



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Davies  
N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; S. Parker; M. Tye;  
T. Walton
2. **Apologies** Cllr B. Walton
3. **Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Walk round:** Members of the Committee had walked round prior to the meeting.
6. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
7. **Risk Assessment and Forward Plan:** The Risk Assessment was reviewed. This links in to the Forward Plan
8. **Matters Arising:**
  - a. **Tree Stump Treatment:** It was agreed to purchase more tree stump treatment at a cost not to exceed £100 (cost centre 4115)
  - b. **Recycling bins on the Common:** Cllr Wright had made enquiries with Leafield Environmental who could provide the bins. One bin with two openings would cost £580 but more than one bin would be required to accommodate all the different materials. They are very large and imposing and the whole life costs would be very high as it would need someone to manage and sort the waste. Whilst this would align with the Climate Strategy Action Plan it was felt that these would not be good value for money.

It was **recommended** that Cllr Wright draw up costings for this to be discussed further at the next meeting to see if it would be feasible to pursue.
  - c. **Car Parking Area, Box Hill Common:** Wiltshire Council has advised not to embark on a surface restoration as it will not deliver value for money. It was agreed that no further action be taken.
  - d. **Albion Terrace retaining wall:** It was agreed to continue to build up funds for any work required to the wall.

It was **recommended** that a Civil Engineer be asked to inspect the wall and provide advice on the way forward. **Action: IJ**
  - e. **Seats:** The seat adjacent to the GWR seat is in reasonable condition and does not require immediate replacement. One slat on the back needs replacement.

It was **recommended** that the advertisement in the Parish Magazine inviting individuals to sponsor a seat within the parish continues on a monthly basis. The seat could then be replaced if one is donated.

- f. **Picnic Table:** Cllr T. Walton has offered to repair the two seats to the picnic table.
  
- g. **Tree work on Common:**  
**Ash trees on Lower Common by FP35:** There are potentially two Ash trees at risk from dieback and one large branch from a Sycamore which needs removing. Quotation received from Tree Parts Ltd in the sum of £1200 + vat for felling the Ash trees and removing the branch.  
  
After discussion it was **recommended** that an alternative quotation is obtained for remove the large branch. It was agreed to proceed with this for Health & Safety reasons at a cost not to exceed £500  
The Ash Trees will be monitored over the summer  
  
**Small wood area adjacent to FPs 33, 34 and 35:** It was **recommended** that Tree Parts Ltd be asked to draw up a Management Plan for these trees. The Groundsman would be able to carry out some of the work required.
  
- h. **Update on Walking Map:** Final copies of the Map have been printed. A soft copy had been passed to Cllr Ingledew for publication on the website
  
- i. **East of Bath Express feasibility Study:** Wiltshire Council to engage with stakeholders, including Corsham Town Council and Box Parish Council.
  
- k. **Engagement with Wiltshire Council Community Payback team:**  
The Community Payback Team had worked hard and had made an impact and they will continue so long as there is work to be done. The next project would be to clear the Hemp Agrimony. The Quarrymans Arms are providing toilet facilities and coffee and it had been agreed to share costs. A donation of £100 had been made to them last month and it was agreed that a further donation of £100 be made to cover the period March – May.

**9. Other issues raised:**

- a. **Interpretation Board for Lower Common –** It was **recommended** that an Interpretation Board be purchased for the Lower Common at a cost not to exceed £1500. This will be taken from the money in the budget for the Car Park which is no longer required.
  
- b. **Limestone Wildflower Meadow seeds:** It was agreed to donate £200 to the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands project. 10-12 kg of seeds will be harvested.
  
- c. **Community Orchard:** 40 fruit bushes had been purchased at a cost of £421.71
  
- d. **Queens Green Canopy Award:** There are currently seven locations in the Parish. The final tree planting of 50 broadleaf trees will be planted at Wadswick Green February/March 2023

- e. **Stairway to Heaven**; Some of the posts need replacing. This will be done on 1<sup>st</sup> March
- f. **Lacy Wood – dry stone wall**: Funds to be built us for the wall to be repaired. The Cotswold Wardens could carry out the work but the stone would need to be supplied.
- g. **Albion Terrace – road surface**: This will be raised at the community meeting when the local residents will be invited to invest in the repairs to the road.
- h. **Japanese Knotweed**: The area has been cleared and there is no evidence of Japanese Knotweed. It has been seeded with wild flowers.
- i. **Posts for the edge of the Common**: It was **recommended** that 25 posts be ordered at a cost of £9 each. Cllr Walton will collect these from the Lydney Estate.
- j. **Management of Lacy Wood**: On-going
- k. **Communal area adjacent to Albion Terrace**: This is very untidy with evidence of fly tipping. There will be a community meeting to explain the situation ie this is Parish Council land which residents can use on payment of a peppercorn rental. Clerk to carry out a Land Registry search to determine the boundaries of the Common. The terms of the peppercorn rental will need to be reviewed **Action:MC**
- l. **Area adjacent to the Quarrymans Arms Car Park**: There has been fly tipping. Cllr Wright to speak to the Quarrymans Arms to define the boundary. It was suggested that three large stones could be placed to deter the fly tipping.
- m. **Purchase of fence posts for living hedges on Common and Recreation Ground**: It was agreed to purchase 30 fence posts at a cost not to exceed £210 (cost centre 4115)

#### **10. Management of the Rudloe Area:**

- a. **Rudloe Green**: Letter received from GreenSquare Accord stating “With all that has happened with respect to the classification of the existing green area, we have had to redesign the whole area and consult, again, with the planners and the Urban Designer at Wiltshire Council. As you are aware any new proposal will include the existing Community Centre and the reprovision of a small community facility and a small local shop facility. In redesigning, to maintain the existing green area in its current location, we have had to slightly reduce the number of additional affordable homes that we can provide.. We are looking again at the viability of the scheme based upon the new numbers. If viable we shall need to reconsult with local residents and stakeholders, sharing the updated plans, and submit a planning application. We will aim to do this as quickly as we sensibly update you on progress when we are able to do so. With respect to the existing Community Building, we shall monitor the condition and undertake any works that are required as part of the lease agreement.

- b. **Play Equipment:** The bridge had been removed.
- c. **Coronation event:** An event will be held on Rudloe Green to mark the King's Coronation.
- d. **Defibrillator on the outside wall of the MOD Community Centre:**  
Letter from the MoD – they are pursuing this.
- e. **Reservoirs:** Wessex Water have been asked to cut back the hedge by the Leafy Lane reservoir and to clear the traffic signs on the B3109
- f. **Provision of additional allotments:** The areas adjacent to Skynet Drive which was previously allotments and at the end of Park Avenue were being considered. It was suggested that the middle common could be levelled to create allotments.

**11. Rights of Way:**

- a. **Updates on issues relating to Rights of Way and work carried out:**  
FP59 – Hazelbury Manor - permission has been granted for work to be carried out to FP59 and also to the bridleway  
  
FP 43 - Clearing overgrowth  
  
FP 34 - Clearing overgrowth  
  
FP 18 - Surfacing to be carried out early April  
  
FP 59 - Repairs to stile and steps to be carried out  
  
FP 55 - Overgrowth to be cleared
- b. **FP20 and FP80** £1000 received from Corsham Area Board with match funding from Box Parish Council
- c. **Kissing gates** - Match funding between Corsham Area Board and Cotswolds Conservation of £6500 for 10 kissing gates

**12. Date of next meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

*Meeting closed at 8.15 pm*

**Chairman**