an incongruous and out of character incursion of built development into undeveloped countryside which will result in the irretrievable loss of agricultural land.
5. Traffic introduced into the adjacent residential area will have an adverse effect on the existing infrastructure and will likely result in Gleamingwood Drive becoming a rat-run. Princes Avenue, Lordswood Lane and Walderslade Woods Road will be used to access the M2 and the parish council is of the opinion that the infrastructure will not cope. Access to Maidstone will be via Boxley Village using a C road that is already heavily used. Other roads in the area, Westfield Sole and Harp Farm Road, are already used as rat-runs and are little more than country lanes. It is considered that the development will be contrary to BNE2 Amenity Protection (iii) Activity levels & traffic generation.
6. In the absence of legal agreement being in place to secure developer contributions in connection with education, health, recreation and community services, the development will place additional demands on local services without provision first being in place to

ensure that the additional demands placed on these services are being met. The proposal will therefore result in an intensified use of these facilities to the detriment of existing users. The proposed development is close to the administrative boundary with Kent and Maidstone and these areas will be adversely impacted upon so section 106 payments should also be used outside of the Medway boundary.

7. The area is within the setting of the North Downs AONB and is also a water catchment area so development will potentially have an adverse impact on both.

Additional comment:

The site will be immediately adjacent to the Abestos First Waste Transfer Site.

Meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

## **Item 6.2 Minutes of the Environment Committee on Monday 9 September 2014 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.34 p.m.**

Councillors present: Mr P Dengate (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr M Hinchliffe, Mr Hollands and Mr A Springate together with the Assistant Clerk.

### **1. Apologies and absences**

Cllrs Wendy Hinder, Bob Hinder, Ann Spain and Maureen Waller (holiday).

### **2. Declaration of Interests, dispensations, predetermination or Lobbying**

Cllr Dengate declared that he was predetermined on item 12 Proposed development at Gibraltar Farm.

All councillors except Cllr Hinchliffe declared that they had been lobbied on MA/14/0387 Highmill and all councillors declared they had been lobbied 14/502252 Land at Junction of New Cut Road and Bearsted Road.

### **3. Minutes of the Meetings of 18 August 2014**

The minutes were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising From Minutes**

4.1 Minute 2674/4.1 Westfield Sole Road additional signage. KCCH&T has agreed to arrange 'unsuitable for HGV' signs to be placed at the ends of the road. The date for erection has been requested from KCCH&T and the office has been advised this could take up to 6 months **Noted**.

4.2 Minute 2677/9.1 Part-night lighting. The Office is awaiting a response from County Councillor Paul Carter about whether KCC is monitoring any rises in crime in areas subject to the new regime and whether if there is a rise the turn off will be reviewed for that particular area. A response was not available for the meeting. Cllr Dengate informed members that the Kent Messenger had run an article stating that Kent Police did not endorse this initiative.

4.3 Minute 2677/9.2 Bollards Boxley Road, Walderslade. A site visit with MBC took place and it was suggested that a further two bollards were needed for this area. Members **agreed** to an additional £100.00 which is to be allocated from the Street Maintenance budget.

As there were no members of the public present the meeting was not adjourned.

### **5. Planning Applications and Appeals for Consideration**

5.1 14/0387 Amended plans. Erection of a single storey rear extension at Highmill, Tyland Lane, Sandling. *Do not wish to object.*

5.2 14/502028/TPO. Prune back to boundary the overhanging branches of 5 trees at 5 And 6 Greenways Weaving Kent ME14 5JU.

*Do not wish to object but defer to Landscape Officers view.*

5.3 14/502252/OUT/ANHE. Outline application for a development of 8 no. houses with access considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration at land at Junction Of New Cut Road And Bearsted Road Weaving.

*Wish to see refused and reported to the Planning Committee for the reasons set out below:*

- Out of keeping with the street scene as the site forms part of the landscaped boundary fronting this area setting the boundary to the urban area and the change in development would alter this character (page 795 of the MBC Land Allocation document 2014 Housing site assessments). The trees adjacent to the watercourse and at the back of the close to the east of the site make a significant contribution to the amenity of the area and this will be destroyed/compromised if development is allowed to go ahead.
- Development is on a previously undeveloped greenfield site that it is believed had protected flora and fauna. The reptile survey carried out in 2012 is out of date and there is concern about the breadth and depth of the investigation as it appears that only part of the site was surveyed.
- Development of the site would see the loss of some significant established grassland with ecological potential (page 795 of the MBC Land Allocation document 2014 Housing site assessments).
- Site is an extremely important wildlife corridor connecting Mote Park/VVNR to the surrounding countryside including Weaving Heath , Horish and Popes woods. A large and thriving population of Great Crested newts were recently unexpectedly found in Horish Wood and it is therefore not inconceivable that these protected species have migrated.
- The site is crossed by a vitally important stream that feeds into the lake at VVNR. Water also drains from Weaving Heath and feeds into this stream. Interruption of this water course and water source and any contamination from pesticides etc. from domestic gardens will adversely impact and irrevocably damage the wildlife habitats and ecosystems in the nature reserve.
- There is concern about flooding should the development take place and it is felt the site is unsuitable due to its low level and to make it suitable will result in the loss of habitats and ecosystems.
- There are also concerns about the location of the site's access and egress so close to an extremely busy roundabout which is expected to become even busier once neighbouring sites (Newnham Park and KIMS) are fully developed and with traffic from housing developments in Sutton Road wishing to access M20.
- There is grave concern about pedestrian access to Grove Green facilities and bus services. The layout of footways around the roundabout will require a pedestrian to cross and re-cross busy roads and junctions to reach a footpath that will allow them access to public facilities.

5.4 14/502735/FULL/GFBR. Formation of 6 car parking spaces and installation of associated supercharged electric vehicle charging plant, canopy, access and landscaping at Eclipse Park Sittingbourne Road North Maidstone Kent. *Do Not Wish to Object.*

**Local Plan update** – Members **received** the Clerk's report and **agreed** to the following



Councillors attendance at the meeting on 27 September: Ivor Davies, Wendy Hinder, Bob Hinder together with the Clerk. An agenda will be forwarded prior to the meeting.

## **6. Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions**

None received.

## **7. Neighbourhood Development Plans**

**Noted** no further action.

## **8. Volunteer Groups**

Walderslade Woods Group - Cllr Springate confirmed that work still continues with the management of the woodland and plateaux. He also informed members that the quarterly meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 16 September, 2014.

## **9. Highways and Byways**

9.1 Speed limit Walderslade Woods Road to consider KCCH&T's response. Members **received** the Clerk's report and discussions took place covering the current speed limit, the change in driver's behaviour since the installation of the islands and their perception of the speeds being driven at the moment. Members **agreed** that since the islands were installed the speed has decreased and junctions have become safer, as overtaking is restricted by the islands. However they asked if the clerk could investigate the original correspondence from KCCHT prior to the installation of the islands to clarify if they had committed to do a follow up speed survey after the road improvements. Members **agreed** they could not support KCC's request for funding of a speed survey on the grounds that only one complaint has been received and as such expenditure would not be commensurate with gain. **Action Clerk.**

9.2 Bus route 130. Members **received** the Clerks report which highlighted a resident's concern regarding the timetable change on this route and the plight of school children arriving home at least an hour later than normal. An email has been sent to the bus company by the Parish Council supporting these concerns.

Members were also asked to consider the possibilities of enforcing the 20 mph speed limit in Boxley village. After careful consideration Members **agreed** that although it was very sympathetic there was little the Parish Council could do particularly as the police view the speed humps are self-enforcing.

## **10. Policy and procedures review**

10.1 Pre Application discussions. Members **agreed** the current policy was still fit for purpose.

10.2 Retention of planning applications Members **received** the Clerk's report and requested further clarification on the retention rules for Maidstone Borough Council including the electronic plans. Members **agreed** that plans for larger developments and sites with a planning history should be kept and for how long would be decided by the environment committee at the time the application is reviewed. Members requested this item be returned to the October agenda. **Action Clerk.**

10.3 Planning Rota. Names were **agreed** and a rota will be drawn up and circulated to the committee. **Action Clerk.**

## **11. Proposed development at Gibraltar Farm**

An outline application for 450 houses has now been submitted to Medway Council. The Assistant Clerk informed members that the office had despatched 1400 leaflets to be delivered with the Downs Mail in the parish areas of Lordswood and Walderslade urging residents to make their own representations. Cllr Dengate updated members on the current situation he explained Medway Council's planning portal had failed when he tried to submit an objection. He also stated that there is insufficient room for responses with a limit of

1000 characters. Cllr Springate congratulated Cllr Dengate for his effort in bringing this issue to the Parish Council's attention.

**12. Matters for information**

12.1 Extensive gardening works to the Yew Tree PH. Members **received** and **noted** the Clerk's report.

**13. Next Meeting**

Next full environment meeting 6 October 2014 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

**14. Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC**

None received

Meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

**Item 7.1. Payments made out of meeting 27.08.14 – 29.09.14**

**PAYMENTS LIST**

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Bank</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>VAT Type</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
288	Administration	09/09/2014	Coop General Account	3dd10	Telephone Bill	British Telecommunications Plc	S	70.22	14.04	84.26
303	Administration	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	Bacs l2001980/4366	Stationery	Kent County Council	S	17.79	3.56	21.35
304	Walderslade Woods Group	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	Bacs l2001980/4366	Stationery	Kent County Council	S	3.05	0.61	3.66
305	Consumables	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	Bacs l2001980/4366	Consumables	Kent County Council	S	94.14	18.83	112.97
306	Hall marketing	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	Bacs l2001980/4366	Photocopier paper	Kent County Council	S	24.90	4.98	29.88
307	Donations	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	501284	Wreath + Donation	RBL Poppy Appeal	Z	120.00	0.00	120.00
308	Walderslade Woods Group	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 96602	Insurance	The Conservation Volunteers	Z	304.57	0.00	304.57
309	Gratuity/pension	16/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS IT000000687085	Pension Contributions	EFT Receipts Ac	Z	93.73	0.00	93.73
310	Electricity bill	16/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	2dd15	Electricity	Southern Electric	S	491.18	98.24	589.42
311	Refuse collections	16/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	2dd16	Refuse Collection	SITA UK Ltd	S	106.24	21.25	127.49
312	Administration	16/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	102659	Bacs payments made from Coop account	Boxley Parish Council	Z	0.00	0.00	0.00
313	Administration	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	501286	Subscription	NSALG Ltd	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
314	Salaries	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/9-14/PC01	Salary	Mrs P Bowdery	Z	2,169.35	0.00	2,169.35
315	Administration	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/9-14/PC01	Administration	Mrs P Bowdery	X	95.64	14.35	109.99
316	Publicity	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/9-14/PC01	Publicity	Mrs P Bowdery	Z	60.00	0.00	60.00
317	Salaries	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC03	Salary	Mrs A Candy	Z	499.20	0.00	499.20
318	Travel-staff	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC03	Mileage	Mrs A Candy	Z	16.25	0.00	16.25
319	General Maintenance	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC05	Litter Picking	MS D Davies	Z	25.88	0.00	25.88
320	Chairman's allowance personal	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC06	Chairman Allowance PAYE	Mr I Davies	Z	40.00	0.00	40.00

321	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC07	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mr V Davies	Z	33.46	0.00	33.46
322	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC08	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mr P Dengate	Z	25.26	0.00	25.26
323	Salaries	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC02	Salary	Mrs M Fooks	Z	769.52	0.00	769.52
324	Wages	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC02	Salary	Mrs M Fooks	Z	513.01	0.00	513.01
325	Administration	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC02	Administration	Mrs M Fooks	S	43.75	8.75	52.50
326	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC09	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mr T Harwood	Z	33.46	0.00	33.46
327	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC10	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mr R Hinder	Z	33.46	0.00	33.46
328	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC11	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mrs W Hinder	Z	33.46	0.00	33.46
329	Publicity	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC04	Publicity	Mrs L Lake	Z	50.00	0.00	50.00
330	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC12	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mrs K Macklin	Z	41.46	0.00	41.46
331	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC13	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mr G Smith	Z	16.63	0.00	16.63
332	Wages	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/BH01	Wages	Mrs M Smith	Z	480.12	0.00	480.12
333	Publicity	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/BH01	Publicity	Mrs M Smith	Z	60.00	0.00	60.00
334	General Maintenance	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/BH01	Litter Picking	Mrs M Smith	Z	62.22	0.00	62.22
335	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC15	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mrs A Spain/Colney	Z	33.46	0.00	33.46
336	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/PC17	Councillor Allowances PAYE	Mrs M Waller	Z	38.26	0.00	38.26
337	Wages	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 22/09/BH05	Wages	Mr B Douglas	Z	257.57	0.00	257.57
338	PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 577PW001056585	PAYE	HMRC	Z	938.00	0.00	938.00
339	Chairman's allowance personal	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 577PW001056585	PAYE	HMRC	Z	10.00	0.00	10.00
340	Councillors allowance/PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 577PW001056585	PAYE	HMRC	Z	65.20	0.00	65.20
341	PAYE	18/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS 577PW001056585	PAYE	HMRC	Z	138.48	0.00	138.48
342	Hire of halls	19/09/2014	Coop General Account	501285	Hall Hire	European School of Osteopathy	Z	80.00	0.00	80.00
343	Hire of halls	19/09/2014	Coop General Account	BACS Boxley PC 164	Hall Hire	St John's CEP School	Z	55.00	0.00	55.00
<b>Total</b>								<b>8,098.92</b>	<b>195.61</b>	<b>8,294.53</b>

