Boreham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Boreham Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th October 2024 in the Goodwin Room of Boreham Village Hall

Present
Councillor D Crick (Chairman)
Councillor P Elkington
Councillor M Powell
Councillor L Miller
Councillor L Reed
Councillor A Leach
Councillor D Stocks
Councillor G Dickson
Councillor T Mills

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

24/69. Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Elson which were accepted by full council.

24/70. Declarations of Interest
Cllrs Elkington and Leach declared an interest in item 24/78 (Bowling Club land).

24/71. Public Participation
No members of the public were present. A resident had enquired whether the A12 widening was still going to go ahead following the recent change in government. It was confirmed that it is currently under review.

24/72. Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd September 2024
The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd September 2024 had been distributed and it was RESOLVED THAT they be signed as a true record of the meeting.

24/73. Councillors Reports

a) City Councillor Report – Cllr Raven reported that Chelmsford has replied to the NPPF about the change from 93 homes per year to 1406 homes per year, they have raised concerns with regards to infrastructure funding as the Government will need to make significant investment in infrastructure provision to support the increased housing targets. The Local Plan review consultation went to the Policy Board on 26 September. At this meeting, the board solely received the consultation feedback rather than changes. There were 3677 respondents which came from a wide variety of groups including residents, developers, landowners and agents, businesses and statutory bodies such as other local authorities and Parish/Town Councils. Most were likely to be about Hammonds Farm. These comments will be used to help shape the 'Pre-Submission Local Plan' which is expected to be considered by the Policy Board in December and shared with residents and stakeholders for a third and final round of consultation in early 2025.
CCC's Annual Financial Review for 2024/25 identified a £4 million budget deficit for the coming year and forecasts a total shortall of £13 million over the next five years. Their reserves are becoming depleted due to use of them over the past 5 years. There are discussions about charging for brown bin collections along with a rise in parking charges unless additional funding becomes available from central government. The council is looking to develop the Rectory Lane car park for affordable housing.
The police have been using facial recognition technology in Chelmsford this week.

b) **County Councillor J Spence's Report** – Cllr Spence had given his apologies but reporting the following: ECC are still waiting on government announcements regarding road funding and ECC have been laying huge stress on the importance of infrastructure to match housing ambition. Beaulieu Station is progressing well and the next stage on the NE bypass is underway. He had provided a letter of support for St Andrews Church who are applying for grant funding to repair their roof. Finally he said that a lot of highways work that he had requested in the area has been completed or is underway.

c) **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Elkington attended an Executive Management Committee Meeting recently.

d) **Transport Committee –** Cllr Dickson reported that residents are being encouraged to sign up to the travel Essex bus news website to keep up to date with local bus information.

e) **Butler Trust –** There was a meeting held on 24th September, two students, one from Boreham and one from Little Baddow each received £500 towards university fees. Another 6 students also received funding with a total allocation to all 8 of £2500.

f) **Stock Almhouses –** A new TV aerial has been installed to give the residents better reception.

g) **Chantry Field** – Chelmer Bridge Rotary has raised £1000 towards a gazebo for the pond but there remains additional funding needed.

h) **Neighbourhood Plan** - The Consultation did start as planned on 29th September and runs until the 10 November. A special note of thanks to the Deputy Clerk for assisting getting everything prepared to meet the deadline.

i) **Hammonds Farm –** The next meeting is on Monday 14th October to discuss the latest update.

j) **Beaulieu Park Station –** The Beaulieu Station working group has confirmed that they will be employing someone specifically to work out the bus routes and timetables once the station is open. There is also a proposal to have two park and rides to the new station, one being located near the Army & Navy.

24/74. To receive and consider the following Committee Minutes previously circulated

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th September 2024

The Minutes were confirmed with no comment.

Minutes of the Greens Committee Meeting held on 16th September 2024

The Minutes were confirmed with no comment.

24/75. Clerk's Report

It was reported that following agreement to have a memorial bench for plaques on the Recreation Ground, a quotation had been obtained for a replacement bench for the Recreation Ground but as this had not been included in this year's budget, it will be added to next year's budget and purchased in April.

24/76. Terms of Reference

Some of the proposed changes were discussed and it was then agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would go through some of the suggested changes to the Terms of Reference and report back at the next meeting.

24/77. Parish Office

It was reported that members of the working party had been to White Elms in Bicknacre to look at some potential ideas for a new parish office. Relay are coming out to provide us with a quotation to connect to the main sewer.

24/78. Bowling Club Land Purchase

It was agreed that the two instalment payments will be made in April and September following the commencement of the lease. The lease price will be reviewed every 3 years.

24/79. Boreham War Memorial

In principle the parish council agrees that the war memorial should remain within the Boreham Airfield site and therefore would be amenable to moving the memorial into the Country Park once it has been

developed. However, the council would like to consult the public beforehand to gage their feeling on the idea. Confirmation will be given once public consultation has taken place.

24/80. Sports & Social Club Lease

It was agreed that the existing lease was fit for purpose and would be reissued for a longer period to take into consideration the expiration date. The Clerk will make the necessary amendments and send a draft to the Sports & Social Club for review. The lease price will continue to be reviewed every 3 years.

24/81. Boreham Village Hall Electricity

Cllr Elkington provided an updated worksheet on how the village hall propose to work out the electricity charges and these will be discussed with the Clerk at a later date.

24/82. External Auditors Report

The External Auditors report was acknowledged and accepted by full council.

24/83. Photocopier Lease

It was resolved that the parish council would continue to lease the photocopier from NCS with a reduced rate of £10.31 per quarter and no charge until April 2025.

24/84. Chantry Field Public Poll

It was agreed to delay the poll until after the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation has ended.

24/85. Essex Field Club Grant for relining of the Chantry Field Pond

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council approves the application of a grant of £2000 for the relining of the Chantry Field Pond. A letter with quotations has been prepared to send to accept the grant funding.

24/86. 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).

There being no further matters for consideration, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.