



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A REMOTE MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 15th MARCH 2021

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); J. Clifford; R. Davies;
H. Parker; B. Walton;
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies** Cllr S. Gould; J. Cox
- 3. Public Question Time:** There were two members of the public present.
- 4. Declarations of Interest:** Nil
- 5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the remote Meetings held on 18th January 2021 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 and the seat has been repaired. The wood has been opened up and it was suggested that undergrowth be planted in the Autumn and the Committee was asked to consider what plants would be suitable. It was agreed that these would be purchased from Landcare. To be added to the Action List

The Cotswold Wardens will be putting the stile in at the top corner of the wood at the end of the month.

It was reported that there is an area at the top of the wood for composting.
 - b. Box Hill Common:**

Top Common:
The Groundsmen had cleared the lower boughs under the Beech trees. It was reported that the shredder had gone in to be checked because of a loose blade.

Creation of parking space;
The work will commence after 4th April when Wessex Water have completed their work. The Clerk had written to David Arnup the Highways Engineer asking for details of the services in this area. He has replied stating that he is waiting on receiving information from the Support Team but advises that the Parish Council, as a precaution, carry out its own checks prior to any work being carried out.

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
The owners of the overgrown hedge had cut this back to an excellent standard.

The Cotswold Wardens are not holding any working parties at the present time. It was agreed to monitor the situation to see if it will be necessary to get someone else in to help with this.

Seats: The GWR seat had been repaired. The seat next to the GWR seat will need replacing next year. The seat in memory of the Woodgate family needs preservative.

- 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 shed has been removed. The contents, including a bicycle and several tools, have been photographed and removed and are being stored at the Parish Council offices. Discuss this further after the current restrictions have been lifted.
Mr Churchill had cleared up the area in front of the cottages. As there are two new families it was agreed to write to all the residents advising them that they can use this area of the Common but they are not to plant or put anything permanently on the land. They will also be advised not to park on the Common.
 - f. **Interpretation Board**: The proof of the artwork had been received and was agreed.
 - 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. **Compositing of grass cuttings**: It was reported that there is an area on the Lower Common and two potential areas on the Upper Common to be used for composting
- 7. Trees**: Joe Thomas had been out to check the condition of the Ash trees but he appears to have looked at the wrong trees. Clerk to ask him to meet with Cllr Case and Davies on site.
- 8. Risk Assessments**: On-going
- 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 chicane will be installed shortly. The manager of Real World Studio is happy with the chicane but he is just concerned that this may drive the biking youngsters to cycle over their land to get to the by-brook.
There is also a handrail on the bridge that needs repairing
 - **Footpath 49 Thorney Pits**: New footplate on the stile
 - **Footpaths 17 and 107a**: footpath signs restored
 - **Footpath 32** – restore footplate and install hand post to improve navigation
 - **Footpath 7 and 9**: Stile restoration
 - **Footpath 2** – clearance of trees
 - **Footpath 20** – hedge planting
 - 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. **Footpath 20 from The Bassetts to Drewetts Mill:** Letter received stating that part of the footpath appears to have disappeared. The Clerk has asked the Rights of Way Warden to check this
- g. **Footpath 107A:** 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. Publication of a Box Parish Walking Map: It was agreed that the footpath map should be reviewed, particularly with the change to the Parish boundary and several new designated footpaths. It was felt that this should be put on the Action list for a working group to look at redrafting it.

11. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Woods;** The woods were now under new management. It was reported that the seat in the woods in memory of Tim Kerr had been broken. Cllr Davies offered to get quotations for getting the lettering on the plaque that was on the seat redone so that this could be put onto a tree.
- b. **Speed of traffic on B3109:** Cllr Davies reported on the recent CATG meeting. CATG had recognised the problems experienced by pedestrians walking along and crossing the road. The School is in the process of updating their Travel Plan and there will be discussions between the School Travel Plan advisor and the CATG officer to agree how the work should be owned and progressed and how the costs of surveys and improvements will be funded.
- c. **Leafy Lane:** Proposals for a scheme including dropped crossing points, improved signage etc had been discussed at CATG
- d. **Tunnel Inn crossroads;** CATG had asked for more data. It was agreed to speak to the Freemans about their use of the road

12. Correspondence:

- a. **Footpath 16** (by Fairmead view) It had been reported that the steps on this footpath are in a poor condition. As it is a well used pedestrian route it had been suggested that handrails be attached to give easier access to walkers. It was agreed to ask the Cotswold Wardens to look at this.

13 Items of report and future agenda items:

Annual Parish meetings: It was suggested that when it is possible to hold the Annual Parish meeting, two meetings are held – one in Box and one in Rudloe. To be discussed at **Full Council**.

14. Date of next meeting: To be arranged.

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm