



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A REMOTE MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 20th JULY 2020

1. **Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); J. Cox; R. Davies
B. Walton; S. Parker
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
2. **Apologies** Cllrs S. Gould; D. Moore
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 18th May 2020 were taken as read and will be signed as being a true record at the next proper meeting.
6. **Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached
 - a. **Lacy Wood:** The wood is looking in a good condition. The seat is back in position. The Groundsman had repaired the boundary fence – it was agreed to monitor this
 - b. **Box Hill Common:**
Lower Common The Cotswold Wardens are having a working party on the Common on Wednesday 22nd July to clear the slope and fix the steps. They will also look at clearing the hemp.
It is **recommended** that a donation of £500 be made to the Cotswold Wardens for all their help.
Creation of parking space; Cllr Case and the Clerk had met with David Arnup the Wiltshire Highways Engineer and he had given advice re the discharge of the surface water from the site. It had been agreed that a ditch system would be dug behind and along the edge of the proposed hardstanding. The Clerk had spoken to the Planning officer and this would need to be added to the plan. It was agreed to ask Cllr Campbell to help with this.
 - c. **Japanese Knotweed:** Continue to monitor. There is no sign of this at the present time.
 - d. **Pig and a Jig:** *Remove from Minutes*
 - e. **Boundaries by Albion Terrace;** Continue to monitor
 - f. **Removal of shed:** The Council's solicitor had given notice that the shed had to be removed by the end of June. However, the owners had written back to state that because of the lockdown they requested that this be extended for three months. This had been discussed at the Policy & Finance Committee and it was agreed that as negotiations with the owners had been going on for eighteen months the deadline could only be extended to 31st August. This would be the final deadline and if the contents and shed had not been removed by that date the Parish Council would go ahead and remove it. The solicitor had informed the owners that if the Parish Council has to make arrangements for its removal a photographic inventory will be taken of the contents and any items removed, but any chemicals contained in the shed would be destroyed. Should the Parish Council

have to make arrangements for its removal, it will seek reimbursement of the cost from the owners

- g. **Interpretation Board**; Cllr Walton had circulated a draft proposal for the information board – footpaths and bridleways would be added to the map and more illustrations would also be added. It was agreed to obtain quotations for the board prior to looking at possible funding. Final draft to be circulated.
- h. **Seats**: Monitor the condition of the GWR seat – put on the list of work for the Grounds Staff (medium term)
- i. **Clearing of saplings**; The Cotswold Wardens had offered to clear the wood that had been left.
In future if there is request to allow any work on land bordering the Common full details of all the work involved must be given and the area must be cleared up afterwards
- j. **Drain on the Common**; Cllr Case and the Clerk had met with David Arnup the Wiltshire Highways Engineer to look at the two gullies which flooded. He has visited the site with Gemma Winslow and reported that the gullies are not functioning as they should and there appears to be an issue with the soakaway. They will try to identify the problem.

7. Trees: The work to the trees had been completed. Quotation received from Joe Thomas for the removal of the Goat Willow on the middle common. Dead braches are falling off of this. It is **recommended** that the quotation in the sum of £380 be accepted.

8. List of outstanding work on the Common/Lacy Wood

- Repairs to the wood on the GWR seat – medium term
- Replace the reflective strips on wooden posts - medium term
- No parking sign for Mill Lane -

9. Risk Assessments: These had been circulated and committee members were asked to send any comments by 31st July. It was agreed to query the need for signage on the demarcation of the boundaries. Dates when the trees, Japanese knotweed etc were last checked to be inserted. The Japanese Knotweed is checked fortnightly.

10. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths**: On-going.
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths**: Committee members to monitor some of the paths
- c. **Items that have been reported:**
 - Stile on Boxfields Road – It was agreed to ask the Cotswold Wardens to put in a proper stile.
- d. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: Clerk and Cllr Gould had taken these up with the Rights of Way Warden as a matter of urgency. Clerk to contact him again as footpath 59 is an important path linking up to a lot of other footpaths and the gate needs to be repaired.
- e. **Bridge by Real World Studios**: The work had not been carried out. The Studios had reported that the Wiltshire Council was responsible for the maintenance of the bridge. Clerk to contact Real World again and ask if they have contacted Wiltshire Council to carry out the work as this is a trip hazard.
- f. **Sign for Middlehill**: The work to this by the Shed had been impacted by Covid-19
- g. **Clearing work by Cotswold Wardens:**
 - **Footpath 43/44** – clearing overgrowth
 - **Footpath 38/39** - clearing overgrowth

- **Footpath 61** - clearing fallen tree
 - **Footpath 49** – reinstatement of footpath sign
 - **Footpath 56** – clearing work
 - **Footpath 107** – clearing work
- h. **Footpath 96 – The Drum**: confirmation of the Order to extinguish Footpath 96
- j. **Proposed diversion of footpath 50 (part) 52 (part) and 53 (part) at Wadswick**: Waiting for a decision by Wiltshire Council

11. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- **Mosaic sign**: The mosaic is completed and is at the Shed. Clerk to chase Cllr Anderson as to when this will be erected

12. Correspondence:

- **Pavement from Box to Batheaston**: Letter suggesting that this could be upgraded and used as a cycle path. Clerk to forward this suggestion to Wiltshire Council

13. Items of report and future agenda items:

- **Heavy lorries using the A365**: It was agreed to ask Cllr Mathew for an update on this at Full Council
- **Chalkhill Management Plan**: It was asked if this could be put on the website
- **New speed sign at top of A4 Rudloe**: Clerk to remind the Parish Steward about the sign
- **Tennis Courts**: The courts have now been reopened following the LTA guidelines
- **McMillan Way**: Clerk to remind Wiltshire Council that they had agreed to put in a stile to prevent bicycles using this path
- **Footpath by Henley Court**: The tree branches have been removed
- **Quarry Hill**: It was reported that there had been a party in the woods over the weekend and a lot of bottles had been left. Clerk to notify the landowner
- **No Parking Sign for Mill Lane**: Clerk to ask the Groundsman to reinstate this
- **Reflective strips on the wooden posts**: These need replacing
- **Memorial signs by trees**: One of these has been removed. Clerk to ask the Groundsman to remove the stand as this could be a trip hazard. No consent had been given for these signs

14. Date of next meeting: 21st September 2020

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm