



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON 17th FEBRUARY 2025

1. **Present:** Councillors: I. Johnston (Vice Chair); B. Walton (acting Clerk);
R. Davies; M.Tye; T. Walton

Apologies: Councillors: D. Dorey (Chair); S. Roche; R. Bolton; H.Barbrook (Asst.
Clerk)

Absent: J. Clifford

2. **Public Question Time:**

3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th December 2024 were accepted as read.

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

Peppercorn rents for the Common.

Reminder letters due in January 2025.

This agenda item to be updated with a post meeting note by the Clerk or be deferred till the next meeting

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.

This agenda item to be updated with a post meeting note by D.Dorey or be deferred till the next meeting

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

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.

As there had not been a walk round, this agenda item to be deferred till the next meeting

Action: Head Open Spaces worker to attend the next walkabout to discuss this with members.

Westwood Road Play area, Rudloe.

The swing seat had been replaced by the Head Open Spaces worker. Cllr Tye raised the poor state of the goal mouths, this was something that had been raised in the ROSPA report in October and it was felt this was a priority job to be added to the extra jobs list to be completed by the next meeting on the 17th April

Action: Head Open Spaces worker to repair and returf /reseed goal mouths by April 17th

Grit bin replacement.

The grit bin at the top of Quarry Hill that had been demolished by a car has been replaced by Wiltshire Council. The grit bins Quarrymans Arms/Love Lane on Box Hill and the one at Kingsdown which had suffered similar fates have also been reported. It had previously been agreed that the Asst. Clerk could order 2 new grit bins up to a budget limit of £150. To replace these but to defer purchase if Wiltshire council will replace them.

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. This agenda item to be updated with a post meeting note by D.Dorey or be deferred till the next meeting

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

Leafy Lane playing fields

An update had been circulated regarding the new 3G pitch at Leafy Lane Playing Fields. There is a 24 month timeline in which to close the £34,000 funding shortfall for this project. It was suggested that this is considered with the 2026/27 Council budget.

GWR bench.

A letter had been circulated by the Brunel shed regarding their proposal for the restoration of the bench. Their preferred option would be to remove the bench for repainting and replace the existing slats with new hardwood ones which would be painted GWR brown.

Cllr T Walton had inspected the bench and did not believe the slats needed replacing. With the councils climate strategy in mind there was a consensus that it would be better not to paint the wood whether new or existing, as this would involve unnecessary materials and involve regular maintenance. A preferable option would be to oil the wood (existing or new). It was agreed that Cllr R. Davies would have another look at the bench and give a second opinion. A working group of T Walton, R Davies and I Johnston would then respond to the Brunel shed. If replacement slats were required they should be UK grown Oak and not a tropical hardwood. A nominal £300 budget has already been agreed for this project.

Action: bench working group respond to Brunel Shed

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

Rudloe Community centre no update

Xmas Decorations 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:**

Deferred till consistent format and approach agreed.

7. **Any correspondence:**

8. **Items of report and Future agenda items**

- T Walton; attending area board meeting Thursday 19th February
- R Davies; Mud and potholes in Car park on upper common to go to next Highways committee
- B Walton; Working group on rec on Sunday 23rd Feb

9. **Date of next meeting** 17th April 2025

Chair

Meeting closed 7.33pm