Boreham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Boreham Parish Council held in the Village Hall Boreham at 7:30pm on Monday 15th April 2019.

Present:

Parish Councillor J Galley (Chair)
Parish Councillor K Cherry
Parish Councillor G Cooch
Parish Councillor A Leach
Parish Councillor P Elkington
Parish Councillor J Rice
L Miller (Parish Clerk)
J Atterbury (Administration Assistant)
3 Parishioners
Les Hawkins – Community Special Constables
Felicity Chapman – Boreham Community Agent

1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Parish Council, John Galley
Councillor J Galley welcomed all the parishioners and organisations that were in attendance.

2. Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Councillors Perrin, Crick, Sellors and Bass.

3. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2018
The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2018 had been previously distributed and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation from Les Hawkins – Community Special Police Constables
Les gave a presentation on the Community Special Police Constables currently being deployed in the district. Boreham Parish Council has signed up to fund two constables however, it has been disappointing that despite advertising for almost one year, no one from Boreham has shown an interest in making an application. Special Constables are volunteer police officers, holding the same office and the same powers as regular officers but are unpaid although the parish council will fund out of pocket expenses. It requires a commitment to a minimum of 16 hours per calendar month. The recruitment process involves a fitness test, a test to check basic literacy and numeracy skills and an interview followed by a medical and extensive vetting. Anyone interested in applying can apply via the Essex Police website.

6. Felicity Chapman – Community Agent
The Boreham Community Agent spoke about the services offered by the Community Agents who report to the Rural Community Council of Essex and are funded by Essex County Council. Their purpose is to support older people and their informal carers by promoting health and independence, reducing social isolation, finding practical solutions to daily living and informing choice and reducing confusion. Referrals are usually made by the GP or Social Services, however, anyone can contact the Community Agent if they are concerned about someone or are themselves struggling. For more information, please contact Felicity on tel 07305 707742 or email felicity.chapman@caessex.org.uk.

7. The following reports were given
a) Report by City Councillor J Galley
Cllr Galley reported that:
The new Leisure Centre is progressing well and should be ready by early June. It is an amazing looking building and looks quite impressive. The Museum has also been upgraded and now includes a café which serves breakfasts and other meals throughout the day. The Museum's theme is portraying the history of Chelmsford in many different ways also other favourites remain such as the visible bee hive and a proactive

children's area. The café is open now and very popular and the Museum itself will be open soon. Finally we are active with street sleepers and we have hired two PCPO's to deal with any aggressive actions.

b) Report by County Councillor Spence
County Councillor John Spence was not able to attend but provided the following report:

I am sorry I cannot be with you for this important meeting – In this hectic mayoral year it is hard to fit everything in!

It has been a privilege to be consort to my wife as Major of Chelmsford. Throughout the year, we have met wonderful people doing wonderful things and been educated on the scale of the issues, but been inspired by the wealth of talent and commitment. Yvonne has been determined to visit every part of the City and its area; she opened the St Andrew's Church Christmas Fair and we will shortly be in Boreham for the twinning event.

For my part, there have been some big issues at the County Council that are relevant to Boreham. I had correspondence and meetings with the Boswells Academy Trust as I was keen to ensure that admission arrangements for the new Beaulieu schools complex would be inclusive of Boreham. I have been involved with and supportive of the work to ensure funding for the Chelmsford north-east bypass and long-promised new station. I have been concerned by further delay to the widening of the A12 and with the major redesign of junction 19, where I understand we will see a consultation this summer. I am also working with the parish councils of Danbury and Springfield to think about the future of their libraries.

At the local level, I have dealt with the usual range of issues including speeding, traffic congestion, parking and planning. I applaud the work of the many volunteers – including the indefatigable Speedwatch team. I celebrate the richness of the community of Boreham and look forward to continuing to serve and represent you in the year ahead.

c) Report on progress of the Neighbourhood Plan for Boreham
The Neighbourhood Plan is a community led document for guiding the future development and growth of an area. The Neighbourhood Plan will outline the use and development of land. There has been little progress throughout the past year for various reasons, but a meeting was held recently and the committee are keen to get this moving forward again so it is anticipated that there will be progress in this shortly. It is hoped that this will be led and driven by non-parish councillors, so anyone who would like to get involved can contact the parish clerk.

d) Presentation of the Annual Report by John Galley, Chairman of the Council
This past year has been a very busy and productive one for the parish council, we said goodbye to Councillor Mann who had served on the council for several years and was also the Vice Chairman, stepping in when I was not available. Councillor Perrin is also stepping down in May due to work commitments. I would like to thank both Les and Charlotte for their contribution to the council and their service to the village and wish them well for the future.

We have welcomed on to the council Daniela Crick who some of you may remember was the council's Minute Secretary for many years and joined us as a Councillor in April and more recently, Karen Cherry and Peter Elkington, both of whom are long term residents of the village.

The parish election takes place on Thursday 2nd May. We have just received confirmation that the parish of Boreham is uncontested, this means that all current members of the council can continue and no vote is required. There remains two vacancies on the council which we would like to fill so if anyone is interested in joining, please let myself or the clerk know.

This year the council spent the remaining Section 106 monies that it had received from development within the village. First of all, the fence at the children's play area at the recreation ground was repainted. This work was undertaken by Lester, the council's Maintenance Manager, Dave, the Village Volunteer and even Phil the Village Attendant and Kieran the Litter Picker joined in to get it completed working tirelessly throughout last year's extremely hot summer.

The council also replaced the see saw on the recreation ground as the old one had become frail with the bolts requiring constant tightening and more recently, the parish council has installed an outdoor table tennis table to be enjoyed by all.

You may have noticed too that the Speed Indicator Device has reappeared in Plantation Road. This was taken out of service last year to have modified software installed as well as solar panels so that the battery is not constantly requiring charging. At the same time a new SID was purchased and this has been installed in Church Road. These will alternate with the site in Main Road on a rota basis in an attempt to keep the speed down in and around Boreham.

The village saw the Bloor Homes Development commence during the year and already the first few dwellings are ready to be viewed. This development has received mixed views by local residents, especially from those who are obviously most affected. However good the developers are, there is always massive disruption and you will always get the rogue lorries going to the wrong place and we are constantly chasing Bloor Homes to try and make the disruption as minimal as possible. My heart goes out to all those affected locally and unfortunately it is a sign of the times as development seems to be happening all over Essex. At least they seem to be building quite quickly and we look forward to the day when everything is completed when hopefully all those who have been massively affected can get back to a normal life.

We have finally got permission from Highways to put into plan a solution to the parking in Church Road. Highways have to go through due diligence to enable them to take it forward on our behalf to the Local Highways Panel when hopefully the implementation will be agreed and implemented. The process is not as easy as it sounds as they have to consider many other scenarios across Chelmsford and it is difficult to predict when this will take place. Please bear with us while they go through this process and we will keep you advised as and when matters progress.

Play in the Park, a Chelmsford City driven idea and run during the school holidays was arranged and funded by the Parish Council again last year. Unfortunately on the days arranged, it rained, so the children had to utilise the facilities inside the village hall. This year, in addition to the usual activities provided, the parish council is funding Team Kinetics, Face Painting and Arts and Crafts to attend and hopefully this will be well attended by the children of the village.

The Lion Inn Allotments have once again been fully utilised with a constant waiting list. The pond will be cleared and cut back over the next few weeks and at the same time the fence around it will be replaced. It was a difficult summer for allotment growers due to the constant need for watering due to the hot dry summer.

I would like to thank the village volunteer, David who has once again provided invaluable service to the village with his endless trimming of hedges as well as the edges of the grass verges of the Main Road, and planting of the flower beds around the village. A new bed was planted at the entrance to the village hall car park and finished off with a small chain link fence. This has been complemented by many visitors to the village. The trees that were given to the village by the Boreham Twinning Association from Ploubalay have now been planted at various locations around the village and hope that these will thrive in the future. It is planned that the mound of earth in the recreation ground along Plantation Road will be fenced off and planted with flowers and shrubs during next year.

During the coming months, the parish council are installing a Talking Post which will be erected by a bench in the village where people can sit and listen to the history of the village. It is anticipated that the footpath at the recreation ground will be continued so that you will be able to walk around the entire perimeter of the ground without walking on the grass. Solar lighting will be installed along the footpath from the Sports & Social Club to Plantation Road to allow residents to use it during the dark.

I would like to thank the employees of the council, Lester, the council's Maintenance Manager for his commitment and hard work throughout the year, turning out in all weathers to check the play equipment

and carry out repairs, as well as Phil and Kieran who clean up the village, as well as assist Lester when needed. Without these members of staff, the village would not be as tidy and pleasant a place.

Finally I would like to thank our Clerk, Lisa Miller who organises the running of the office including the monitoring and administration of all the finances as well as the Assistant Clerk Justine Atterbury, who assists with all the administration of the council, organising of the meetings and ensuring that us Councillors are kept informed and up to date on all matters. These two work tirelessly throughout the year to achieve these aims, and without them this parish council would just not be able to operate as it does so well. Well done!

e) Report by Chairman of the Finance Committee, Councillor J Galley and Financial Report

During the financial year 2018/19, the parish council had a budgeted income of £86,835. However, due to CIL Monies of £10,802.62 received from development within the parish, an actual income of £108,408.59 was received.

The expenditure for the year was predicted as £101,693.00 so had the additional CIL monies not been received, there could have been a shortfall of £14,858. However, the actual expenditure has come in at £92,422.20, this figure includes £8,302.00 from S106 monies, £2,389.33 and £2,096.80 already held, so the true expenditure for the year is in fact £78,634.00.

Section 106 and CIL monies were used to purchase the new Speed Indicator Device & Solar Panels, the replacement See Saw, the Table Tennis Table and the repainting of the play area fence.

The Recreation Ground is a Charity Account and therefore has to be kept separate from other Parish Council accounts. However, as the Recreation Ground's income does not cover the annual expenditure, ear marked reserves have been allocated to cover any shortfall. The parish council moved £6,600.00 from its reserves during 2018/19 to cover any shortfall for the next few years.

The Income for 2018/2019 is set out below:

Main Budget:	
Total Income:	£108,408.59
Total Expenditure:	£ 91,422.20
Transfer from S106 monies	£ 8,302.00
Transfer from CIL monies	£ 2,389.33
Transfer from Ear Marked Reserves	£ 2,096.80
(gives a true expenditure of £78,634)	

For the financial year 2019/2020 a total budget of £88,725 was agreed made up as follows:

Greens Committee:	£15,900
Finance Committee:	£72,825
Total budget for 2019/20	**£88,725**
Recreation Ground:	£ 3,225

Precept for the Year 2019/20

Following the budget review, the Precept for the coming financial year was approved as follows:

The budget resulted in a 2.8% increase on last year's precept (£86,263 + £2462).

Based on a tax base of £1,297.24, this precept would result in an average Band D charge to each property in boreham of £68.40 (the Band D charge for each property for 2018/2019 was £67.96, an increase of 0.6%).

8. Community Speedwatch
In 2018, Boreham CSW completed a total of 14 sessions using 6 of its trained volunteers with the following results:
Plantation Road – 11 sessions: 71 vehicles reported & verified
Main Road – 0 sessions
Church Road – 4 sessions: 33 vehicles reported & verified

One of the current CSW volunteers is temporarily unavailable due to ill health however we have about 7 waiting to be trained.

The new solar powered SIDs have been put into use in Church Road and Plantation Road and despite some teething problems with both of them, the Plantation Road one was pulling more sad faces than smiles. I await the first downloaded results with interest.

It is a proven fact that the SID unit visibly slows some people down when they see their speed flashed up in front of them. What is more worrying is the amount of villagers who continue to speed.

Speedwatch desperately needs more volunteers so please either contact the parish council or visit the Boreham Community Speedwatch Facebook page. Thank you and stay safe.

9. The following reports were received on the charities:
a) Boreham Recreation Ground Charity Accounts

Recreation Ground:	
Total Income:	£2,130.75
Total Expenditure:	£2,942.37
Transfer from EMR to Recreation Ground	£6,600.00
(gives a shortfall of £811.62 covered by the EMR monies)	

It is hoped that with additional entities using the recreation ground now to run their business like Boot Camps that the recreation ground will be able to fully cover all annual expenditure from it's annual income.

b) Butler Trust
The Butler Trust has met several times this year and has made several donations to families requiring financial assistance. The next meeting will take place in May and anyone wishing to make an application can find the necessary forms on the parish council website.

11. General Discussion
There were no further comments or questions that had not already been discussed during the meeting.

There being no further matters for consideration, the Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed Date