**Item 7.2. Receipts for the period 27.08.14 – 29.09.14**

**RECEIPTS LIST**

Voucher	Code	Date	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Customer	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
204	Hire fee regular	28/08/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP049	Regular Hire Fee	NCT stretch and relax	Z	14.70	0.00	14.70
207	Hire fee regular	27/08/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	165	Regular Hire Fee	NGREA	Z	42.58	0.00	42.58
208	Hire fee regular	28/08/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	166	Regular Hire Fee	Age Concern Malling	Z	653.63	0.00	653.63
209	Allotment income	27/08/2014	Coop General Account	INV2D	Allotment rent	Gill Monk	Z	15.00	0.00	15.00
210	Allotment income	28/08/2014	Coop General Account	INV1E	Allotment rent	Greenfield 1E	Z	15.00	0.00	15.00
214	Allotment income	01/09/2014	Coop General Account	26	Allotment rent	Miller	Z	15.00	0.00	15.00
215	Earmarked Reserves	01/09/2014	Coop General Account	26	Key deposit	Miller	Z	16.25	0.00	16.25
217	Allotment income	04/09/2014	Coop General Account	27	Allotment rent	Rank	Z	30.00	0.00	30.00
218	Allotment income	05/09/2014	Coop General Account	Receipt 28	Allotment rent	Ransom	Z	30.00	0.00	30.00
219	Administration	05/09/2014	Coop General Account	29	VAT Return/Rebate	HMRC	R	0.00	2,070.89	2,070.89
220	Hire fee regular	29/08/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP050	Regular Hire Fee	Weight Watchers	Z	148.50	0.00	148.50
221	Hire fee - casual	01/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP051	Casual Hire Fee	Benjamin	Z	168.30	0.00	168.30
222	Hire fee regular	30/08/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP052	Regular Hire Fee	Kumon	Z	190.00	0.00	190.00
223	Hire fee regular	02/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP053	Regular Hire Fee	A Bead In Time	Z	73.00	0.00	73.00
224	Hire fee regular	06/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP055	Regular Hire Fee	Yoga	Z	273.00	0.00	273.00
225	Hire fee regular	03/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP054	Regular Hire Fee	Teenie Boppers	Z	79.20	0.00	79.20
226	Hire fee - casual	02/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	169	Casual Hire Fee	Mararike	Z	150.00	0.00	150.00
227	Hire fee casual future years	02/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	170	Casual Hire Fee	Davies	Z	204.19	0.00	204.19

