



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### A REMOTE MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); J. Cox;  
B. Walton; S. Parker  
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies** Cllrs R. Davies; 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 20<sup>th</sup> July 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. Cllr Davies had reported that at least one of the four nesting boxes had been occupied this year. One of the boxes needs refixing and the Clerk will ask Cllr Davies to look at this. The trees were monitored regularly and there are three dead ones which will need removing before 1<sup>st</sup> March. Cllr Davies also reported seeing a carcass of a rabbit by the seat and raised a query as to whether there could be myxomatosis. However, Cllr Case reported that she had seen a lot of healthy rabbits nearby. The plaque in front of one of the trees needs the lettering repainted. The Clerk will speak to the Ground staff. It was reported that the fencing in the far corner of Lacy Wood and the barbed wire had been cut again. It would appear that walkers are using this as a short cut into the fields. It was agreed to ask the landowner of the field if a stile could be put in to prevent this being cut again.
  - b. Box Hill Common:**

It was agreed that the Committee should meet for regular walk rounds of the Common with the Groundsman and a date will be set for the end of October.

Lower Common Letter received from a residence regarding the overgrown hedges encroaching across the track and Beech Road preventing cars getting past. It was agreed to write to the owners of the hedges and ask them to cut this back by the end of November. If they were unable to do this the Parish Council could carry out the work and invoice them for this.

There is a large branch down across the track but as this is connected to wires it was agreed to ask SSE to carry out the work to clear this. There is a further large branch down in the Beech wood which will be removed during the winter.

Barbed wire fencing at top of Common – this is owned by the Freemans. Cllr Case had checked this.

It was reported that there is a mint plant on the Common. The Groundsman will focus on this area for coppicing. After discussion about how to maintain the balance of diversity of plants it was agreed to add the invasive plants to the Management Plan.

Creation of parking space; Following the meeting with the Highways Engineer Cllr Campbell had drawn up a revised plan showing the location of the proposed ditch to allow the water to drain away naturally. The Planning Officer was happy with the plan and the work can go ahead.

- 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 owners of the shed had not complied with the Solicitor's notice to remove this by the end of August. The Parish Council will now go ahead and remove it. A photographic inventory will be taken of the contents and any items removed, but any chemicals contained in the shed would be destroyed. The Parish Council will seek reimbursement for the cost of the shed's removal from the owners. A date for its removal will be agreed.
- f. **Interpretation Board**: Cllr Walton was finalising the design of the interpretation board. Quotes for producing this to be obtained.
- g. **Seats**: Monitor the condition of the GWR seat – put on the list of work for the Grounds Staff (medium term)
- h. **Drain on the Common**: The Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineer had been on site and was addressing the problem.

**7. Trees**: Continue to monitor

**8. Risk Assessments**: Cllr Case had reviewed this and will update the forms. A sign re the barbed wire was discussed and it was agreed that the risk for the wire on the Common was very low and signage was not necessary. It was agreed to put a sign in Lacy Wood saying "Caution – Barbed wire fence."

**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 107 – this has been cleared
  - Footpath 34 – repairs to the broken bridge
  - Footpath 20 – Installation of a stile
  - Footpath 20/22a – Hardcore needed on the bridleway
  - Footpath 55 - Clearance work
- d. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: Rights of Way Warden to carry out work to the steps on Footpath 59
- e. **Bridge by Real World Studios**: The Studios had reported that the Wiltshire Council was responsible for the maintenance of the bridge and they will replace the chicken wire. The path has been cleared.
- f. **Sign for Middlehill**: The work to this by the Shed had been impacted by Covid-19
- g. **Proposed diversion of footpath 50 (part) 52 (part) and 53 (part) at Wadswick**: Waiting for a decision by Wiltshire Council
- h. **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
- i. **Footpath 20 – kissing gate**: Wiltshire Council had agreed to install a

kissing gate to prevent teenagers with bicycles congregating. A reminder had been sent to the Rights of Way Warden.

**10. Management of the Rudloe Area:**

- Mosaic sign; The mosaic sign had been erected
- Regeneration by Green Square: A copy of the Newsletter from Green Square had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillors were asked to familiarise themselves with the area in case the Parish Council are consulted.

**11. Correspondence:** Nil

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

- Pavements on A4: the parish Steward has started clearing the pavement at the top of the A4 and will carry on down. It was suggested that an article be added to the Newsletter asking residents to clear any vegetation and tidy up the pavements in front of their properties.
- Bus shelter by The Bassetts: Clerk to remind the Groundsman to put up the fascia board
- Grit bins: Councillors to be reminded to check all the grit bins
- Queens Head sign: It was reported that another sign has been erected by the Blind House

**13. Date of next meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Chairman**

*Meeting closed at 8.10 pm*