



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON 19th AUGUST 2024

- Present:** Councillors: D. Dorey (Chair); I. Johnston;
M. Tye; B. Walton;

Apologies Councillors R. Davies; S. Roche
Absent Councillors J. Clifford ; R. Bolton
- Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th June were amended; meeting was held at The Parish Council Offices not the MOD Community Centre. The minutes were then taken as read and signed as being a true record
- Update on Issues raised and any other matters arising from the minutes:**

Albion Terrace – removal of items on the Common and adjacent bridlepath. The trampoline and most of the lawnmowers have been removed; one lawnmower is a communal one that is in use so will remain.

Bridlepath adjacent to Albion Terrace:

Builders rubble adjacent to the bridlepath has increased with bags of grit and gravel. Agreed: A letter to be sent to the owner of the adjacent house asking for removal of the rubbish and reminding them that this is Parish Council land.

Action: Ast. Clerk and Cllr. D.Dorey to confirm address.

Peppercorn rents for residents using the Common:

Agreed that the standard letter needed updating to include a reminder that the road in front of Albion Terrace is an unadopted road which is the responsibility of the residents and a map of the area showing where Parish Council land is to be attached. Need to agree an annual date such as New Year or beginning of the financial year when these letters go out so they are sent regularly. Cllrs would like to see a copy of an actual licence agreement to see what are the permissions &/or restrictions. **Action. Asst. Clerk to investigate and circulate a copy.**

Interpretation Boards: These have arrived from iDVerde. Cllr. B. Walton took boards away to have them installed.

Apple Day: UK Apple Day is Monday 21st October the suggested date to hold an event is Sunday 20th October; Cllr. H. Parker was looking at this; Cllr. B. Walton will catch up with her to check progress; suggested that both Coppershell Animal Sanctuary and the Quarrymans Arms could be involved; need to borrow apple press. Event would need to be advertised via the Parish Magazine and Social Media.

Recommendation: That Box Parish Council hold an Apple Day on Sunday 20th October at the Lower Common subject to a health and safety risk assessment.

Management Plans for Thoday Wood and Box Hill Common:

Cllr. D.Dorey will ask John Kerr to update the Thoday Wood plan as it is dated 2023; and will also ask Richard Wilson to update the Box Hill Common plan. Once updated will share with Tree Parts. All noted that positive action is being taken to manage these woodlands well. Agreed that all areas subject to a tree survey need to be done together and then set on a regular review cycle.

Steps to Stairway to Heaven

These have now been fixed by the Cotswold Wardens and are now fit for purpose.

Walkabout

Need to clear the lane edge of the middle common; the wooden posts are covered in grass/weeds making it difficult to see to pull in to let another car pass as they could hit the post.

The bank around the car park is overgrown with weeds and needs strimming. By the information board one of the posts is broken and the white sign stating who should not use the common needs a clean.

Cutting of the Middle common needs to be built into Open Spaces Workers' programme.

Action: Clerk to notify Open Spaces Workers.

5. **Update on the management of the Rudloe Area**

- **Rudloe Community Centre update:** Cllr. D. Dorey reported that a copy of the lease has been received from Wiltshire Council and they are now awaiting legal advice on its contents. Unfortunately, the electricity has been disconnected so awaiting re connection to be able to check the heating system. Hoping to be using the Centre by Christmas. The Play area is looking good and is well used.

6. **Any correspondence:**

- **Request to access Box Tunnel for an environmental assessment by Carter Jones on behalf of Network rail:** Request agreed; request for a copy of the environmental assessment particularly in relation to any vulnerable species found such as dormice.
- **Patches of Hemp Agrimony on Box Hill.** These have now been removed by the Open Spaces Workers.

7. **Update on Forward Plan/Risk Assessment and Asset Register:**

Cllr D. Dorey will review and update these; agreed to remove the Rudloe Firs project; also to reduce some of the risk assessment risk levels from high to medium due to the mitigation factors being taken.

8. **Items of report and future agenda items:**

Cllr M. Tye requested that a review be done of the Upper Common to look at extending the no mow areas and creating wildflower meadows. Agreed to look at this at the next walkabout. Need to print some plain maps of Upper Common for all to refer to at walkabout.

Action: Asst. Clerk to source via Parish online website.

9. Date of next meeting: 21st October 2024

Date of next walkabout Friday 18th October at 2 p.m. meet at car park on Box Hill Common. Invite Open Spaces Workers.

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

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