



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 13th DECEMBER 2021

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Davies; N. Ingledew;
I. Johnston; M. Tye; B. Walton;
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
2. **Apologies** Cllr R. Case
3. **Public Question Time:** There was no members of the public present.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Walkround:** Members of the Committee had met and walked round the Rudloe Play Area and the Common prior to the meeting.
6. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2021 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
7. **Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached
 - a. **Risk Assessment:** The Risk Assessment had been updated and was discussed. The issues raised included:
 - **Fallen Beech tree:** A large Beech tree had come down and fallen into the Freeman's field. This has been cleared.
 - **Ash tree dieback:** Affected trees will be felled when funding is available
 - **Rudloe Play Area:** There is a small hole in the safety surface under the see-saw which is a trip hazard. Clerk to obtain quotations for the repair
 - **Damaged seats:** The seat next to the GWR seat will need replacing next year. The seat in memory of the Woodgate family needs preservative. These will be repaired in the New Year
 - **Footpath 33:** The Clerk will ask Wiltshire Council for a reply regarding the diversion of this footpath
 - **Car Parking Area, Box Hill Common:** A Planning Application for an amendment to the original permission has been submitted. Waiting for a decision on funding from the Funding in Protected Landscape application. The work will include taking off the top of the bund; building a retaining wall in Ashlar stone; putting down a layer of mendip dust to make the parking area more defined and creating a sink hole to aid drainage. Quotations received with the preferred option being from Russell Button in a sum not to exceed £54,000. The alternative scheme, if funding was not successful, would be to redefine the boundary and push the bund backwards. A quote for this was in the region of £4-8K.
 - **Albion Terrace retaining wall:** Letter received from the Insurance Company stating that damage caused due to subsidence, landslip, wear and tear and gradual deterioration is not covered under the insurance. A letter has been drafted to deliver to all local residents and a notice will be put up by the wall.
 - **Albion Terrace road surface:** This is an unadopted road and is not the responsibility of either Wiltshire Council or Box Parish Council

- **Japanese knotweed/Hemp Agrimony:** Continue to monitor and treat as necessary
- b. **Lacy Wood:**
Plaque for Tim Kerr – It had agreed that this be cleaned, repainted and sealed at a cost of £60. The work had been deferred until the Spring.
- c. **Clearance and processing of the Ash sapling on the Lower Common and creation of wild flower meadow:** An application for funding has been submitted to Farming in the Protected Landscape with the preferred option from Tree Parts in the sum of £14850 + vat. The work will open up the area and create a large wildflower area and create more biodiversity.
- d. **Ash Trees:** There is an Ash tree adjacent to a property on F39 which could cause damage. It was reported that these had been inspected by a Tree Surgeon earlier in the year and he had felt that this tree was ok. Cllr Wright will collate the tree log book to make a note of all work to trees. Money had been put into the budget for a survey and work to all the trees.

Call Off Contract: It was **recommended** that the Council should enter into a Call Off Contract (Framework Contract) with a tree surgeon to provide arborist services for a period of three years. Competitive tenders for this will be obtained.

The tree surgeons will provide a written H&S visual tree report on trees which pose a risk and will identify trees which require work. They will provide costed arborist services that can be used by the Parish Council in order to manage the work to the trees. The Parish Council would use the Parish Groundsmen to do the routine tree assessments. If work is identified the Call Off Contract can be used.

It was **recommended** that a full Tree Survey is done at the same time as the Call Off Contract is renewed ie every three years

It was reported that dead branches are falling from a tree in Tanglewood are falling over the footpath. Clerk to write to the owners.

- i. **Application for kissing gates:** The application for funding for 10 kissing gates made to Farming in Protected Landscape had been approved. The kissing gates had been ordered and will be delivered in January.
- j. **Update on Walking Map:** The map had been redrafted and will go to the printers when more sponsorship had been received.
- k. **Box Hill Common Conservation Plan and resource estimate:** A revised draft had been circulated. This will be discussed further at the next meeting following the consultation meeting with Box Hill residents
- l. **Forward Plan:** This had been updated and was agreed.
It was suggested that a wild flower meadow could be planted on the grass verge opposite Rudloe Firs and also on the verge on the B3109 This will have to be discussed with Wiltshire Council as the landowners.

8. Climate Strategy Action Plan: SMART objectives had been drawn up and were agreed. Cllr Wright will expand these and they will be put into the framework for the Committees in the Climate Strategy Action Plan.

The Cotswold Wardens will be planting trees at Grove Farm. After seven years these will then be maintained by the land owner.

9. Items for discussion:

- a. **Consultation meeting with the residents of Box Hill Common:** It is proposed to hold a consultation meeting with the residents of Box Hill Common in the Quarrymans Arms on Tuesday 18th January at 7 pm to discuss several issues including the situation with the Car Park; the formation of the wild meadow on the Lower Common etc and inform them of the Parish Council's proposals.

The idea of planting a fruit orchard on the Lower Common will be raised and the residents invited to form a Friends of Box Hill Common to help with the maintenance of this. This will be discussed fully at the next Committee meeting in February. Cllr Walton agreed to speak to Transcoco for any information that could help with the management of the fruit orchard.

- b. **Consultation with residents of Rudloe:** It was proposed to organise a meeting with residents. No date has yet been set.

10. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths:** On-going.
b. **Monitoring of footpaths:** Committee members to monitor some of the paths
c. **Work carried out by Cotswold Wardens:**

Footpath 68 - clearance work

Footpaths 83/84 - repairs to stile

Footpath 82 - Erection of new stile

Footpaths 20, 22a and 103 - Restore stile at the junction of these paths

Footpath 34 - restore six stems

Dangerous tree by Henley Court - Rights of Way Warden, Paul Millard, is dealing with this.

- e. **Footpath 33 on the Lower Common:** The Clerk to pursuing the diversion of the path

11. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Regeneration project:** No further update.
The Parish Council has been invited to look inside the Community Centre. This has been arranged for Friday 14th January at 2 pm
b. **Rudloe Surgery:** A further meeting to be held on 14th December
c. **Highways issues:**
Leafy Lane/B3109: This had been discussed by the Highways Steering Group

12. Correspondence: Nil

13. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. Cllr Wright to draw up the requirements for the budget allocations and draw up a business for this Committee
b. **Grit bins:** Councillors were asked to check the positioning of the grit bins against the location on the maps circulated.

14. Date of next meeting: 21st February 2022

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm