1st June 2026

Minutes of the Box Parish Full Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th May 2026 at The Pavilion, Box, SN13 8NT

1. **Present**:

Cllr T Walton (Chair)	Cllr N Ingledew
Cllr M Tye (Vice Chair)	Cllr R Leach
Cllr D Celerier	Cllr S Roche
Cllr R Davies	Cllr P Suchley
Cllr R Haslett	Cllr B Walton
	Cllr P Chamberlain (Wiltshire Councillor)
Clerk – S Vickery	Cllr P Wragg (Wiltshire Councillor)

2. **Apologies.** Apologies (and acceptance) for absence were received from Cllr Duncan, Cllr Botterill, and Cllr I Johston. The Council was Quorate.

3. **First Business of Annual Meeting.** Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

   a. Cllr T Walton was re-elected as the Chair for the next 12 months by 9 votes to nil with one abstention.

   b. Cllr M Tye was re-elected as Vice Chair for the next 12 months by 9 votes to nil with one abstention.

4. **Public Question Time**. 2 members of the public were present.

   a. The Chair relayed a response from Wiltshire Council ref priorities of work for the new Bus Shelter contractor.

   b. Bengal Bear Restaurant. The Proprieter made a statement as follows:

      i. 12 years as a resident of Box and has been a major part of the Box community.
      ii. He has undertaken significant internal restoration to make a safe site. The landlord has delayed the repair of broken windows and a leaky roof – these have caused operating difficulties. The building is Grade II listed.
      iii. There had been a 3 year delay on the 2nd lease. He does have an option for a rolling lease with a 5 year extension, however the owner has served a Section 25 notice to take back the property. In 2024, the Proprieter offered to purchase the building but this was not accepted.
      iv. Historically, in 2017 there was a withdrawn application to convert the building in to flats.

v. A number of residents have advised the Proprieter to seek authority via the Parish Council to become a Asset of Community Value (ACV). He has garnered the names of 300 parishioners to support his case.

vi. The Committee discussed the merits of supporting the ACV case and agreed that the Bengal Bear was an important amenity in an iconic location andvery popular in the Parish. It ought to be afforded some protection and the Proprieter ought to be afforded an opportunity to influence any future sale; the Community would be worse off without the amentiy**.**

vii. **Resolved**. Agenda Item 9 was forwarded to this part of the meeting, where a short discussion in favour (unanimous) of the motion to seek ACV status for the restaurant was agreed. The social wellbeing of the Community was also deemed a factor.

Action: Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council to start the ACV process.

5. **Declarations** of interest relating to items on the Agenda. Nil.

6. **Chair's Announcements**.

   a. The Chair wished to express the Council's massive thanks to Cllr H Parker, who had resigned at the end of May 2026.

   b. The Chair also wished to thank colleagues for their hard work in support of the Community Meeting at Rudloe on 14th May and the Revels event on 25th May 2026.

7. **Previous Minutes**. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th April 2026 were submitted and agreed.

8. **Governance.**

   a. **Committee Chairs** were elected as follows: (Vice Chairs and Committee terms of reference would be agreed at the first meeting of the year). All votes were unanimous as follows:

      i. Open Spaces. Cllr M Tye.
      ii. Highways. Cllr R Leach.
      iii. Planning. Cllr S Roche.
      iv. Buildings. Cllr N Ingeldew.
      v. Personnel. Cllr B Walton.
      vi. Finance & Governance. The Chair, Cllr T Walton.

9. **Committee minutes** and reports from chairs:

   a. **Planning Committee.** The Minutes of the Meetings on 30th April and 18th May 2026 were received. The recommendation was taken at Item 4b.

10. **Finance Accounts**.

a. The accounts for payment, % budget spend by Committee and statement of balances for May 2026 were examined and resolved for payment. In addition, the consolidated list for April was presented and resolved. See Appendix A for detail.

b. The Annual Governance Statement, 2025-26:

   i. The Governance Statement was examined by councillors, who concluded that the comprehensive list of Internal Audit observations, with the RFO's comments amounted to a thorough review of internal financial controls.
   ii. **Resolved**. There were 9 votes in favour with one abstention to approve the Statement.

c. The Accounting Statements 2025-26:

   i. The RFO explained why part of the Accounting Statements had been re-stated, post the Internal Audit. The RFO explained the overall financial health of the Parish Council and how this impacted the Reserves position.
   ii. **Resolved**. There were 7 votes in favour with three abstentions to approve the Accounting Statement.
   iii. The value of Parish Assets at Box 9 were discussed. Until further legal advice is received, the Council wished to treat the Pavilion as an asset of the Council and not the Recreation Ground Charity.

