

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 6 March 2023, commencing at 19:30

Before the start of the meeting Cllr Sheppard thanked James Willmott for his service to the Parish Council as a Councillor. He was a valued member of the Council and would be welcomed back if his circumstances allowed in the future.

Councillors Present: Mr C Sheppard - Chairman, Mr Ivor Davies, Mrs P Huntingford, V Davies, A Asseter, P Mclean, B Hinder, K Macklin, P Sullivan and D Hubbard together with Mrs D Baylis – Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllrs D Hollands, P Dengate and M Beckwith - Apologies accepted.

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllr K Macklin – Item 13.3 as Wisdom Hospice were chamber members.

3. Motions to exclude the press and public from the meeting for items 21 and 22 the Confidential Section.

It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr P Mclean and all agreed that item 8 be moved to the confidential section.

It was proposed by Cllr C Sheppard, seconded by Cllr K Macklin and all agreed that in view of the confidential nature of items 21 and 22 that the press and public will be excluded from the meeting for these items.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 23 January 2023

All agreed.

5. Matters Arising From the Minutes

The Boundary change proposals need to be added to the website and the news section updated. Action Clerk.

Litter in the Parish – the Clerk had contacted MBC’s street cleaning team and they do carry out regular litter clearance. There are more difficulties clearing alongside roads as this requires traffic control. It could also be a matter of perception with a marked reduction in litter during the lockdown periods of Covid.

The Clerk had not received a reply regarding the litter at Tesco’s and would chase. Action Clerk. The Clerk had not yet carried out the Land Registry Search for the carpark to clarify its ownership. Action Clerk.

6. Crime Report and Police Issues

Noted.

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

7. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

The following have been previously circulated:

7.1 Environment Committee Meeting 6 February 2023.

Noted.

7.2 Estates Committee Meeting 13 February 2023

Noted.

8. Finance

8.1 To agree a new Budget for Councillor Inclusion.

Item moved to confidential section.

9. **Policies and Procedures**

9.1 None on this Agenda.

10. **Reports from Councillors/Office**

Cllr I Davies had attended a KALC meeting on the 30th January 2023. It was reported that Parish Councils had provided positive feedback regarding the Cluster meetings. This was contrary to BPC's experience of the meetings which had not been effective or achieved anything to date. The Blacksmiths Barn at Bredhurst had been offered as a venue for the next KALC meeting.

11. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr Hinder reported that he was attending a meeting on the Borough Development Policy Document on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

He had attended a meeting with the Aldi Supermarket development team to discuss their application for the Newnham Court site. He was satisfied that they had taken appropriate steps to prevent water contamination in Vinters lake. They were aware of the traffic and road problems in the area and were trying to get answers. There had been a slight change in the Bearsted Road Improvement Plan and there would now be a footpath on the South side to facilitate access to the crematorium for Bearsted residents. The scheme was meant to be starting in late spring/early summer.

Cllr Hinder stated that when the application goes to the Planning Committee, he will be asking for a condition that the store not open until the road improvements were completed. Cllrs Hinder and Brindle had attended the recent Bredhurst Parish council meeting as ward Councillors and they had given a detailed account of the recent meeting held regarding Bluebell Hill. Bredhurst had 3 new councillors.

12. **Grant Applications**

12.1 Calvary Charismatic Church

It was proposed by Cllr Hinder, seconded by Cllr Macklin and all agreed that the proposed community events be approved in principle subject to grant applications being received for each one.

12.2 It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Hinder and agreed with 1 vote against and 1 abstention that the grant for £1,500 to the Boxley Village Society for their Big Picnic Event for the King's Coronation be approved.

12.3 It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr I Davies and all agreed with one abstention that the grant for £530 to the Wisdom Hospice to support their fund raising event be granted.

13. **Walderslade Woodlands Trust**

It was proposed by Cllr Hinder, seconded by Cllr Macklin and agreed with 1 abstention that all the planned expenditure on the agenda be approved. This includes the container, All terrain vehicle and fuel store. Cllr Hinder asked the Clerk to contact Paul Carter for a grant towards the costs. Action Clerk.

14. **Cluster Meetings**

No meetings had been held.

15. **Matters for Decision**

Cllr Assester raised the issue of Sandling Village hall and BPC's position as custodian and sole trustees of the charitable trust set up when it was gifted to Sandling. The insurance of the building was the responsibility of the management committee.

16. **Kings Coronation 6-8 May 2023**

Cllr I Davies suggested commemorative plaques for the coronation that could be offered to Village halls and schools. The Clerk would source a design and prices and circulate to members for approval. Following this the Clerk will contact village halls and St Johns school to ascertain who would like one for their building.

It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr Sheppard and agreed with 1 against that the plaques be purchased once the design was approved.

It was proposed by Cllr Hinder, seconded by Cllr Mclean and agreed with 2 abstentions that £500 of coronation bunting be purchased and offered to any community events in the parish on a first come first served basis.

17. **Correspondence**

None received.

18. **Matters for Information**

The Clerk reported that the Precept request had been approved.

19. **Items for Next Agenda**

20. **Meetings**

Next Meeting Monday 6 March 2023 at Beechen Hall.
Noted.

21. **Personnel matters**

Minuted separately under confidential minutes.

22. **Lidsing Report**

Minuted separately under confidential minutes.

Meeting closed at 9.13pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date