



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 21st OCTOBER 2019

1. **Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); R. Davies; S.Gould;
D. Moore; B. Walton; J. Whitford
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
2. **Apologies** Cllr J. Cox; Cllr Parker
3. **Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meetings held on 19th August 2019 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
6. **Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached
 - a. **Lacy Wood:** The work is being carried out
 - b. **Box Hill Common:** Joel and Chris were approximately four weeks behind schedule with the work on the Common as they had been diverted to other work. They are now catching up
Lower Common The Grassland Wildflower seeds had been received and will be planted.
The track had been cleared. The area will be managed by the end of the winter
The Cotswold Wardens had offered a couple of days work during the winter and this was accepted.
Creation of parking space; The planning application had been submitted to Wiltshire Council.
The quotation from R.J. Payne in the sum of £2750 which had been accepted for the work still stood. However, there might be a slight increase in the cost of the scalping. Cllr Case will speak to the police when the work is being carried out in case the road is blocked
It was suggested that the remainder of the wooden posts be put along the edge of the middle common after the work had been completed and Cllr Case would speak to R.J. Payne and obtain a cost for this
 - c. **Japanese Knotweed:** This had been treated
 - d. **Pig and a Jig:** On-going
 - e. **Boundaries by Albion Terrace;** continue to monitor
 - f. **Removal of shed:** Letter received from the Solicitor. He is taking advice from a Litigation colleague on how best to proceed with serving notice
 - g. **Interpretation Board;** Collect photos for the Board. Discuss in detail at the next meeting
 - h. **Seats;** Cllr Davies will put one further coat of stain on the wood. The metal still needs repainting. Cllr Davies will check the stability of the GWR seat

8. Trees; It was reported that the trees had been affected by last year's dry summer

The following quotation had been received for work to the trees on the Common which will be discussed with the budget

• Sycamore adjacent to road and lay-by growing under cables Dismantle and fell. Timber left in situ as logs	£ 160
• Beech avenue – remove major deadwood – Health & Safety issue	1200
• Sycamores growing adjacent to top car park – lift canopy to 6m	60
• Failed Ash tree leaning over bridleway	
a. dismantle/fell tree, clear from path	100
b. as above but also to include remove brush, timber cut to log length left in situ	200
• Two Ash trees below lookout bench – reduce & reshape canopies by 20%	<u>1200</u>
Total	£2820

These quotes will be discussed with the budget and prioritised. It was agreed that the work to the Beech Avenue should have priority as it is a health and safety issue.

It was **recommended** that the urgent work to the Beech trees be carried out as long as the budget allows

9. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths**: On-going.
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths**: Committee members to monitor some of the paths
- c. **Items that have been reported**:
F35 – Permission given to the Cotswold Wardens to put a post with way marker on it to indicate the start of the steps

F32 - this had been cleared

F88 – this had been cleared

F29 – this had been cleared

F32 – kissing gate may need replacing in the near future

F43, 62 and 65 – to be cleared

F51 – Clerk to ask the Cotswold Wardens to improve the navigation of the path
- e. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: Clerk to take these up with the Rights of Way Warden as a matter of urgency
- e. **Bridge by Real World Studios**: Clerk to check if the non-slip covering had been replaced
- f. **Sign for Middlehill**: This is on the list of work for the Shed
- g. **Sile on footpath from Boxfields Road**: On-going
- h. **F2**: Network Rail will be clearing this later in the year. The Rights of Way had inspected the path and some of the vegetation is not Network Rail's responsibility so he will arrange for this to be done. He will also add the edging boards to his list of works to be done.
- i. **F18**: The Rights of Way Warden to contact the local resident to discuss the installation of a kissing gate to help with the anti-social behaviour

- j. **Bridleway in Quarry Woods:** clerk to write to the landowner to ask if he could check that the bridleway is passable.

Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Richard Wilson for all the work undertaken by the local Cotswold Wardens.

10. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- **Rudloe Steering Group:** Cllr Davies reported that the meeting of the Steering Group proposed for 21st October had been cancelled. There had been a presentation at Rudloe on the Neighbourhood Plan given by Cllr Botterill on Wednesday last which had been attended by 60-70 people who had raised issues and were unhappy with Box Parish Council. They had raised concerns about the new developments and the fact that GreenSquare were supported to put a planning application into Wiltshire Council by the end of September. The Clerk explained the difference between S106 and CIL monies. It was felt that the Committee was not the forum for discussing this further and Cllr Davies was advised to raise this at the Full Council meeting.
- **Mosaic sign:** The Shed are making the frame for the sign and the artwork was being drawn up by the School.
- **Play Area:** The work to repainting the play equipment had been delayed because of the wet weather.

11. Purchase of shredder:

Following a resolution made at Full Council on 25th July that the purchase of the shredder/chipper should proceed following a demonstration of the machinery, the Clerk had spoken to Colin Bush regarding the chipper but he was unable to demonstrate this machine as he buys these machines straight from the manufacturer for customers. John Miller had carried out a demonstration of the industrial shredder/chipper on 21st October. This had been attended by the members of staff together with Cllrs Case; Parker and Whitford.

£2750 (**not** including VAT) had been included in the 2018-19 budget for the purchase of a shredder. Following the demonstration John Miller offered the Council the demonstration model, which had only been used a few times, at a cost of £2900 (**including** VAT). A new machine would cost in the region of £3403 (including VAT).

Cllrs Case and Whitford agreed that the demonstration had been satisfactory and suitable for the work involved. The purchase of the machine can therefore proceed.

After discussion it was **recommended** that the generator purchased in December 2018 at a cost of £499.99 plus VAT be sold as it is too large and is no longer needed as there is now an electricity supply.

12. Items to be considered with the budget:

- Work to trees - about £1750
- Donation to the Cotswold Wardens - £500
- Money for posts on the middle common - £600
- Trees on the steps
- Adult fitness equipment - to be put in the forward budget

13. Correspondence:

Request received from the Quarrymans Arms for permission to cut down the saplings and buddleias. They will pay for the work. This was agreed.

The owners of Ash Cottage have also asked for permission to cut down some of the saplings behind their property. They will also cover the cost of the work. This was agreed.

It was **recommended** that the work be permitted but this should wait until the end of November.

14. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. **Allotments**; Cllr Walton reported that a working party will be clearing some of the allotments and be removing the old shed. She asked for Joel to take this away

15. Date of next meeting: 16th December 2019

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chairman