



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

- 1. Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Davies
N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; S. Parker; M. Tye;
B. Walton; T. Walton
- 2. Apologies** Cllrs R. Case; R. Smith, Mrs Carey
- 3. Public Question Time:** There was one member of the public present
Mr Phil Rice from the Rudloe Community Group.
- 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 17 October 2022 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
- 7. Matters Arising:**
 - a. Update on the precept:** The overall budget is overheated and will require adjustment. A further meeting is scheduled for 5 December in order to discuss the funding priorities.
 - b. Invitation to Mr Philip Rice to join the committee.** This proposal was approved unanimously, it was noted that Mr Rice will not enjoy voting rights.
 - c. Tree Stump Treatment:** The area has been cleared by the Community group and Joel/Chris are applying the treatment as a component of the 'Winter Jobs' list.
 - d. Recycling bins on the Common:** Money has been put into the budget to add recycling bins at a cost of £500 each.
 - e. Car Parking Area, Box Hill Common:** Despite numerous requests for information, Wiltshire Council have not provided the details of their endorsed contractor. **It is recommended that Box PC approach a commercial contractor in order to comply with Planning Consent. Action IJ**
 - f. Albion Terrace retaining wall:** The Action Plan was discussed and endorsed. **It is recommended that the Action Plan is adopted.**
 - g. Damaged seat.** Funding is available. **It is recommended that a new seat (not to exceed £500) is acquired and secured to the concrete base.**
 - h. Picnic Table:** Funds for the restoration of the table have been allocated and the intent is to accumulate funds for the replacement of the existing picnic table by 2025
 - g. Tree work on Common:** The tree work described in the Tree Action Plan has been delivered and the invoice passed to Box PC for payment.
 - h. Update on Walking Map:** Additional funds (£100.00) have been requested from the Cotswolds Conservation Board. **It is recommended that 'Match funding of £100.00 is provided by Box PC to contribute to the £415 cost of producing a further 2,500 print run. Action DW**

- i. **East of Bath Express feasibility Study:** The study was discussed. **It is recommended that Wiltshire Council form a WG to take ownership of this issue and engage with the wider Wiltshire stakeholder community in order to establish an endorsed way forward that will include the views of Box PC and Corsham Town Council (TC). Action D**

- k. **Engagement with Wiltshire Council Community Payback team:** Cllr Wright described the meeting with Wiltshire Probation service on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at the Lower Common. **It is recommended that Box PC accept the offer of assistance from the Community Payback team to enable the delivery of the Box Hill Common Conservation Management Plan. Action DW**

- l. **Funding for coffee and sandwiches for the Community Payback team.** Cllr Wright explained the Box PC 'Hosting' responsibilities. The Quarrymans Arms have offered to provide toilet and hygiene facilities and refreshments at cost. **It is recommended that Box PC provide The Quarrymans Arms with £100.00 to cover the costs of two Work Parties in this Financial Year. Action DW.**

8. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Green:** Cllr Wright reported that Wiltshire Council will continue to work with Green Square Accord (GSA) to determine if they can bring forward the regeneration of the area for the benefit of their residents and the wider community. With the changing circumstances GSA have had to reconsider their proposals and are engaging with the planning team to determine any revisions suitability.

The outcome of these discussions will allow GSA to consider the financial implications of the changes and are intending to present revised proposals to their Investment Committee very early in 2023. Following that meeting there are two possible outcomes:

- 1. GSA have approval to proceed – in this circumstance the council would continue to work with GSA to ensure that a planning application is submitted as soon as possible, this is likely to be spring / early summer 2023. WC would include the green space in the sale to GSA as it would aid their development process and provide flexibility. GSA would be willing to have a discussion with the Parish Council about future management, and possible ownership, of the green space within the scheme.
- 2. GSA decide not to proceed – in this circumstance we would undertake a surplus land review, as set out in the Cabinet approved disposal process (see attached). That review circulates the site internally, to the local elected member and the relevant town / parish council. Representations are made and an internal officer Board considers all options and then determines the best use for the council. It is at this stage that we would consider any parish council interest. We'd start this process on confirmation that GSA are not proceeding

At this stage, the Council would not consider disposal to any third party of any part of the site until this after GSA have presented to Committee. **It is recommended that Box PC maintain the engagement with Wiltshire Council with the intent of acquiring the Rudloe Green for the benefit of the Rudloe Community. Action DW**

9. Date of next meeting: 20 February 2023

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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