Action: Clerk to seek further Internal Auditor and Legal advice on the Pavilion asset ownership.

d. **Resolved**. The Exercise of Public Rights period, Tue 2nd June (Annoucement), Wed 3rd June (Commencement) to Tue 14th July 2026 (End) was approved.

e. The Council accepted the wide range of observations from the independent Internal Auditor (bar the Pavilion asset) and requested that the RFO follow up the actions at future Finance & Governance and Full Council meetings.

11. **Core Policies** of the Council. **Resolved**: the following core policies for 2026-27, with some minor amendments, were approved (unanimously unless indicated):

    a. Standing Orders 2026-27.

    b. Financial Regulations 2026-27. The extra flexibility of new thresholds was agreed. (votes in favour with one abstention.

    c. Code of Conduct 2026-27.

    d. Publication Scheme 2026-27.

    e. Risk Register 2026-27.

    f. Committees of the Council for 26-27, including updated TORs and list of Working Groups.

12. **Items of Discussion:**

a. Annual Parish meeting feedback. The Chair reiterated his thanks and asked the Clerk to pass on his thanks to the Trustees of Rudloe CC. There were 2 questions from parishioners, which were answered by the Chair, supported by the Clerk.
    i. An update on bus shelters.
    ii. Weed clearing around the Rudloe Estate.

b. It was also agreed to ask the Centre to host a Parish Council Notice Board.

c. Box Revels feedback. There was some positive engagement with visitors. There was a comment on improved signage for the Public loos at the top of Valens terrace.

Action: Clerk to follow up on the notice board and Valens signage.

13. **Items of Correspondence**: There was one item of urgent correspondence.

a. Box Pre-School Playgroup had requested use of the Recreation Ground on 27th June. This was agreed.

14. **Representative Reports**. Chair's Diary, Representatives' reports (Area Board and LHFIG) and report from County Councillors:

a. Unitary Cllr. Cllr P Wragg was assisting a resident from Neston Gardens with respect to the proposed new build at No.2 Rudloe Site.

b. Unitary Cllr. Cllr P Chamberlain reported on:
    i. the upcoming licensed event at Hatt Farm, Kingsdown.
    ii. commented on his engagement with PRoW officers ref gates.
    iii. explained that the County Local Plan is being re-drafted,
    iv. explained the new idea of county-wide bleed kits.
    v. the upcoming new Council tree and hedgerow policy.
    vi. the County Council's opposition to the Fire Authority's proposal to close 7 fire stations.

c. Area Board (Cllr R Leach):
    i. Cllr P Chamberlain is now the chair.
    ii. LHFIG budget is still £20k but partly split.
    iii. The Corsham Health Facility remains unsold.
    iv. Police Sgt Tripp reported an increase in car thefts and drug driving.
    v. Grants were awarded to the Jubilee Centre, Box Scouts, Corsham Windband, Carer support, the Green Room Youth Club and Corsham Bowls Club.

d. Flood and Operational Resilience Group (Cllr R Leach):
    i. Detailed water reports are available.
    ii. There are grants for standpipes (to be considered by Open Spaces).

15. **Future Agenda Items and General Reports**. Items of report and future Agenda items:

a. Cemetery Work Party – 10am on Sunday 31st May.

b. Selwyn Hall Ctte – the roof repair is ongoing and the Hall expect to expand their social media presence. The lamp post light timer has been re-set.

16. **Dates of forthcoming meetings**:

Fin & Gov Ctte	1st June
Buildings Ctte	8th June
No2 site briefing & Planning & Highways Ctte	15th June
Planning & Full Council & Charity meeting	25th June

17. **Date of next meeting** – as above, 7.30pm on Thursday 25th June 2026.