



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON 25th FEBRUARY 2021

- 1. Present:** Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); N. Botterill; R. Campbell; R. Case; J. Clifford
J Cox; R. Davies; D. Evans; H. Parker; R. Smith; M. Tye; B. Walton;
A. Woollard
Unitary Councillors: B. Mathew

Mrs Carey (Clerk)

- 2. Apologies:** Councillor S. Gould
It was agreed to extend Cllr Gould's sabbatical until the elections in May

- 3. Absent:** Nil

- 4. Public Question Time:** There were 7 members of the public present

Mrs Jan Herlinger gave a presentation from the Bybrook Conservation group. A poster had been produced and she asked for permission to put this up at the Mill Lane entrance to the footpath along the Bybrook. She also asked for permission to use the Parish Council logo. The group had received funding for the website. The poster would have a QR code which would link directly to the information on the website.

Mr Robert Smith read out a statement re the issues caused by cars parking at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill and actions that he would like the Parish Council to consider. This will be discussed at the Policy & Finance meeting on 8th March.

Mr Varian Tye asked for the Parish Council's support to move the proposed siting of the Gigaclear box on the verge at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill to an alternative site. Cllr B. Mathew supported this.

- 5. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:** Nil

- 6. Minutes:** The Minutes of the remote Council Meeting held on 28th January 2021 were taken as a true record and will be signed at the next proper meeting.

- 7. Matters Arising:** Nil

- 8. Policy & Finance Committee:** The Minutes of the remote meeting held on 8th February 2021 were submitted and agreed.

Replacement mowers: It was **resolved** unanimously to accept the recommendation that the Parish Council continues with the lease for the mowers at a one off cost of £296 for a year

Highways Issues: It was **resolved** unanimously to accept the recommendation that the Parish Council supports the change to the speed limit/safety of crossing on the B3109 as a main priority and to continue to put pressure on Wiltshire Council to repair the drain and pavement on A4 opposite Budgens. Cllrs Cambell and Davies will attend the next CATG meeting. It was suggested that perhaps bollards (similar to the ones on Box Hill at the Rising Sun site) could be put on the pavement to stop the lorries parking.

Litter bins: The recommendation to purchase two replacement litter bins.

Bird nesting boxes for Box Hill: It was agreed that five boxes could be positioned on Box Hill Common providing they are made squirrel proof

Discussion on how to find new Parish Councillors and new Councillor training and induction following the forthcoming election: Cllrs Sheila Parker; Hazel Parker; Marilyn Tye and Bronwen Walton had met and a poster drawn up to try to attract new councillors. The content of the poster was agreed subject to some amendments and the final copy will be presented at the Policy & Finance meeting. The posters will be put on notice boards, website and social media. It was also agreed to make a short video showing some of the achievements of the Council and this could be put on the website.

Changes to the website were suggested with drop down menus. Cllr Campbell explained that he had spoken to Caroline Moorhouse and he will ask for a quote for the cost of adapting the website.

The Clerk had drawn up a guide for new Councillors re training and induction. This was agreed subject to small amendment to the first paragraph.

9. Playing Fields & Pavilion Management Committee: The Minutes of the remote meeting held on 1st February 2021 were submitted and agreed.

Discussion on the policy that green waste gets dealt with on site where it is created: It was felt that green waste must be managed in a sustainable way and waste from the key areas ie Cemetery, Box Common and Lacy Wood should be put on the nearest site. The Box Hill & Rudloe Management Committee had already discussed the possibility of a composting area on the Common and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting of the Cemetery Management Committee. However, it was felt that there should be a bigger discussion on how to manage this for the future.

Recommendation that the rotten planters be removed completely and the remaining four tubs in good condition be placed at the entrances to the village was accepted unanimously.

Recommendation that the Hawthorn trees at the bottom of the allotments be pollarded as soon as possible. Quotations had been sought and two had been received in the sums of £288 and £895. It was agreed unanimously that the quotation from Tree Parts Ltd in the sum of £288 be accepted.

Recommendation that a replacement picnic table for the upper play area be purchased at a cost of £365 + vat was agreed unanimously

Playing Fields Meadow Area; The **recommendation** that there should be an area of summer meadow with a path through, from the allotments along by Mill Lane hedge which should be left to grow this year and not cut until August/September was discussed. After a vote the **recommendation** was defeated by four votes in favour and 8 against.

