BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL





Clerk Mrs Pauline Bowdery Assistant Clerk Mrs Melanie Fooks

AGENDA

To All Members of the Council, Press and Public

There will be a meeting of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** on **Tuesday 15 March 2016 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade,** commencing at 7:30pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:

1. Apologies and non-attendance

To receive apologies from members unable to attend.

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

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. Minutes of the meetings of 12 January 2016

To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order to sign as a true record (previously circulated).

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes

- 4.1 Minute 2832/4.1. Purchase of pdf software. This will be arranged and installed before the next meeting.
- 4.2 Minute 2832/4.2 Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs). All organisations have now committed to this change and are starting the work to change to CIOs.
- 4.3 Minute 2832 Trial Balance Sheet, to be submitted twice a year to the committee. It is suggested that this is scheduled at 4 and 8 months after the signing of the End of Year Return.
- 4.4 Any matters arising from the minutes, not on the agenda.

Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting.

5. Financial report.

- 5.1 Reconciliation of accounts reports
 - 5.1.1 HSBC Beechen Hall (page 3).
 - 5.1.2 Unity Trust Bank (page 4).
 - 5.1.3 Unity Trust ALTO (page 4).
 - 5.1.4 Cooperative Bank (page 5)
 - 5.1.5 Santandar Investment Bond (page 5).
 - 5.1.6 Barclays Bank (page 5).
 - 5.1.7 Lloyds 3 month (page 5).
 - 5.1.8 Lloyds Bank 12 mths (page 5).
 - 5.1.9 Nationwide Beechen Hall (page 5).
 - 5.1.10 Nationwide Building Society PC (page 6).
- 5.2 Investment see report (page 6).
- 5.3 Income/Expenditure report as at 8 March 2016 (pages 7-13).
- 5.4 Vinters Valley Trust grant. See report (page 13)

6. Policies and procedures reviews.

- 6.1 Investments (review). See report (pages 14-15)
- 6.2 Insurance cover. See report (page 15)

Ten minute comfort break (if wanted).

7. **Personnel matters**

7.1 TOIL, training, leave and leave/sickness cover.

8 Grant Requests

Vinters Valley Trust grant award. See report (page 15)

9 Matters for Information

None.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17 May 2016 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade commencing at 7.30 p.m. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 9th May.

Date: 8 March 2016

Pauline Bowdery

Pauline Bowdery Clerk to the Council.

Issues to be returned to agenda as they develop: Minute 2813/4.3 KALC specific training. The logistics of arranging this to take place after the May elections will be investigated return to agenda June 2016: Minute 2833 Reserves, new format and full review early in new Financial Year.

Note to all councillors: you are welcome to attend meetings of committees of which you are not a member but only committee members may vote.

Legislation allows for meetings to be recorded by anyone attending. Persons intending to record or who have concerns about being recorded should please speak to the Clerk.

Supporting agenda papers for the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on Tuesday 15 March 2016.

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

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 5. Financial report.

Item 5.1. Reconciliation of accounts report as at

5.1.1 HSBC Beechen Hall

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at: 29/02/2016 for Cash Book 1 HSBC General Account

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
HSBC General A/C	29/02/2016	408	21,140.72
		_	21,140.72
Unpresented Cheques (Minus)		Amount	
			0.00
			21,140.72
Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)			
			0.00
		_	21,140.72
	Balance per Ca	sh Book is :-	21,140.72
	Di	fference is :-	0.00

5.1.2 Unity Trust Bank

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at: 31/01/2016 for Cash Book 2 Unity Trust Account

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Boxley Parish Council	01/02/2016	3	9,750.00
		_	9,750.00
Unpresented Cheques (Minus)		Amount	
			0.00
			9,750.00
Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)			
			0.00
		_	9,750.00
	Balance per Ca	sh Book is :-	9,750.00
	Di	fference is :-	0.00

5.1.3 Unity Trust ALTO. Note. This is the pre-paid debit card that is held by the parish office and which will be kept topped up to a maximum of £250. One transaction has taken place and a statement is awaited.

Date: 0	08/03/2016		Boxley Parish Council					je No: 2
Time: 1	2:51		Cash Book 11					User: MJF
			Unity 1	rust ALTO			For M	onth No : 11
Payments for Month 11 Nominal Ledger								
Date	Payee Name	Cheque	£ Total Amnt	£ Creditors	£VAT	A/c Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Detail
11/02/2016	6 HM Land Registry	456926590	6.00			4800 300	6.00	Land Registry Search
	Total Payment	s for Month	6.00	0.00	0.00		6.00	
	Balance	Carried Fwd	244.00					
	Cash	Book Totals	250.00	0.00	0.00	-	250.00	

5.1.4 Cooperative Bank

 Date:
 08/03/2016
 Boxley Parish Council
 Page No: 1

 Time:
 12:26
 User: MJF

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at: 29/02/2016 for Cash Book 3 Co-Op General Account

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Cooperative Bank	29/02/2016	132	40,607.58
			40,607.58
Unpresented Cheques (Minus)		Amount	
			0.00
			40,607.58
Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)			
			0.00
			40,607.58
	Balance per Ca	sh Book is :-	40,607.58
	Di	ifference is :-	0.00

- 5.1.5 Santandar Investment Bond (matures Aug 2016) £75,000.00. No financial activity since last report.
- 5.1.6 Barclays Bank. £64,638.25. No financial activity since last report.
- 5.1.7 Lloyds 3 month (matures 05.05.16)

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at: 05/02/2016 for Cash Book 7 Lloyds 3 mth

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Lloyds 3 mths	04/02/2016	216	50,225.94
		-	50,225.94
Unpresented Cheques (Minus)		Amount	
			0.00
		_	50,225.94
Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)			
			0.00
		-	50,225.94

Balance per Cash Book is :- 50,225.94

Difference is :- 0.00

5.1.8 Lloyds Bank 12 mths (matures 11.08.16) £25,000.00. No financial activity since investment.

- 5.1.9 Nationwide Beechen Hall (matures Aug 2016) £40,000.00. No financial activity since investment.
- 5.1.10 Nationwide Building Society PC (matures Sept 2016) £35,000.00. No financial activity since investment.

Item 5.2 Investments.

The Lloyds 3 month account (£50,225.94) has a maturity date of 5^{th} May 2016 and members' permission is sought to make a decision on its reinvestment out of meeting as the next F&GPC meeting would be 17^{th} May. With a 3 month re-investment the maturity date will be August which is also the maturity dates of the long term investments. With the discussions regarding the possible extension to Beechen Hall currently underway it is suggested that the May 2016 meeting would be a good opportunity to have another look at the opportunities for investment, including on this occasional details about Independent Financial Advisors.

Item 5.3 Income/Expenditure report

Boxley Parish Council

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/03/2016

Committee

Report Month No : 12

		Actual	Actual Year	Current	Variance	Funds	% of
		Current			Annual		
Parish Council		Mth	To Date	Annual Bud	Total	Available	Budget
100	Parish Office						
4000	Salaries	0	37,586	41,479	3,893	3,893	90.60%
4005	PAYE	0	12,225	13,770	1,545	1,545	88.80%
4010	Pensions	0	835	11,222	10,387	10,387	7.40%
4020	Administration	70	1,620	2,376	756	756	68.20%
4025	Audit	0	260	431	171	171	60.30%
4030	Books and Publications	12	12	60	48	48	19.90%
4035	Rates	0	1,460	1,624	164	164	89.90%
4040	Licences/Leases	0	1,191	2,066	875	875	57.70%
4045	Subscriptions	0	1,495	1,564	69	69	95.60%
4050	Training/Conferences	0	94	1,000	906	906	9.40%
4055	Travel-Staff	0	508	587	79	79	86.50%
4105	Insurance	0	1,565	0	-1,565	-1,565	0.00%
4210	Contingency Fund	0	649	35,500	34,851	34,851	1.80%
Parish Office :- Ex	penditure	82	59,499	111,679	52,180	52,180	53.30%
Net Expenditure	over Income	82	59,499	111,679	52,180		

110	General Parish Council						
4035	Rates	0	162	0	-162	-162	0.00%
4100	Hire of Halls	45	290	356	66	66	81.50%
4105	Insurance	0	0	2,107	2,107	2,107	0.00%
4110	Parish Tour	0	0	375	375	375	0.00%
4115	Publicity	435	5,460	7,670	2,210	2,210	71.20%
4120	Website Admin	0	0	312	312	312	0.00%
4125	Referendum	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.00%
General Parish Co	uncil :- Expenditure	480	5,912	25,820	19,908	19,908	22.90%
Net Expenditure	over Income	480	5,912	25,820	19,908		
120	Councillor & Subsistance Allow						
	Chairman's Allowance						
4150	Personal	0	565	616	51	51	91.70%
4155	Chairman's Allowance Civic	0	88	100	12	12	88.30%
4160	Councillor's Allowance/PAYE	0	3,830	5,050	1,220	1,220	75.80%
4165	Subsistence	0	14	100	87	87	13.50%
Councillor & Subs	istance Allow :- Expenditure	0	4,497	5,866	1,369	1,369	76.70%
Not Funcialities		0	4 407	F 000	1 200		
Net Expenditure	over income	0	4,497	5,866	1,369		
130	Finance						
4210	Contingency Fund	0	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	0.00%
4220	Land Aquisition	0	0	63,654	63,654	63,654	0.00%
				•			

Finance :- Expend	liture	0	0	103,654	103,654	103,654	0.00%
1076	Precept	0	98,481	98,481	0		100.00%
1077	Government Grant	0	2,450	2,450	0		100.00%
1090	Interest Received	0	2,734	2,350	384		116.30%
1100	Parish Service Scheme	0	14,014	14,014	0		100.00%
1130	Other	0	1,007	0	1,007		0.00%
Finance :- Income		0	118,686	117,295	1,391		101.20%
Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure over Income		- 118,686	-13,641	105,045		
150	Grants		T				
4270	Other Grants	0	939	6,000	5,061	5,061	15.60%
4275	Walderslade Woods Group	0	5,894	4,975	-919	-919	118.50%
4280	Village Hall Grants	0	500	1,400	900	900	35.70%
4285	Vinters Valley Park LNR	2,049	4,975	4,975	0	0	100.00%
4290	Friends of Boxley Warren	0	30	545	515	515	5.50%
Grants :- Expenditure		2,049	12,338	17,895	5,557	5,557	68.90%
Net Expenditure	over Income	2,049	12,338	17,895	5,557		
		ı					,
Parish Council :- E	xpenditure	2,612	82,246	264,914	182,668	182,668	31.00%
Income		0	118,686	117,295	1,391		101.20%
Net Expenditure	over Income	2,612	-36,440	147,619	184,059		

Estates

220	Burial Ground						
4045	Subscriptions	0	90	92	2	2	97.80%
4420	Admin Fee	0	250	250	0	0	100.00%
Burial Ground :- E	xpenditure	0	340	342	2	2	99.40%
1200	Burials	0	872	550	322		158.50%
Burial Ground :- I	ncome	0	872	550	322		158.50%
Net Expenditure over Income		0	-532	-208	324		
230	Green Spaces						
4400	Maintenance	0	820	2,500	1,680	1,680	32.80%
4450	Boxley Village Green	0	10,710	10,500	-210	-210	102.00%
4460	WDJ Orchard	0	558	650	92	92	85.80%
Green Spaces :- E	xpenditure	0	12,088	13,650	1,562	1,562	88.60%
Net Expenditure	over Income	0	12,088	13,650	1,562		
240	Grounds Maintenance						
	Grounds Maintenance						
4500	Contract	0	5,133	7,500	2,367	2,367	68.40%
4505	Roundabout Maintenance	0	0	308	308	308	0.00%
Grounds Mainten	ance :- Expenditure	0	5,133	7,808	2,675	2,675	65.70%
Net Expenditure	over Income	0	5,133	7,808	2,675		

250	Street Furniture						
4550	Noticeboards	0	0	1,420	1,420	1,420	0.00%
4555	Seats	0	0	250	250	250	0.00%
Street Furniture :	- Expenditure	0	0	1,670	1,670	1,670	0.00%
Net Expenditure	over Income	0	0	1,670	1,670		
260	Beechen Hall						
4001	Wages	0	16,567	17,312	745	745	95.70%
4005	PAYE	0	2,437	2,670	233	233	91.30%
4010	Pensions	0	236	242	6	6	97.50%
4020	Administration	0	147	357	210	210	41.30%
4025	Audit	0	260	431	171	171	60.30%
4035	Rates	0	3,785	3,819	34	34	99.10%
4040	Licences/Leases	0	395	787	392	392	50.20%
4105	Insurance	0	944	1,650	706	706	57.20%
4210	Contingency Fund	0	924	6,000	5,076	5,076	15.40%
4605	CCTV/Alarms Maintenance	0	941	942	1	1	99.90%
4610	Consumables	0	715	999	284	284	71.60%
4615	Electricity	0	1,793	2,392	599	599	75.00%
4620	Gas	382	1,674	2,430	756	756	68.90%
4625	Water	0	675	950	275	275	71.00%
4630	Electrical Safety	0	0	205	205	205	0.00%
4635	Fire Safety	0	55	250	195	195	22.00%
4640	Gas Maintenance	60	205	251	46	46	81.50%
4650	Hall Maintenance	0	1,225	3,150	1,925	1,925	38.90%
4655	Hall Marketing	0	33	125	92	92	26.70%
4656	Hire fee refund	0	18	0	-18	-18	0.00%

4660	Refuse Collections	0	1,328	1,347	19	19	98.60%
Beechen Hall :- Ex	penditure	442	34,358	46,309	11,951	11,951	74.20%
							<u> </u>
1230	Hire Fees Casual	233	16,048	13,095	2,953		122.60%
1231	PL Insurance Income	4	228	0	228		0.00%
1235	Hire Fees Regular	762	30,808	30,500	308		101.00%
1250	Wages - AEC	0	428	150	278		285.00%
Beechen Hall :- In	come	999	47,511	43,745	3,766		108.60%
Net Expenditure	over Income	-557	-13,153	2,564	15,717		
Tree Experience			20,200	- ,55	20), 2,		
270	Beechen Hall projects						
4550	Noticeboards	0	0	1,250	1,250	1,250	0.00%
4710	External Decoration	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.00%
Beechen Hall proj	ects :- Expenditure	0	0	2,250	2,250	2,250	0.00%
Net Expenditure	over Income	0	0	2,250	2,250		
280	Allotments						
4020	Administration	0	55	250	195	195	22.00%
4105	Insurance	0	270	229	-41	-41	118.00%
4400	Maintenance	23	1,593	910	-683	-683	175.10%
Allotments :- Expe	enditure	23	1,918	1,389	-529	-529	138.10%
1280	Allotment Income	0	1,006	960	46		104.80%

Allotments :- Income	0	1,006	960	46		104.80%
Net Expenditure over Income	23	912	429	-483		
Estates :- Expenditure	466	53,838	73,418	19,580	19,580	73.30%
Income	999	49,389	45,255	4,134		109.10%
Net Expenditure over Income	-533	4,448	28,163	23,715		

Environment							
300	Environment						
4800	Street Maintenance	0	256	3,500	3,244	3,244	7.30%
Environment :- Expenditure		0	256	3,500	3,244	3,244	7.30%
Net Expenditure over Income		0	256	3,500	3,244		
Environment :- Expenditure		0	256	3,500	3,244	3,244	7.30%
Income		0	0	0	0		0.00%
Net Expenditure over Income		0	256	3,500	3,244		

Item 5.4 Vinters Valley Trust grant – For Information.

Members previously agreed to bring forward £438.10 of the 2016/17 annual grant to pay for the repair of the Trust's tractor. This is will not now be necessary as it has been paid from this year's grant.

Item 6 Policies and procedures reviews

Item 6.1 Investments (review).

Current wording with a few suggested minor tweaks:

Investment Strategy

In order to work effectively and to be able to fund projects, achieve goals and manage grants and supply services, the parish council must keep some money in reserve.

These reserves are managed in the following ways:

- Earmarked reserves. Contains money that is identified for long-term projects or which can only be spent on a specific project because it is a grant.
- Unallocated cash reserves will be maintained at about 33% of the 'normal' annual expenditure of the Parish Council and if necessary extra money will be added.

Reserves benefit the parish as: the interest attracted can be used to keep the precept down; the parish council can act quickly to a sudden community need.

The parish council annually reviews its need for and the size of its reserves.

Investment standards and Guidance

Financial investment of public money

The parish council is required to conform to numerous legislation, regulations and guidance with these setting out the requirements and expectations of financial management and control. These do not however give specific guidance on how and when investments are made, this is left up to the parish council to decide, although there are some implications for the End of Year Audit if investments of more than 2 years are made.

The parish council's role can be best summarised as that *it should take no unacceptable risks with public money.* The parish council has to ensure that it acts prudently and that it protects itself, and the public money, by having robust risk assessment and management documents and annual reviews of these procedures.

To comply with the requirement to protect public money but also to ensure that where possible unallocated funds are proactively managed Boxley Parish Council has identified the following as good practice:

- Investment of unallocated funds to attract interest and spread risk is acceptable.
- Investments are to be agreed by the F&GP Committee or, in the case of the sum invested from the Beechen Hall bank account, the Estates Committee which should receive reports on the investments at each of its meetings.
- The Clerk as RFO will advise members on potential investment opportunities and councillors can make suggestions to her.
- Investments will be spread between banks to minimise risk and the RFO will investigate and advise members on bank ownership to ensure that investments are not made into a bank/building society which is owned by another bank that has already received parish council funds.
- Where possible the amount invested will be no higher than £75,000 this being the maximum amount (per bank) paid by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme should a bank or building society fail.

- Investments will only be made into banks/building societies that are listed on the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) register.
- Investments can be short or long term but generally no longer than 18 months (although this is subject to review).
- When suggesting investments the RFO will undertake an overview of the parish council's future financial needs to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the work and projects committed to by the parish council.
- Decisions on where to invest funds will, wherever possible, be made at a public meeting however should investments mature between meetings then the decision will be ratified at the next meeting of the F&GP or Estates Committee as appropriate. Permission to invest will be approved by members of the F&GP or in the case of the Beechen Hall investment the Estates Committee, either by e-mail or telephone, after they have received a briefing note/explanation from the RFO.
- All investments will be made in the name of Boxley Parish Council or Boxley Parish Council Beechen Hall.
- The Financial Regulations requirement for two signatures will be adhered to.
- The parish council will monitor the financial markets and will hold an immediate review of any investments that are in a bank or building society if that organisation appears to be in financial trouble.

Unless there is reinvestment, Money Laundering Regulations require that maturing funds are returned to the bank of origin and in this case the Cooperative Bank account holding may fluctuate and be above the £75,000 Financial Services Compensation amount or any lower threshold set from time-to-time by the F&GP Committee

RFO's note: Members are reminded that a full review of the council's reserves will take place early in the new financial year.

In the meantime, members having asked that I keep under review opportunities to increase investment income, I have identified two:

- Independent Financial Advisor. Burham Parish Council employs a Financial Advisor and has done so for a number of years. Currently their large investment portfolio is attracting (approximately) 5 % of which 1% is commission for the advisor. It chooses low risk investment opportunities. Do members want further investigation?
- 2. CCLA "The Public Sector Deposit Fund". Many local authorities xx principle and xx parish councils invest in the company's property portfolio which is currently returning xx%. However this company is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Whilst the parish council is required to act prudently, members may wish to consider such an investment in the future."]

Item 6.2 Insurance cover.

Due to the number of recent consultations and demands on office time, a review to ensure all equipment etc. is insured and that cover is sufficient has been delayed . It will however commence in the near future in time for the policy renewal (1^{st} June). The parish council currently has a 3 year contract with Zurich Insurance through Suffolk Acre. This expires in 2017 and arrangements have already been made for two other insurance companies to contact the office in early 2017 so a full review can take place. The insurance folder and asset register are available for members to see if they wish.

Item 8 Grant Requests. Purpose of item: Decision

8. Vinters Valley Trust grant award. To ratify the Clerk's decision after e-mail consultation that the £2,250 grant awarded in December 2015 be used for footpath refurbishment and not as previous agreed a replacement flailer.