



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON 21st OCTOBER 2024

- Present:** Councillors: D. Dorey (Chair); I. Johnston;
M. Tye; B. Walton; R. Davies; S. Roche; J. Clifford

Apologies Councillor R. Bolton
- Public Question Time** : There were no members of the public present.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th August were amended; under Thoday Wood – Action: Asst. Clerk to put notices on gym equipment in wood to be removed within 28 days or P.C. will remove. The minutes were then taken as read and signed as being a true record.
- Update on Issues raised and any other matters arising from the minutes:**

Peppercorn rents for the Common.

Peppercorn rental of £2 per annum for the three houses on the Lower Common re access over Bridleway 35 have now been received with Amberwell House and Fairlight recently paying. A further request to go out in January 2025

Councillors would like to see the original documents concerning the common that state the peppercorn rent is fixed as currently it does not even cover the administrative costs.

Action: Asst. Clerk to circulate a copy of the original documents to members of the Committee.

Re: Albion Terrace – it was noted that no one is paying despite reminders. Again a query about not being able to increase rent and whether some sort of administration charge could be added agreed the need to contact residents again to remind them what they currently owe. It was agreed to regularly check that no items are left on the common

Action: Asst. Clerk to check what is owing and liaise with Clerk about reminder letters.

Management Plan for Thoday Wood.

Following a meeting between Daniel Part and John Kerr (Cotswold Warden) it was agreed not to cull any more trees from the wood unless notified that one has fallen/created an obstruction. The Hazel will be coppiced in accordance with the management plan.

Action: Cllr. D. Dorey to circulate Tree Parts Ltd report to Cotswold Wardens.

Action: Asst. Clerk to check gym in wood and if not removed within the 28 days notice, Open Spaces Workers to remove

Apple Day 20th October 2024.

Cllr. D. Dorey thanked Cllrs. B. & T. Walton for organising a very successful event; also, thanks to Cllr. A. Barton for loaning the apple press.

All agreed that a more permanent structure to provide cover for events would be beneficial. Cllr. T. Walton is Secretary to the Carpenters Fellowship who could be asked if they wish to be involved in building a timber structure as a learning exercise. The cost of materials and necessary permissions need to be clarified. Agreed to be added to budget proposals for 2025/6.

Tree Parts Ltd. have recommended 6 apple trees nos. 35, 38, 39, 42, 43 & 41;(tree nos. to be confirmed)
under the goat willow tree will be too shaded and should be transplanted elsewhere within the orchard. It was suggested requesting either the volunteers or the Community Payback team could transplant these trees. The structure could possibly be erected in the cleared space.

Recommendation: To move from under the Goat Willow tree, 6 Apple Trees within the Orchard as advised by Daniel Part of Tree Parts Ltd.

Items raised from the walkabout not on the agenda.

Cllrs. Looked at areas where meadows, wildflowers and habitat could be increased on the Upper Common

Action: Cllr. M. Tye to map out new meadow areas and suggest where paths could run.

The permanent Interpretation boards Lower Common have been installed on the existing timber structure It was agreed that the structure be stained in green and a metal edging added to the boards.

Action: Open Spaces Workers

5. ROSPA report Westwood Road Play area, Rudloe.

Key items are: a damaged swing seat needs replacing worn areas around goalposts and need to build up soil surfaces. Cllr. M. Tye is drafting a checklist for all play areas.

Action: Asst. Clerk to check if a ROSPA template was issued when Open Spaces Workers did ROSPA training if not to purchase this from ROSPA. Also Check if replacement swing seat has been ordered.

6. Update on the management of the Rudloe Area.

Community Centre update: Cllr. D. Dorey reported that they are still waiting for an update on the condition of the central heating system but the electricity is now on. They are not signing the lease until they know the outcome on the condition of the heating system as this may have financial implications.

7. Items for the budget 2025/6.

1. **Albion Terrace Wall** – remaining 2 sections of wall to be completed in next financial year rather than over the next two financial years; possible cost reduction if works completed all at once.
2. **Tree work** – maintenance for Common and Lacy Wood. Action: Cllr D. Dorey to check costs.
3. **Interpretation boards** – for Upper Common
4. **Maintenance of seats and table**
5. **Waste bins and recycling bins**
6. **Rudloe Play Area** – goalposts and nets
7. **Sec. 106 money for Rudloe**
8. **Boundary Walls around Lacy Wood** – Action: Asst. Clerk to check if P.C. has responsibility for the stone walls
9. **Erect a structure within the orchard for events** - such as Apple Day
10. **Plant Sloes on Common**
11. **Funds for looking after Community Payback team**

8. **Update on Forward Plan/Risk Assessment and Asset Register:**

Action: Cllr D. Dorey and Asst. Clerk to update and circulate to Committee members.

9. **Any correspondence:**

Cllr. R. Bean has reported that the footpath stile at the top of the unadopted road on Hazelbury Hill between Box 43 and Box 51 is broken.

Action: Asst. Clerk to make a My Wilts report so the Rights Of Way Officer checks this

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

Pharmacy is up for sale; agreed to put on Full Council agenda for discussion.

9. Date of next meeting: 16th December 2024. Suggested date of walk around Thursday 12 December at 2pm

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.21 pm