Spring Meadow: The **recommendation** that a spring meadow be created along the edge of the Recreation Ground down Valens Terrace to be planted with spring bulbs was discussed. After the discussion an **amendment** was made that the spring bulbs should be planted along the verge on the left hand side of Valens Terrace by the Vicarage Wall. The **amendment** was carried by 8 votes in favour and 4 against. The original recommendation was defeated.

Recommendation that an additional door on the front of the Pavilion to replace the window be installed at a cost of £810 was discussed. After a vote the **recommendation** was defeated by 4 votes in favour and 8 against.

10. Planning & Conservation Committee: The Minutes of the remote meetings held on 28th January and 8th February 2021 were submitted and agreed.

Cllr Cox stated "this is an advice note for all new councilors and a reminder for all other councilors. Any planning, or other matters, raised by parishioners should be referred back to the relevant committee for discussion and action if/or necessary, before being discussed with the parishioner that raised the issue.

It has been noted that some councilors are making decision in isolation before discussing with the Full Council.”

Neighbourhood plan update; Cllr Botterill confirmed that the next stage would be for the Steering Group to look at drawing up a draft template of the neighbourhood plan.

11. Urgent Correspondence:

- a. **Condition of the wall by Princes factory on Quarry Hill:** Concerns over the safety of a section of the wall had been raised by Cllr Mathew. Kate Davey from Wiltshire Council has passed this issue onto the Structures Team who will look at this.
- b. **Speed on A4 by Budgens:** Letter received asking for the SID to be located by Budgens and also asking whether the speed limit could be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph. This will be discussed at the Policy & Finance meeting
- c. **Fastspeed Broadband for Ashley, Kingsdown etc;** Letter from Gigaclear requesting a date to give a presentation to the Council on the remaining sites for the installation of the fibre optics. It was agreed to invite Chris Morris to attend the Full Council meeting on 25th March.

12. Items for discussion:

- a. **Positioning of Gigaclear fibre optic box at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill:** Cllr Smith read out a statement regarding the possible siting of a Gigaclear cabinet on land at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill which is in the conservation area and near listed buildings. Letters had been sent to Gigaclear suggesting alternative sites for the cabinet. After discussion it was agreed that a site meeting be arranged with Gigaclear and representatives of the Parish Council to look at alternative options.

13. Additional Accounts for payment: The following additional accounts were submitted and agreed

<u>BACS</u>			
LP Property Developments	-	Work to bus shelter roof	250.00
WALC	-	Training for councillors	144.00
A.L. King Roofing Ltd	-	Replacing Chapel roof	37429.20
Marcus Mitchell	-	Repairs to Rock Circus	50.00
Joe Thomas	-	Work to dead willow tree (Oct 20)	456.00
Joe Thomas	-	VAT element for work on Common	284.00
 <u>Direct debits</u>			
Fuel Card services	-	Petrol	25.13

14. Statement of Balances:

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	51769.91
High Interest account	<u>9285.48</u>
	£ 61055.39
Less payments to go out	<u>39702.25</u>
Working balance	£ 21353.14
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ <u>37500.00</u>
Balance in Lloyds	£ <u>58853.14</u>
Held in BIBS	£ 81666.53
Held in Nationwide	£ <u>41237.15</u>
	<u>122903.68</u>

£35,000 had been transferred from Nationwide from reserves to cover the cost of the work to the Chapel roof

15. Chairman's Diary, Representatives' reports and report from County Councillor

Cllr Mathew reported that he had had discussion with Wiltshire Council regarding the resurfacing of Church Lane and getting the no parking zone formalized. It was agreed to discuss this at Policy & Finance

19. Items of Report and Future Agenda Items

- a. The Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for 1st March had been postponed and an alternative date will be rearranged.
- b. Bin in Market Place – Clerk to ask Wiltshire Council for a replacement
- c. Parking at Chapel Plaister – Cllr Woollard asked for this to be put on the Agenda for the Policy & Finance meeting
- d. Chestnut tree on Ashley Common – it was reported that there is a very large branch which is in danger of falling.
- e. New sign required for No Horse Riding at the Common
- f. It was requested that “How to respond to correspondence which is abusive and demanding” be put on the Agenda for discussion at Policy & Finance
- g. Grit bin at Mill Lane – this has still not be replaced. Clerk to notify Wiltshire council

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm

Chairman