



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 15th AUGUST 2022

1. Present: Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Case; R. Davies
N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; S. Parker;
B. Walton; T. Walton
Mrs Carey (Clerk)

2. Apologies Cllrs R. Smith; M. Tye

3. Public Question Time: There were six members of the public present

It was asked how long the website was going to be out of action. The Clerk explained the position.

It was asked when the work to the tree stumps would be completed. It was explained that more treatment had been ordered

The waste bins on the Common are overflowing. It was asked if more bins could be purchased

It was stated that improvements and maintenance to the Community Centre had been raised and asked what chances were for the work to be done. It was replied that there was nothing the Parish Council can do as they do not own the building.

It was asked what the difference was between Wiltshire Council and Parish Council. The Clerk explained that the Wiltshire Council is the main authority and the Parish Council has limited powers. More information on this needs to be given. The Parish Council had agreed to discuss communication with the Parish at the Full Council meeting in September. The Assistant Groundsman does sweep the streets around Rudloe and looks after the Play Area.

It was asked if any money had been put aside for the Play Area.

4. Declarations of Interest: Nil

5. Walk round: Members of the Committee had walked round prior to the meeting and issues raised are minuted.

6. Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th June 2022 were taken as read and signed as being a true record

9. Matters Arising: Issues – see attached

a. **Risk Assessment:** This had been reviewed and was agreed.

Forward Plan: This is being put into a revised format

b. **Car Parking Area, Box Hill Common:**

The Minor Non-Material Amendment application has been approved by Wiltshire Council. It had previously been agreed to put down mendip dust and the mark some of the parking spaces with posts. It was reported that mendip dust could be obtained through the Wiltshire

Council procurement. Cllr Johnston to obtain quotes for this.

- d. **Albion Terrace retaining wall:** On-going. Cllr Johnston will draw up a specification and go out for quotes for a survey on the wall to see what work is required. Action plan to be developed and presented at the next meeting
- e. **Creation of wild flower meadow on the Lower Common:**
Some of the tree stumps had been treated. More treatment had been ordered and the work will be completed shortly.
It was reported that the Yellow Rattle had grown well. One more area needs to be cleared so that this can be spread out further. More seed was being obtained from the Cotswold Conservation Board,
- f. **Creation of Community Orchard:** The quotation from Landcare in the sum of £1203 had been accepted and the trees will be delivered during the first week of December. Wadswick Farm has offered to help dig the holes to plant these. Compost would be required.
- g. **Tree Survey**
Box Common: The survey had been received from Tree Parts Ltd and six trees had been highlighted as requiring work. Two further trees are to be monitored and reviewed in 2023 for possible future action.
The six trees are four Beech, one Goat Willow and one Sycamore which need pollarding. No trees are to be felled.
The quotation for the work is £2670 + vat. Cllr Case queried why the Parish Council was always using Tree Parts Ltd without obtaining further quotes. It was stated that Tree Parts Ltd had won the bid for the Action Plan to carry out the work.

It was **recommended** by six votes in favour and two against that the quotation in the sum of £2670 + vat be accepted.

Lacy Wood: The survey had been received from Tree Parts Ltd. It had been recommended that the Wood is thinned by up to 15% of the existing mono-cultured groups of trees to promote woodland biodiversity, increasing sunlight to the forest. The quotation received for this work is £7800 + vat assuming the involvement of the Parish Council groundsmen to assist where practicable. It was suggested that this could be used as a training area for a Chain Saw course for the Groundsmen.

After discussion it was agreed unanimously to look at this at a later date and to discuss it with the budget setting.

- h. **Update on Walking Map:** Waiting to hear if a grant will be given from the Bingham Hall Trust. If the money is received there will be enough for a second print of the maps. It was agreed to proceed with the printing if the grant application is successful.
- i. **Damaged GWR seat:** Cllr Case will obtain further quotes for the next meeting.
- j. **Parking on the verges of the Common:** It was reported that the cost of 7" round posts would be £10 each. It was agreed to ascertain how many were required and Cllr T. Walton agreed to obtain these from the Lydney Estate. This was agreed by six votes in favour and two against

10. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Play Area:** The resister graph test had been carried out on the bridge and boulders and the report received from RoSPA Play Safety Ltd. It had been reported that the seven timbers on the bridge are rotten through at and below ground level. One timber has already snapped off and is missing. They had recommended that as the timber is showing significant decay it must be replaced immediately. It must be taken out of action immediately and users must not be able to access it. It was agreed that the bridge would be taped off immediately and a notice put up. The bridge will be dismantled as soon as possible. It was suggested that a community group be set up to look at whether this should be replaced and also to look at the other equipment. Grants may be available to the Community Group.

It was agreed unanimously that:

- The equipment is made safe
- The bridge be taken down as soon as possible
- The bridge to be replaced if possible
- Formation of a Community Group to look at the play area

Cllr Tye had pointed out that there is wooden edging at the base of the railings and it was agreed that this could be removed.

- b. **Due Diligence Report for the Village Green:** The report had been circulated.

It was **recommended** that the Due Diligence Report is used as a framework by the Community Group to look at the whole area. This will also be used when discussing the budget.

- c. **Leafy Lane – Safety Assessment Report:** This will be taken up by the Highways Committee
- d. **Rudloe Firs Wildflower Meadow:** The proposed application had been rejected. It was suggested that the Parish Council may be able to take over a part of this area and plant up with perennials.
- e. **Notice Board for Dickens Gate:** Cllr Davies reported that he had been in touch with the Management Company responsible for Dickens Gate development and they have refused permission for the erection of a notice board on the managed land.

11. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths:** Extensive clearing work had been carried out by the Cotswold Wardens including work to Footpaths 108; 47A; 43 and 83
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths:** Committee members to monitor some of the paths
- c. **Footpath 47B:** letter received stating that this is very muddy. However this path is on Hazelbury Manor and the work cannot be carried out.
- d. **Closure of Footpath 21:** Cllr Wright to clarify this with Paul Millard

12. Correspondence:

Request received from the owner of Valley View, Box Hill to have access over a small section of the bridleway on the Common to enable building work to be carried out. Permission was granted.

13. Issues raised on walkround:

- One of the seats needs tightening
- The litter bins need emptying more frequently.
- Further litter bin to be provided. Clerk to ask Wiltshire Council to replace the existing bin with a new larger one
- The Hemp Agrimony needs clearing
- Look at the provision of an addition litter bin by the Car Park
- Look at replacing parts of the picnic table – discuss with the budget

14. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. It was reported that the handrail on the little bridge on the Recreation Ground is still loose. Cotswolds Wardens to look at this

15. Date of next meeting: 17th October 2022

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Chairman