

**BOXWELL WITH LEIGHTERTON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 6th JANUARY 2025 at 7.00pm
MINUTES**

Councillors: Simon Gale, Co-Chairman
Martin Weaver, Co-Chairman
Dan Say
Carol Taffurelli, RFO
Felicity White, Clerk

1. SG welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies had been received from Tony Slater.
3. MW approved the Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th November 2024.
4. Update on Matters Arising from previous meetings:
 - 4.1 **Parish Plan Questionnaire**
 - 4.1.1 SG had worked on a breakdown of costs and prioritisation of projects arising from the Questionnaire which required further discussion with the PC prior to final approval. The outcome is included in the Financial Report section (5) **(SG)**
 - 4.2 **Matters raised during Amenities Committee meeting re: Pond**
 - 4.2.1 It was agreed that proposed protection of frog and toad spawn in the pond as well as managing the verges via the installation of a kerb would form part of the projects being undertaken by the PC. **(SG)**
 - 4.2.2 It has been suggested that more ducks should be purchased. However, the PC concluded that given that there will be increased and heavier traffic due to the Poole Farm development, it would be incautious to add to the existing population until the project is completed.
 - 4.3 **Traffic/Speed controls** through the village were a major item raised in the Questionnaire. In order to address concerns, the PC had proposed various actions and below is an update on the current status:
 - 4.3.1 Engagement with the new Headmistress at the school is planned for later in January. However, it was agreed that the PC should wait until she is *in situ* before making contact. The main purpose of the meeting is to request parents dropping off and collecting children drive more slowly and park with consideration. **(MW/DS)**
 - 4.3.2 DS updated the PC on his approach to GCC Highways to establish whether certain Speed awareness matters could be implemented. Unfortunately, he did not initially receive a response to his request for a meeting and subsequently sent specific dates. The meeting is now due to take place on 24th January and DS proposes liaising with a member of the

PTFA in order to include them in discussions with GCC Highways and the school.

(DS)

In the meantime, the PC plans to purchase some 30mph stickers which can be placed on the lanes approaching the village. It was also suggested that perhaps the school could be asked whether the pupils could produce some suitable signs. In addition, there is a proposal to introduce village 'gates' requesting drivers to slow down.

4.4 A Flower planting party on the village verges is to be arranged by Dawn Gale and Clare Dixon. Proposed timing and request for volunteers will be published via the BwL Newsletter and on the Notice Board.

4.5 **Christmas Market** - SG provided a brief update on the Christmas Market held on 8th December; he reported that it had been well supported despite the weather and feedback had been very positive. A special thanks to Frankie Gale for organising it, in spite of the inclement conditions.

The school choir singing Christmas carols and songs in the church proved popular and was well received by everyone who attended, despite last minute changes to plans.

MW received a special thanks for organising and decorating the Christmas tree, which has received many positive comments from residents of Leighterton.

Based on the above, MW indicated that forward planning and some changes are required for the 2025 Christmas festivities e.g. turning on the Christmas tree lights at dusk accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

5 **Financial Report** - CT had circulated the latest accounts as at the end of December 2024 prior to the meeting showing balances as follows:

Current Account £165.29

Deposit Account £5,738.72

CT has proposed that in future accounts there is a sum applied as a Contingency for unforeseen expenditure. This met with approval from the PC.

5.1 The Precept for 2025/26 was the topic of a detailed discussion given the projects and priority of implementation commencing in 2025. The PC is in the process of establishing a business plan in order to inform the Precept required in 2025/26 prior to submitting the details to CDC before 31st January 2025 deadline.

The business plan and subsequent expenditure will comprise the following:

- Pond maintenance, including the verges
- Park/Playground and equipment maintenance e.g. the tree house, etc
- Signage to slow traffic, including the introduction of village 'gates'
- Commence work on obtaining the paddock adjoining the Park, recognising that this is a long term goal and will take time to implement.

6. **Planning Applications** - SG provided an update on applications received since the November meeting

- Update on Poole Farm development - nothing further heard since email exchange in October 2024 despite chasing CDC. However, based on conversations with the Project Foreman, it appears that demolition work is due to commence in February and that the developers are abiding with the plan as previously presented to village residents.
- 7 The Street - A revised Planning application to install 1 flush roof light at rear roof pitch (ref: earlier approval sought in Sept 2024)
- The Old Dairy, Farm Lane - Reduction to the height and spread of a beech tree.
- Highfield House, The Meads - Application for the erection of a 2 storey side extension.

No objections were raised by the PC in respect of any of the above applications.

7. **Any Other Business**

7.1 The PC has offered to be involved with the BwL Newsletter and a meeting is to be arranged with Jane Bullock in order to explore how this can be progressed and also have more people involved in its preparation.

7.2 It has been proposed that a calendar of village event ideas for 2025 is established i.e. date of a Village Fete

8. **Date of next PC meeting**

10th March 2025 at 7.00pm