



# BOX PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES OF AN MEETING OF THE PLAYING FIELDS & PAVILION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: B. Walton (Chairman); R. Bean; N. Ingledew  
H. Parker; M. Tye; T. Walton; D. Wright  
Mrs Carey (Clerk)  
Ms. G. Potts – Box Allotment Group  
J. Welsby - Box Cricket Club
- 2. Apologies:** Box Bowls Club: Mrs. T. Meek; Mrs. J. Wright
- 3. Absent:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There was one member of the public present  
Mr Archie Callaway raised the possibility of holding a Car Boot Sale on the bottom part of the Recreation Ground on 30<sup>th</sup> July and outlined his proposals. Whilst the Committee agreed in principle it was felt that more details are required. The issue of the use of Council staff's time beforehand and any reinstatement afterwards was also raised with him. It was suggested that a contribution towards covering the cost of this could be made and it was felt that the numbers of sellers should be limited initially. Mr Callaway confirmed that he would be drawing up a waste management plan for the clearing of all the rubbish.

It was **recommended** that Cllr Bean would liaise with Mr Callaway on the drawing up of a business plan looking at numbers that are sustainable. Cllr B. Walton will speak to the Groundsman about the proposal. Detailed information should be brought back to Full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> June for further discussion.
- 5. Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr R. Bean was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of the Committee
- 6. To consider any items raised by the Allotment Group or User Groups:**

**Allotment Group:** Ms Potts stated that she had spoken to a resident from Fairmead View who is cutting through the allotments taking several children to School. It was felt that this is not acceptable. It was proposed that a further letter be written to all residents reminding them that access to the Recreation Ground must not be through the allotments and instructing them that a padlock will be fitted to the gate and the boards removed from the stream. It was also suggested that an article about this could be put in the Parish Magazine.

**Allotment Group Bank Account:** The bank account for the Allotment Group had been closed with a balance of £400 in it. It was proposed that this money should be paid to the Parish Council to be allocated to a reserve for the Allotments.

**Cricket Club:** Mr Welsby reported that Youth Cricket had restarted. There is also Women's Cricket with 40 members. He stated that the shaded area under the trees has a lot of bare ground with tree roots showing – he was suggesting that this could be brought back to life in the Autumn following their last match at the beginning of September.

No Mow May had not been good for the Cricket pitch as weeds had seeded on the Cricket Square causing a problem. He reported that the Wiltshire Council's Head of Amenities had weedkilled this in April. In line with the Climate Strategy Action Plan he was asked to supply details of the chemicals that had been used.

The Cricket Club were proposing to put a new netted fence around the Cricket Square to prevent access.

Cllr B. Walton agreed to talk to the Groundsman about cutting this grass a bit shorter during No Mow May.

Mr Welsby also reported that dog mess was still an issue. Clerk to remind the Groundsmen to refill the dog bag dispensers.

It was reported that a recent incident on the Recreation Ground had been resolved.

**7. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 were taken as read and were signed as a true record

**8. Matters Arising:**

**a. Play Area:**

Spring for motorcycle: The parts to mend the motorcycle had been delivered

Spring Closer for gate: The closure had been damaged – Groundsman to look at this

Community playground group to develop the play area: Cllr Tye reported that a survey had been drawn up to gather information. This will be going live shortly. Chloe Barton will advertise the survey and also put an article in the Parish Magazine. Cllrs Tye and Bean will be going into school on Parents Evening to get opinions from parents. They will also speak to the Mothers and Toddlers Group.

**b. Update on Lovar Garden:**

Bog Garden

The first planting had gone well. Another working party will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Waiting receipt of the plants.

Replacement of small bridge: Plans for a replacement bridge will be drawn up. Cllr T. Walton to obtain prices for the materials. **Action: DW/TW**

***Post minute note: Quotation for the materials for the bridge received from Vastern Timber in the sum of £299.90 + vat***

Accessible paths/Community Fund update: Cllr Wright to check with Wiltshire Council about carrying out the work. Waiting receipt of the kissing gates.

Posts for dead hedge: The posts are in place

Adoption of ARK principles for the Lovar Garden: It was agreed to adopt the ARK principles and removal any non-natives in line with the Climate Strategy Action Plan. The Buddleia will be removed from the slopes in the Autumn.

**d. Trees and Hedges:**

Golden Wedding trees: The trees have all been planted.

Veteran Chestnut: Following the mulching with cardboard the Committee needs to discuss the next steps and it was agreed to look at getting wood to build a fence. It was suggested that the Ash wood from trees in Lacy Wood could be used for this and Cllr Wright will speak to Daniel Part. **Action: DW**

Cllr H. Parker will pursue the information boards and speak to the Green Room about this.

New Car Park hedge gate: This had been delivered from Jacksons and will be fitted shortly

2023/24 tree work programme: Quotations to be updated. **Action: BW**

e. **Bowling Green**: In the absence of the Bowls Club representatives' a statement from them was read out.

- They were checking the invoices from Avon Sportsground Maintenance Co re the materials being used and confirmed that the irrigation system with the new contract is up and running.
- Reclaim of VAT – The Clerk reported that this is progressing with HMRC
- The hot water tap in the men's toilet is sticking – Agenda for Pavilion & Buildings Management Committee
- New padlock on the gate - this will be fitted
- Hand towels – Agreed to ask the Pavilion & Buildings Management Committee to look at electric hand dryers
- Lighting by the gate – Agreed to ask the Pavilion & Buildings Management Committee to look at the possibility of a light/security light
- The Bowls Club reported an incident of youths on the benches inside the bowls club

**9. Other items for discussion:**

Tennis Courts: A further meeting of the Working Party will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Quotations being obtained for resurfacing

Forward Plan/Risk Assessment: This had been updated and will be circulated **Action BW**

There had been an accident involving the wire fencing at the Basketball Court. It was agreed to consider the repair/replacement with the budget

Wessex Water – impact of machinery on Poplar next to Basketball Court: It was reported that the machinery had churned up the grass and the Poplar was leaning over the Basketball court. It was agreed to write to Wessex Water ahead of the proposed works in 2025 asking them to factor in the removal of the tree and temporary track. **Action: BW**

Signs on Recreation Ground: Cllr Parker to look at these. It was agreed to draw up a map showing the location of the bins; benches; signs and dog bag dispensers.

Revels: There had been positive feedback from the Revels and thanks were given to Joel for all his work. An issue had been raised about the buses to Box being full and it was suggested that a minibus could be hired to go round the parish picking up and dropping off parishioners – this would ease the issue of parking. Cllr Bean agreed to speak to the bus company about the problem.

It was agreed to have a representative on the Revels Committee and Cllr H. Parker agreed to attend the meetings.

## **10. Climate Strategy Action Plan – Impact on Playing Fields and Pavilion actions:**

The recycling bins had been despatched and should be delivered shortly.

A letter had been received from Box CE Eco Committee requesting the Council look at putting lids on the bins. It was agreed to reply to them informing them that recycling bins are to be put on the Recreation Ground and will also be looking at putting money in the budget to make lids for the other bins

Solar Panels and batteries for the Tractor Shed: It was agreed that as John Beazer is the preferred contractor to ask him for a quotation which could be considered at Full Council.

**Action: DW**

It was **recommended** that the up to date quotation for the installation of the solar panels as the first stage with the battery system to be considered as a second phase be considered by the Full Council

The existing electricity supply contract with SSE finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Cllr T. Walton will speak to Octopus Energy

**Action: TW**

**Recommended** that Octopus Energy be asked for a quote for supplying electricity to the tractor shed and also the Pavilion to run from 1<sup>st</sup> August.

The Cricket Club expressed an interest in joining in with the Council for solar panels to the Cricket pavilion but it was felt that there is an urgency to progress this. However, the contractor could liaise with the Cricket Club.

## **11. Items raised at the walk round:**

- Planters on the road – The Gardening Club has planted these but the watering is carried out by the Groundsman. ***Transfer to Highways Committee***
- Staining of benches – This was due to be completed by the Community Pay Back team

***Post Minute note: It was confirmed that the work to the benches had been completed***

## **12. Correspondence:**

- a. **Rock Circus:** Letter received from Elizabeth Devon thanking the Council for looking after the Rock Circus. Unfortunately the paint marks on the outer granite setts marking the evolution of life have largely worn away. These will be repainted shortly.
- b. **Use of Recreation Ground:** Request received to hold a “Muddy puddles” children’s party on the lower part of the Recreation Ground near the basketball court. It was agreed in principle but more information is needed regarding the number of vehicles, number of animal pens etc. To be discussed further at Full Council
- c. **Aerial Photo:** Letter from a parishioner suggested an updated aerial shot of all the parishioners be taken on the Recreation Ground. It was felt that this was a good idea but suggested this could be done in 2026 to mark the centenary of the Deed of Gift. Clerk to reply to the parishioner.

**13. Monitoring of budget:** Full report to be discussed at Finance & Governance

**14. Items of Report and Future Agenda items:**

- No Mow May: Cllr Bean reported that he had spoken to several people about No Mow May on the Recreation Ground – some had been in favour and some against
- It was asked that the contract with Avon Sportsground Maintenance Co be discussed at the next meeting.

*Meeting closed at 8.50 pm*

**Chairman**

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