228	Hire fee - casual	02/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	171	Casual Hire Fee	Franks	Z	36.75	0.00	36.75
229	Hire fee regular	04/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	172	Regular Hire Fee	Balfour SMBC	Z	226.75	0.00	226.75
230	Hire fee regular	04/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	173	Regular Hire Fee	Pilates	Z	26.40	0.00	26.40
231	Hire fee - casual	08/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	174	Casual Hire Fee	May	Z	35.25	0.00	35.25
232	Hire fee regular	09/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	175	Regular Hire Fee	Tumble Tots	Z	217.80	0.00	217.80
233	Hire fee regular	09/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	176	Regular Hire Fee	Age Concern Malling	Z	583.58	0.00	583.58
234	Hire fee - casual	10/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	177	Casual Hire Fee	Woollett	Z	72.00	0.00	72.00
235	Hire fee - casual	10/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	178	Casual Hire Fee	Allan	Z	72.00	0.00	72.00
236	Insurance	11/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	179	Insurance	Tyas	Z	1.50	0.00	1.50
237	Hire fee regular	09/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP056	Regular Hire Fee	NCT stretch and relax	Z	59.40	0.00	59.40
238	Hire fee - casual	10/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP057	Casual Hire Fee	Tyas	Z	94.00	0.00	94.00
239	Coop general account	05/09/2014	Coop General Account	30	Interest	Cooperative Bank	Z	3.59	0.00	3.59
240	Gratuity/pension	01/09/2014	Coop General Account	31	NEST Refund	EFT Receipts Ac	Z	104.16	0.00	104.16
241	Allotment income	05/09/2014	Coop General Account	30	Allotment rent	Perry	Z	15.00	0.00	15.00
242	Allotment income	08/09/2014	Coop General Account	33	Allotment rent	Mr I Davies	Z	16.25	0.00	16.25
243	Allotment income	19/09/2014	Coop General Account	34	Allotment rent	Gleeson	Z	30.00	0.00	30.00
244	Hire fee - casual	11/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	180	Casual Hire Fee	Simpson	Z	41.10	0.00	41.10
245	Hire fee - casual	15/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	181	Casual Hire Fee	Denham	Z	58.75	0.00	58.75
246	Insurance	15/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	181	Public Liability	Denham	Z	1.50	0.00	1.50
247	Hire fee - casual	16/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	182	Casual Hire Fee	Burgess	Z	40.00	0.00	40.00
248	Hire fee - casual	17/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	183	Casual Hire Fee	Kidd	Z	95.50	0.00	95.50
249	Hire fee regular	22/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	184	Regular Hire Fee	Karate	Z	212.40	0.00	212.40
250	Hire fee - casual	22/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	185	Casual Hire Fee	Gaskin	Z	105.75	0.00	105.75
251	Hire fee - casual	14/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP058	Casual Hire Fee	Cullum	Z	70.50	0.00	70.50

252	Hire fee regular	14/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP058	Regular Hire Fee	Baby Sensory	Z	44.55	0.00	44.55
253	Hire fee regular	23/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP060	Regular Hire Fee	AACTS	Z	1,156.50	0.00	1,156.50
254	Hire fee - casual	26/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP061	Casual Hire Fee	Stoneman	Z	47.00	0.00	47.00
255	Insurance	26/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP061	Public Liability	Stoneman	Z	1.50	0.00	1.50
256	Hire fee regular	26/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP062	Regular Hire Fee	Sing & Sign	Z	63.30	0.00	63.30
257	Hire fee regular	26/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	BP063	Regular Hire Fee	Sing & Sign	Z	44.56	0.00	44.56
258	Hire fee regular	24/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	186	Regular Hire Fee	NGREA	Z	42.58	0.00	42.58
259	Hire fee - casual	26/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	187	Casual Hire Fee	Aggarwal	Z	122.40	0.00	122.40
260	Insurance	26/09/2014	HSBC Beechen Hall	187	Public Liability	Aggarwal	Z	2.00	0.00	2.00
<b>Total</b>								<b>5,862.67</b>	<b>2,070.89</b>	<b>7,933.56</b>

**Item 7.3 Account balances as at 29.09.14 Purpose of item: information.**

<b>Boxley Parish Council</b>	
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	
HSBC Beechen Hall	£14,359.16
Coop General Account	£21,220.14
Coop Investment Bond	£0.00
Santander Investment Bond	£125,040.31
Natwest Fixed Rate Deposit	£11.09
Barclays Bank	£59,638.25
HSBC Invest Bond	£25,000.00
Lloyds 3 mth	£45,000.00
Lloyds 12 mth	£80,000.00
<b>Total in Banks</b>	<b>370,268.95</b>
<b>Cash</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)</b>	<b>£370,418.95</b>

