



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 20th APRIL 2023

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; M. Tye; B. Walton; T. Walton
2. **Apologies** Cllrs R. Bean; R. Davies; I. Johnston; S. Parker
3. **Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Walk round:** Members of the Committee had walked round prior to the meeting.
6. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2023 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
7. **Risk Assessment and Forward Plan:** The Risk Assessment was reviewed. This links in to the Forward Plan

- a. **Insufficient resource available to deliver the Box Hill Common & Lacy Wood Management Plan:** There are four groups who are capable of carrying out the work on the Common: - Council Staff; Cotswold Wardens; Friends of Box Common Volunteers and Community Payback team

A work breakdown structure was discussed and it was **recommended** that this be adopted. The Council staff will be spending less time on the Recreation Ground and more time on the Common.

- b. **Ash tree dieback:** Most of the trees have been dealt with but there are still some remaining in the small wood. These will be assessed in August and a four year programme for maintenance drawn up.
- c. **Stairway to heaven:** The handrails will be extended
- d. **Rudloe Play Area:** It was reported that there has been digging under the tarmac creating a hole which has raised the risk level. The following options were discussed.
 - Ask the working group to establish what piece of equipment would be wanted and to raise funds for this through grant applications
 - GreenSquare could relocate the play area if the planning application proceeds. Any equipment put in would have to be moveable
 - Flatten the current area to make it safe. This would have to be done anyway if new equipment was to be put in.Cllr Wright will speak to Phillip Rice to ask him to establish what piece of equipment would be desirable and to get quotations for levelling the area.

Action: DW
- e. **Picnic Table:** Cllr T. Walton had repaired this and it had been painted.
- f. **Seats:** On going
- g. **Interpretation Board:** On going

- h. **Lacy Wood Dry Stone Wall**: The Cotswold Wardens will be carrying out the work when appropriate stone is made available and the walling team have sufficient time to complete the task
- i. **Retaining wall at Albion Terrace**: Survey to be obtained. It was agreed to ask the residents not to park near the wall
- j. **Albion Terrace road surface**: There is nothing that the Parish Council can do.
- k. **Footpath 35**: Wiltshire Council will not do anything to this path
- l. **Tree stumps**: The Cotswold Wardens will be coppicing the Ash, Sycamore and Buddleia. The stumps will be treated
- m. **Recycling bin**: Defer until a later date
- n. **Litter bins**: Defer this until the Recycling bins are agreed.
- o. **Japanese Knotweed**: Wait to see if this regrows
- p. **Posts for the edge of the Common**: These had been delivered. It was agreed to ask Mr Barton to auger the holes. More reflectors would be needed. Cllr Wright to liaise with Mr Barton and Groundsman **Action: DW**
Post minute note: The damaged posts on the common have been replaced and 12 new posts installed on the middle common area.
- q. **Lacy Wood Tree Safety Action Plan**: The Groundsmen are following the Management Plan. It was suggested that the stiles could be replaced with kissing gates
- r. **Small Wood**: John Kerr is drawing up a four year management plan. The trucks could be cut up on site for the parishioners to take. It was agreed to carry out a bat assessment before any felling is carried out. Cllr Wright will contact the Wiltshire Bat Group for advice. **Action: DW**
Post minute note: Cllr Wright has contacted the Wiltshire Bat Group and they will get back to him with a plan

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a. **East of Bath Express feasibility Study**: Wiltshire Council has arranged a meeting with Corsham Town Council and B&NES at the beginning of May
Transfer this to the Highways Committee
- b. **Engagement with Wiltshire Council Community Payback team**:
The Community Payback Team are working well
- c. **Box Hill Common Volunteer Group**: The group is working well under supervision by Steve Murphy and Barrie Dix. The tools for the group are stored at Wadswick. Steve liaises with Cllr Wright over what is needed for the working groups who then fetch the tools
- d. **Lower Common**: It was stated that the Parish council would need to decide what it wants to do regarding residents' use of this area. The Clerk stated that the letter requesting a peppercorn rental for use of this land ensures that the residents are made aware that the land belongs to the Parish Council. It was agreed that there should not be any dumping of building or garden waste or any bonfires on this land. There should also not be any permanent items ie trampoline and washing line. Cllr Wright will speak to some of the residents who are part of the volunteer working group and will also invite everyone to a meeting **Action: DW**

9. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Green**: No further update from GreenSquare Accord on the proposed planning application. An application for use of the Green for a picnic following the Coronation had been discussed and agreed at the Governance meeting
- b. **Play Equipment**: see item 7d above

10. Rights of Way It was **recommended** that items regarding Rights of Way should be transferred to the Highways Committee

11. Correspondence: Nil

12. Date of next meeting: tba

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Chairman