



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### **A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON 16th DECEMBER 2024**

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Dorey (Chair); I. Johnston;  
B. Walton; R. Davies; S. Roche; J. Clifford  
Mr. A. Simpson, AFC Committee member

**Apologies** Councillors M.Tye; R. Bolton

2. **Public Question Time:**

Mr. A. Simpson spoke about Leafy Lane Playing Fields. Wiltshire Council produced in 2017 a new Wiltshire Playing Pitch strategy assessing outdoor sports facilities; this concluded that Corsham was in need of an all-weather playing pitch. AFC has grown from 25 teams to 38 over the last 4 years (4 of which are girls only sides) and has a waiting list. To provide winter training facilities, the club has to re locate over various venues during the winter. Leafy Lane Playing Fields is a not for profit charity.

The Football Foundation (who manage projects and delivery) and Wiltshire FA have agreed that the project qualifies for their grant process; they will support a c£1m project with 75% of the funding to install a full-size floodlight 3G playing surface at Leafy Lane Playing Fields. Leafy Lane is required to find c£250,000 in partnership funding for the project to go ahead and have to show a pathway to raising the funds.

Advised of potential funding opportunities but invited to update next Committee meeting; will be an agenda item.

3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October were accepted as read.

4. **Update on Issues raised and any other matters arising from the minutes:**

#### **Peppercorn rents for the Common.**

It was noted that no one at Albion Terrace is taking up the offer of the peppercorn rent but those on the Lower Common have paid up to date for access over Bridleway 35; reminder letters due in January 2025.

**Action: Asst. Clerk to check if legally can send reminder letters to all concerned re peppercorn rents every 5 years to save on administration costs.**

#### **Management Plan for Thoday Wood.**

Cllr. D. Dorey reported that a tree was down over one of the footpaths.

**Action: Cllr. D. Dorey to contact the Cotswold Wardens to see if they can remove the tree.**

Gym equipment has been removed by the Asst. Clerk; now stored in P.C. office basement.

### **Suggested Meadow area for the Upper Common.**

All looked at the map suggested by Cllr. M. Tye. Discussed how this area could be extended further and include Spring and Summer meadows. All agreed the need for input from the Open Spaces Team leader before a final decision.

**Action: Open Spaces Team leader to attend the next walkabout to discuss this with members.**

### **Westwood Road Play area, Rudloe.**

The swing seat has been ordered, including a spare and will be installed by Open Spaces Team leader. Query raised over possibility of extending the lease for the Play Area but all recognized that this was tied into the negotiations with Wiltshire Council over the Community Centre,

### **Items raised from the walkabout not on the agenda.**

The grit bin adjacent to the Quarry Arms has been demolished by a driver; Cllr. J. Clifford reported that the one at Kingsdown had suffered a similar fate.

**Action: Asst. Clerk to order 2 new grit bins up to a budget limit of £150.**

Reported by Cllr. D. Dorey that someone is riding a motorbike over the Common; it was hoped that since they have been challenged by someone locally that this may now stop.

### **Noticeboards on the Common.**

The one on the Upper Common needs cleaning and the 2 on the lower Common need the supporting timber structure painting and the addition of angle irons.

**Action: Cllr. D. Dorey to liaise with the Community Payback team to see if they can carry out this work.**

#### **5. Update on the management of the Rudloe Area.**

**Community Centre update:** Cllr. D. Dorey reported that they are no further forward with negotiations with Wiltshire Council.

Complaints re no Christmas decorations at Rudloe. Agreed to put on the Forward Plan for September 2025 to obtain a quote from an electrician for connection to a lamppost to enable the erection of Christmas lights.

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

To be discussed at a meeting early in the New Year with all the Chairs of the Committees where a consistent format and approach will be agreed.

#### **7. Any correspondence:**

Received a landlord consent request for from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks to prune and cut trees adjacent to power lines at the road on the Upper Common.

All agreed to this work being carried out.

**Action: Asst. Clerk to let them know any wood debris can be piled up on the banks.**

8. **Items of report and future agenda items:**  
None

9. **Date of next meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 .

**Chairman**

*Meeting closed at 7.57 pm*