**Item 8 Policies and Procedures Review.** *Purpose of item: information and decision.*

**Item 8.1 Review of Community Inclusion Policy**

*Clerk's note: Members' views are sought on the office setting up and maintaining a community alert e-mail list for Grove Green, Sandling, Boxley, and Walderslade/Lordswood. The aim is to be in contact with people who do not wish to sign up to Facebook. This happened informally with the Local Plan call for sites with 5 Sandling residents in a contact group and this could be extended. It is hoped that we could gradually move anyone on the list to Facebook. If members have no concerns this proposal could be added to the policy.*

.....  
**Community Inclusion Policy**

*(Current policy with some minor updating and refreshing e.g. references to Facebook added where appropriate. Members may wish to consider whether this policy continues to need annual review rather than biennially).*

Boxley Parish Council is committed to engaging with and empowering its residents and communities so that they can be actively involved in decisions that affect them. To this end, the parish council will use the following strategy:

- Being proactive in making information available in good time on what decisions are being considered and how residents can influence or contribute to the discussion.  
*Methods used to ensure this will be the website, Facebook, 11 x neighbourhood noticeboards, leaflets, posters, consultations, word of mouth and easily understandable reports. Consideration to be given to having a presence on other social networking websites.*
- Being receptive to any reasonable opportunities that support the above, especially assisting those residents difficult to reach e.g. the housebound and disabled. *See also Appendix 2 Petitions.*
- Having all meetings of the parish council and its committees open to the public and with a period set aside for residents to comment.  
*Residents can access agendas via the website, Facebook, parish office and noticeboards (PC Meetings only). The website and leaflets explain the procedure and offer tips for residents wishing to address members. Facilities also exist where residents can, where appropriate or necessary, make written reports or have a case presented on their behalf to members. Arrangements can be made for those with disabilities such as impaired hearing or speech impediment.*
- Ensuring that the parish office plays a neutral role so that residents can be confident that they are receiving unbiased information and support.  
*This neutral involvement allows more flexibility in the service and the personal element of the contact hopefully encourages more involvement from the hard to reach members of the community. Whilst the parish office has core opening times it will be opened outside these hours to accommodate people who work etc.*
- Producing and distributing a monthly newsletter for all properties in the parish. *Contained within the Downs Mail monthly publication delivered to all residential properties in the parish.*
- Publicising details of how to contact the parish office and councillors on the council's noticeboards, website, Facebook and in the monthly newsletter. *NB Also available on the Maidstone Borough Council website.*



- Producing leaflets (available from the parish office, website and Beechen Hall) that support the engagement of the community (e.g. How to ask a question at a meeting, Can I be a Parish Councillor?).
- Using suitable opportunities to have a public presence at community events, e.g. school fetes. Every opportunity to increase this public presence will be welcomed and considered. *Individual councillors as well as the parish office play a role in identifying opportunities and representing the council.*
- Going, where possible, to the community rather than expecting them to travel (sometimes long distances) to meetings. Full council meetings to rotate around different venues serving the various areas of the parish. When dealing with controversial issues or those affecting a particular community, consideration will be given to holding a special meeting in a local venue.
- Considering and responding where necessary and appropriate to central and local government consultations and surveys and making the council's input available to the public. *See appendix 1 – Consultations.*
- Engaging with residents in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan when it has received a clear mandate from the community to do so. *The Localism Act 2010 allows for Parish Councils to produce, in conjunction with its communities, Neighbourhood Development Plans. Decision taken in September 2014 not to progress with an NDP due to lack of community interest, subject to review at a later date if the need arises.*
- Being receptive to requests from residents or communities and where thought appropriate ensuring their opinions are made known to other organisations. *This may be by including an item for discussion on an agenda, allowing a local group to put their opinions into an official report undertaken by the parish council or by e.g. meeting youngsters at a local playground.*
- Being open and accountable in its dealings with residents and the community. Information on its policies and procedures to be made freely available.
- Ensuring that, where appropriate, local people and communities are referred to the correct borough or county council department/officer/councillor and that they are aware of the ways that they can use the relevant systems to make their views known.
- Meeting the requirements of the Open and Accountable Local Government legislation. *This includes allowing the use of recording devices at meetings, right of access to information, recording and publishing of officer's decisions etc.*
- Reviewing this Community Engagement Strategy on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Consultations will be considered when either of the following apply:

- There is an issue identified by the Council, Councillors or office as controversial e.g. a large planning application; or
- There is a plan to significantly change an amenity or equipment on an amenity site.

For the action to be taken on receipt of a petition from residents, see Appendix 2: Petitions.

### **Who should be consulted?**

- If agreed that a consultation is needed then the Council or relevant committee will be required to consider the form of consultation, whom to consult and the timeline for the work. This will be decided at a Council/Committee meeting and identified on the agenda as being under discussion. Councillors with local knowledge are expected to attend the meeting or to submit suggestions to be taken to the meeting.

Issues to be considered in deciding the scope of the consultation are:

- What residents will be affected by the proposal;
- Whether to consult with all residents directly affected; and/or a wider range of residents.
- Local groups or organisations who may be affected or benefit from the proposal/issue e.g. play groups, scouts, elderly people's clubs, etc.
- Local groups or organisations from which the Council may wish to have input into the decision process - see appendix 3.

### **Form of Consultation**

Consultations may be a mixture of:

- A letter drop outlining the proposal/issues with tick boxes to gather views. The Council/committee should decide the wording of the consultation and if necessary include maps, diagrams and, where possible, suggest options. Arrangements will be made to pick up the documents or allow them to be dropped off at a local meeting/location.
- A public meeting held at local venue(s) to allow views to be gathered.
- Open evening(s) with displays and councillors available and, if appropriate, people able to give knowledgeable advice.
- The Council's noticeboards, website, Facebook and Downs Mail will be used to advertise the consultation and encourage response.
- Where possible responses will be allowed through the website.
- Any literature/display material produced by the Council will be in plain English and have balanced argument/views allowing residents to fully understand the issues.

In addition to the above, other forums can be used: 'café conversations', drop-in events, talks, brain-storming sessions, etc.

In the consultation (or at any other appropriate stage) residents will be asked to record their interest in receiving e-mail updates.

If a consultation is identified as needed then it will be expected that all councillors, but especially those with local interest or promoting the idea, should be prepared, if required, to deliver circulars or attend open days etc.

If in advance of a meeting individual councillors have identified issues that they consider need resolving or debating they are required to make these known to the parish office to allow research to be undertaken and, if necessary, for relevant information to be supplied to all councillors/public.

If substantial changes are made to any plans/issues before the matter is decided by the council/committee then the council will need to consider so advising parishioners (but not necessarily extending or re-opening the consultation).

### **Results of consultation**

In considering the result the Council not only has a responsibility to consider the views of local residents but also the benefit to and needs of the wider community.

In reaching a decision the Council should:

- Be open and accountable in all the discussions/decisions, e.g. debate/decide in a public meeting, allowing the public to speak.
- Consider and be prepared to justify/outline the benefits.
- Consider the responses received and if going against the majority decision be able to clearly identify why.
- If, after a full consultation there is little or no support then the council should consider whether it is wise to proceed with a project unless it is felt that there is an overriding community benefit.
- If preferences are given on e.g. pieces of equipment, then the majority view should stand.

**APPENDIX 2. PETITIONS**

The Council will consider petitions received on any issue. Residents/organisations submitting petitions will be required to:

- Have the wording of the petition on each page that has signatures; and
- Include the name and address (or post code) of all persons signing.
- It is expected that signatures will be from people within the parish but at the discretion of the council, signatures from outside the boundary may be accepted.
- A petition can only be presented once to the Council.

The Council in deciding whether to support the petitioned issue will take the decision in an open and accountable way by debating in a public meeting with the public allowed to speak.

**APPENDIX 3. LOCAL GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS**

Local groups and organisations will be encouraged to:

- Be properly formed with a constitution.
- Be open to the community as a whole and not have membership on an invitation-only basis.
- Be willing to work with the Council to identify possible compromises/changes that might improve a project or make it more acceptable.
- The Council will consider and welcome input from any local group or organisation; however it reserves the right when considering such input to take into consideration the size, locality and makeup of the body and whether it meets the above considerations.

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**Item 9 Annual Competency Reports.** *Purpose of item: information.*

**Committee Reviews**

Boxley Parish Council, by seeking continual improvement in the way it works and responds to its residents, aims not to stagnate. Each committee is therefore required to undertake an annual review of its work, procedures and efficiency and in so doing highlight any weaknesses and omissions so that they can then be addressed. A similar review is conducted of the work of the full parish council. By undertaking such a public health-check, the parish council shows that it:

- a) Operates in an open and accountable way;
- b) Is willing to challenge its operating procedures; and
- c) Has a procedure which highlights that the council and its committees have ownership of and responsibility for their decision-making procedures.

Reviews were undertaken by the following committees:

- Environment Committee on 14 July 2014.
- Estates Committee on 12 August 2014.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee 15 July 2014.

Each committee received a report from the Clerk on the methods, procedures and reviews by which it worked. Members discussed issues highlighted under the "possible weaknesses" section of each report and appropriate actions were identified.

### **Chairman's report.**

As councillors have taken part in the reviews or seen the relevant agenda items and minutes of meetings, there is no need to repeat any of the information therein in this agenda. Details of each of the reviews are also available on the website for those wishing to refresh their memory.

Even in the simplified form agreed last year, these reviews have again proved their worth and I wish to thank the Clerk for the time and effort she has put into preparing them. I also wish to thank you, my colleagues, for the professional degree of competence that these reviews have, in the main, identified – and the readiness to attempt to put right any new or emerging weaknesses that were highlighted. The extensive background information provided to councillors in this and last year's reports will appear in the Councillor's Handbook which is about to issue.

### **2014 Parish Council Competency. Clerk's report.**

The parish council and its committees are all working very well with effective and efficient policies and procedures, members' are respectful of each other's and the public's views and are open to suggestions for change etc. Reports to committees contained some minor reminders on trying to keep to agenda topics and watch the time the meeting is taking. A few changes were made to office procedures, notifying members when draft minutes went onto the website and also e-mail reminders to councillors who had agreed to undertake an action, so the review procedure is now a two way process identifying possible improvements to the office support.

### **Statement of competence.**

Members must decide whether they wish to make the following statement for inclusion in the minutes.

**Boxley Parish Council and its committees, having undertaken their annual review of management practices and working methods, considers that their decisions are made in an open and accountable way and that the public can:**

- a) understand how each decision was reached;**
- b) monitor the work of the parish council;**
- c) recognise that the parish council is acting legally, fairly and in the interest of the community at large; and**
- d) see that the council is striving to improve.**

<b>Item 12 Reports from councillors/office.</b> <i>Purpose of item: information.</i>
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### **12.1 Streetlife.com**

*Clerk's note: the following has been received from Streetlife.com. Members' views are sought on whether they wish to advertise it on the council's website etc. The parish council would not generally be involved and it will only work if the people in the area want to sign up. Further information can be found at [www.streetlife.com](http://www.streetlife.com).*

"A new local community website for Boxley

**streetlife.com**, the local social network, has a simple aim: to help people make the most of where they live by connecting with their neighbours.

The website provides a free and easy place to share local news, views, recommendations and resources, enabling people with busy routines or reduced mobility to keep in touch with their community.

Conversations started on **streetlife.com** have helped unite lost pets with owners, expose doorstep scammers, save threatened public services and recall local history. The site is also encouraging real-world friendships, with neighbours sharing gardening equipment, IT advice and dentist recommendations, organising craft groups, street parties and book clubs.

**streetlife.com** has just launched in Boxley, and everyone – residents, groups, local government representatives and businesses – is invited to share their knowledge, discuss the local issues they care about, and help build a stronger, better connected community.

#### **Get involved!**

- Sign up at **www.streetlife.com** with your postcode and email address
- You'll automatically be linked to the people and conversations where you live
- You can post messages, events, polls and pictures, and locals will be able to respond
- You can customise your account so you control how often you receive local updates

#### **Sign up and join the local conversation on streetlife.com.**

Our user demographics may be more suited to the sort of content you would be sharing: 90% of users are aged between 30 and 90 so you are reaching a different audience to that on Facebook and reaching people that aren't on other social networks or perhaps don't engage with the council through official channels.

Let me know if you would like further information! I thought you might also like to see Mattishall Parish Council's Streetlife page. *Clerk's note – a hyperlink to the Streetlife page can be sent to any interested councillor."*