



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A REMOTE MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 18th JANUARY 2021

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); J. Clifford; J. Cox; R. Davies; H. Parker; B. Walton; S. Parker
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies** Cllr S. Gould
- 3. Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
- 4. Declarations of Interest:** Nil
- 5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the remote Meetings held on 16th November 2020 were taken as read and will be signed as being a true record at the next proper meeting subject to two small amendments.
- 6. Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached
 - a. Lacy Wood:** The wood is looking in a good condition and the Groundsmen have been doing clearing work. Cllr Davies had replaced the missing bird boxes and there is evidence that these are being used although some damage had been caused by woodpeckers.

The landowner of the field had given permission for a stile to be put in to prevent the barbed wire in the far corner of the wood being cut again. Clerk to ask the Cotswold Wardens if they could put the stile in.

It was reported that there is a broken sign by the wall at the entrance which needs removing.
 - b. Box Hill Common:** The clearing work is behind on the Common because of the wet weather and one area needs attention. The snow drops are starting to come through.

Top and middle Common
The dead tree had been removed.

Creation of parking space; Planning permission had been received and the proposals for the drainage ditch had been approved. Because of the increased work involving the drainage ditch and soakway the contractor will give a revised quote to include the additional work. The work cannot commence until April

Parking on Common: It was agreed to monitor the builders carrying out work on the Black Hut to ensure that they do not park and churn up the Common.

Lower Common A further letter to be sent to the owners of the overgrown hedges which are encroaching across the track and Beech Road asking them to cut it back by the 8th of February. Failure to do this will result in the Parish Council getting contractors to cut this for which they would be charged.

- c. **Japanese Knotweed:** Continue to monitor. There is no sign of this at the present time.
- d. **Boundaries by Albion Terrace:** Continue to monitor
- e. **Removal of shed:** The contents, including a bicycle and several tools, have been photographed and removed and are being stored at the Parish Council offices and the Committee will discuss how to dispose of these after lockdown. Two very high quotes had been received for removing the shed. There are a lot of screws and nails so the shed will need to be taken down, taken away and burnt. Cllr Clifford offered to look at this
- f. **Interpretation Board:** Cllr Walton had circulated three quotations for the interpretation board. It was agreed to dismiss the quotes using two separate contractors for the printing and framing. It was agreed that the panel should be A2 size. The two remaining quotations were in the sum of £840 from Shelley Signs Ltd and £729.50 from Fitzpatrick Woolmer Design and Publishing Ltd. It was felt that the option of the encapsulated glass reinforced plastic with a frame all round from Shelley Signs Ltd was the preferred option and it is **recommended** that the quotation of £840 be accepted. This will be positioned by the car parking area
- h. **Drain on the Common:** The Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineer had been on site and the work appears to have helped with the discharge of the water.
- g. **GWR seat on Common:** This is in urgent need of repair. Clerk to add this to the list of priority jobs for the Groundsman. The other seat in the middle of the top common needs attention.
- h. **Compositing of grass cuttings:** Following on from the discussion at the last meeting Cllr Case confirmed that the grass cuttings from the Common are not taken down to the composting bin on the Recreation Ground. There is already an area on the Lower Common that is used and also an area on the top common by the track. The grass cuttings in the composting bin on the Recreation Ground comes from all the other areas around the parish. It was felt that frames may need to be built round this but this would need to be discussed again by the Playing Fields Committee.

7. Trees: Continue to monitor

8. Risk Assessments: The Groundsman had carried out a Health and Safety check of the Common and Lacy Wood at the beginning of January. Cllr Case reported that a tree from the Freemans adjoining field had fallen across the electric fence and she will speak to Mr Freeman to get this removed

9. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths:** On-going.
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths:** Committee members to monitor some of the paths
- c. **Work carried out by Cotswold Wardens:**
 - **Footpath 18:** The Cotswold Wardens had met with the Manager of Real World Studios to discuss this. Four options had been discussed as follows:
 1. Do nothing
 2. Install a kissing gate (about £300)
 3. Install a stile (about £60)
 4. Install a chicane (about £20)
 After discussion it was agreed to a chicane with the Parish Council paying the £20 for the cost of the materials
 - **Footpath 17 – Inghalls Cottage:** Repairs to footpath sign; cutting back

- of overgrown hedge
 - Footpath 11/12 Middlehill Restore stile footplate
 - Footpath 21: Clear 100m overgrowth on path
 - Footpath 3 Middlehill: Restore stile
 - Footpath 12 Jamies Farm: Restore stile footplate
 - Footpath 20 Tunnel Throw: Hedge planting by Bybrook
 - Footpath 75 Wormcliffe Lane: Repair to stile footplate
 - Footpath 32 Boxfields: New footplate for stile
- d. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: Rights of Way Warden to carry out work to the steps on Footpath 59
- e. **Sign for Middlehill**: The work to this by the Shed had been impacted by Covid-19
- f. **Proposed diversion of footpath 50 (part) 52 (part) and 53 (part) at Wadswick** Order for the diversion was confirmed on 3rd December.
- g. **Footpath 107A**: It was agreed to ask the Cotswold Wardens to relocate the footpath sign on Boxfields Road to the nearside verge to enable approaching traffic to see it and also there needs to be a stile and not just a squeeze gap.
- h. **Footpath 44 – Quarry Wood towards Bradford Road**; There is a section of electric fencing which is not signed.

10. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **RoSPA report**: The report from RoSPA on the play equipment at Rudloe did not show any high risk areas. The Groundsman will carry out any items that need attention.
- b. **Speed of traffic on B3109**: The pedestrian crossing by the Rudloe Estate is being completed together with the refuge by the housing development. An Issue Sheet is being submitted requesting the speed limit be reduced from 50 mph to 30 mph with a 20mph at school times. Clerk to ask Corsham Primary School if they have an up to date Travel Plan.

11. Items for discussion:

Publication of a Box Parish Walking Map: Letter reporting that Colerne Parish Council had recently drawn up a map of the footpaths with Colerne Parish at a cost of £580. No money had been put in the budget for this but it was agreed to discuss it further at the next meeting. Clerk to ask Colerne PC for a copy of the map.

12. Correspondence:

- a. **Installation of fibre broadband**: Letter received from Gigaclear with a Wayleave Agreement for installation of the network over the Common. Clerk to ask Chris Morris from Gigaclear to come out and point out exactly where the cables would go.
- b. **Retaining wall by Fairlight Cottage**: Letter received regarding a broken retaining wall by Fairlight Cottage. It was reported that this has nothing to do with the Parish Council
- c. **Henley Court**: The footpath had been temporarily diverted to allow the large tree to be felled. However, the large branch which had fallen down has been removed but the dangerous tree is still there and the path is still diverted. Clerk to notify the Rights of Way Warden and ask him to investigate.
- d. **Temporary Road Closure Order**: Park of Quarry Hill from its junction with White Ennox Lane for a distance of approximately 310 metres in a westerly direction on 1st March until 9th April to allow Wessex Water to install water mains.

13 Items of report and future agenda items:

Litter bin by Vine Court; The new litter bin had been pulled off the post and broken. The Groundsman had looked at this but it cannot be repaired so a new litter bin will have to be purchased.

14. Date of next meeting: 15th March 2021

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm