Boreham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Boreham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 6th November 2023 in the Goodwin Room of Boreham Village Hall

Present
Councillor L Reed (Chairman)
Councillor A Leach
Councillor P Elkington
Councillor L Miller
Councillor E Stammers
Councillor M Powell
Councillor D Stocks

Also in attendance: Mrs Lisa Miller (Clerk), Jo Penson (Deputy Clerk)

23/88 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Mills, Bugbee and Trott all of which were accepted.

23/89 Declarations of Interest
Councillors Elkington and Leach declared an interest in item 23/99 (purchase of the Bowling Club land).

23/90 Public Participation
None were present. It was reported by Cllrs that there are now potholes on St Andrews Road which need addressing. These will be noted and go on the next round of pothole repair allocated funds. The footpath from Waltham Road up to Damases Lane is also in a terrible condition partly due to parked cars. The Oak tree down the footpath from Main Road to Church Road needs to be cut back but it is unclear who is responsible for this tree. There is an issue with flooding outside the old Cock Inn and Waltham Road when there is heavy rain.

It was also reported that a resident had been verbally abused by a group of youths in the village. Some of the scarecrows were also vandalised around the same time. The Parish Council would like to make it clear that they do not condone any kind of anti-social behaviour and ask that everyone reports this to the police in the first instance. It was agreed to follow up with Victoria to find the police number for reporting anti-social behaviour.

23/91 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2023
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2023 had been distributed and it was RESOLVED THAT they be signed as a true record of the meeting.

23/92 Councillors Reports

a) City Councillor Report – Cllrs Raven and Canning had given their apologies but reported that the PSPO that is proposed to divide Hylands Park into areas where you or cannot walk your dog off lead was called into committee due to the high percentage of opposition. However, the committee approved the PSPO without amendment. The Chelmsford Theatre refurbishment project was initially budgeted at £1m but rose to £3.246m because of delays and issues with sourcing materials. This led to the cancellation of the pantomime last Christmas resulting in a loss of around £440k for the Council. The Essex wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment is being updated and the City Council is conducting a 'call for sites. Any sites submitted will then be considered as part of the ongoing review of the Local Plan.

b) **County Councillor J Spence's Report** – Cllr Spence had given his apologies but provided a report which was distributed prior to the meeting. The new connector bridge linking the A12 and the A131 has finally opened. Funding for the Army & Navy solution has been announced and it is anticipated that the work will begin in 2025. With the recent heavy rain, there has been issues with blocked drains causing flooding in the county and this will lead to more potholes appearing.

c) **Village Hall Committee –** an informal meeting was held with the Management Committee and it was agreed to hold regular bi-monthly meetings.

d) **Transport Committee –** Cllr Leach is attending a meeting on 20th November.

e) **One Boreham –** nothing to report.

f) **Climate Crisis Environment Working Party** – there will be 2 more volunteer days before the end of the year to rotovate some of the field and to dig holes for the additional apple trees. There are some additional trees coming so if we can get permission, it is possible to plant some on the corner of Plantation/Church Road and also the Recreation Ground.

g) **Butler Trust** – the next meeting is not until February.

h) **Stock Almhouses –** there was a meeting held recently and the dwellings are fully allocated and ticking along smoothly.

i) A meeting took place recently with Ceres Property, the developers are wanting to build a mixture of 24 dwellings include bungalows behind Plantation Road. A bungalow has been purchased on Plantation Road to provide an access to the land.

23/93 To receive and consider the following Committee Minutes previously circulated

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2023

The Minutes were confirmed with no comment.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2023

The Minutes were confirmed with no comment.

23/94 Clerk's Report

Remembrance Sunday Wreaths – it was agreed that Cllr Reed will lay the wreath at the church and Cllr Powell will lay the wreath at the war memorial.

It was reported that the Defibrillator had been relocated to the outside of the Sports & Social Club. The Clerk has commenced looking at options for the parish office. She met with a groundworks contractor who specialises in drainage about connecting to the main sewer. A quotation has been received and it is looking at costing around £20k. We have also started to look at options for improving the outlook of the office and it is looking like we would have to replace the current portacabin with a purpose-built wooden clad and insulated portacabin but it is still at the early stages of enquiry. It was agreed to set up a working party to look at options for the parish office.

23/95 Sports & Social Club Rent Review

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT as per the lease agreement with the Sports & Social Club, the Parish Council would increase the rent by 10% to £1,100 per annum.

23/96 Chantry Field Access Road

A meeting with the residents was held on 11th October to discuss the issue of the flooding. Essex Highways have been asked to come out and look at the drains taking rainwater off of Waltham Road. It is believed that both soakaways are broken so unable to take the water especially when there is heavy rain. Until Essex Highways have assessed the drains, the council is unable to find a solution. There is concern that once the weather turns colder the flooding will turn the access road into an ice rink.

23/97 New Banking Arrangements – Unity Trust/Barclays Bank

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Boreham Parish Council would open a savings account with Unity Trust Bank and deposit the sum of £80,000 into the account. The administrator of the account would be the Clerk, Lisa Miller and the signatories would be as existing signatories for Barclays, Cllrs Linda Reed, Leach, Elkington and Stammers.

23/98 Additional Camera to overlook the Sports & Social Club

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a new camera should be situated on the parish office to protect the Defibrillator now it is located on the Sports & Social Club.

23/99 Bowling Club Update

It was reported that the solicitor has sent through the client letter for signature. There were a few corrections to be made to the letter and once these have been made, the clerk will sign the client letter and arrange transfer of the deposit.

23/100 Financial Matters

a) Budgetary control and Accounts Report - Members were circulated with budgetary control reports. Members approved the reports.

b) **Ratification and authorisation of Payments -** It was RESOLVED to accept the Accounts as drawn and ratification and authorisation was given for the cheques and payments (appendix attached).

c) **Budget & Precept** – the Parish Council will discuss the precept options at the December meeting when we have the tax base figures from the City Council.

There being no further matters for consideration, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 8.54pm.