



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: T. Walton (Chair); A. Barton; R. Bean; J. Campbell; R. Davies; D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; S. Roche; M. Tye; B. Walton; D. Wright  
Unitary Councillors: D. Walters

Mrs Carey (Clerk) Ms. H. Barbrook (Assistant Clerk)

- 2. Apologies** Cllr B. Mathew  
The apologies were accepted

- 3. Absent:** Councillors: R. Bolton; S. Parker

- 4. Public Question Time:** There were eight members of the public present.

Mr Charles Freeman from the Box PCC spoke about the situation regarding Clair Southgate who had been “invited” by GreenSquare Accord to vacate her property in Queens Square to enable them to sell the property because they say it is not economically viable to carry out the necessary repairs.

He stated that Clair is a highly valued member of the Church as an unpaid vicar and is also a teaching assistant and governor at Box C of E School and a lynch pin of the village. There was a possibility that she could be relocated to Chippenham but she is unable to drive. He stated that a petition with over 1500 signatures had been set up and he asked the Parish Council to lend their support to Clair and to write to GreenSquare Accord.

Cllr Derek Walters stated that he had spoken to Tom Chapman-Young of GSA who assured him Clair would not be decanted outside of the village. He stated that he will get this put in writing.

The Parish Council was unanimous in its support for Clair and would write to the Housing Association with its concerns about the situation and to ask for a list of the repairs required to the house in question.

Several parishioners raised concerns about the report and other communications received from Sarah Dearden of Wiltshire Council. One resident was concerned as he had an electric vehicle that he charged outside his property. It was pointed out that this issue was not on the Agenda for the Full Council meeting and the report would be discussed at the Highways Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

- 5. Chairman’s announcements and declarations of interest:** There were no announcements or declarations of interest.

- 6. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were agreed and signed as being a true record with one amendment.

## **7. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

**Climate Strategy Working Group:** Cllr H. Parker reported on the Great Big Green Week. The guided walks had been well attended and thanks were given to Melissa Hoskins, Daniel Part and everyone involved. The visits by the two schools had been a great success

## **8. Committees:**

- i. **Playing Fields Management** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 were submitted and agreed.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council borrow internally to complete the work to the path on the Recreation Ground behind Mead Villas during this financial year and to put the monies back into the budget for the next year as there a £2000 shortfall in the current budget.

- ii. **Planning & Conservation:** The Minutes of the Meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were submitted and agreed.

- iii. **Finance & Governance:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were submitted and agreed

**Capital Asset Strategy:** The draft Fixed Asset Strategy and Asset Register had been circulated and the format was agreed. Additional columns to be added to the Asset Register which will be circulated to all Committee Chairs

- iv. **Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was submitted and agreed.

**Resolved** by twelve votes in favour and one abstention that the estimate for costs to restore the GWR seat on Box Common be accepted.

**Working Groups/Council Surgeries:** It was agreed that the dates for these should be planned ahead and put onto the Calendar of Meetings which should be circulated in December. They should also be added to Mrs Porter's Diary. It was agreed that the dates for the Litter Picks and Workings Groups should not clash. Clerk to forward dates of the Council meetings to the Area Board. Discuss further at the next Finance & Governance meeting. It was also agreed to have the council meetings dates arranged in draft form for the December Full Council.

## **9. To receive any urgent correspondence:**

- a. **CPRE Best Kept Village** – copy of the results of the first round and Judge's report received and circulated. Box had come in 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- b. **Application re Wiltshire & Swindon Tree Warden Scheme:** Letter of Application received from Joseph Lavington to become a Tree Warden for the Box Parish. It was agreed to ask Daniel Part for his input on this and to have an informal meeting with the application. It was agreed to defer the decision on this. **Action: Cllr Bean to contact them**
- c. **Details of proposed improvements to pedestrian crossings:** Details received from Wiltshire Council. Clerk to clarify the dates and confirm that access to businesses will be maintained at all times.
- d. **Application for use of the Recreation Ground:** Application received from Brunel House Care Home to hold a community picnic on the Recreation Ground

on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Permission was granted subject to receipt of a Risk Assessment.

**10. Items for discussion:**

**a. To consider the recommendation from the Buildings Committee omitted from last month's Agenda:**

The Committee had accepted the report from the Working Group and had recommended, in principle, that the two facilities (Parish Council Offices and Pavilion) be merged into one to be located in the Pavilion.

It was **resolved** unanimously that this be accepted.

**b. To discuss whether or not to hold an additional Highways Committee meeting to consider the report re Hazelbury Hill:**

Cllr Davies felt that he did not see the value of an additional Committee meeting before the LHFIG meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Mediation between the parties was discussed but it was felt that there was not enough time before the LHFIG meeting for this.

**c. Parish Council emails:** In light of advice from the IT technician and from NALC regarding Freedom of Information protection all Councillors were advised that they should be using the boxparishcouncil.gov.uk email address. The IT Technician will be able to help with setting this up. It was agreed that all Councillors be encouraged to set this up now and it would be mandatory from the Annual Council meeting in May 2025

– carried by ten votes in favour, two against and one abstention.

This will be added to the Terms of Reference for the Council.

**d. Servicing of Agendas:** Copy of Legal Topic Note 5E had been circulated. It was agreed unanimously that the Summons be sent out with a link to the agenda and minutes on the website.

**e. Publication of draft Minutes:** It was agreed by twelve votes in favour and one against that the draft minutes be published on the website.

**f. Donation of a copy of "We are the Ark" and "Wilding" to the two local schools:** This was agreed by eleven votes in favour, one against and one abstention at a cost of approximately £80

**11. To consider applications for grants**

**a. Application from Corsham Primary School Broadwood Site – Application received for funding in the sum of £1000 to purchase a permanent shelter to provide access to learning outdoor all year round. Three Councillors had visited the School and it was felt that there was not enough room for the shelter to be put up and they were not convinced that this was the right project. The application was refused as the Parish Council felt it would prefer to support another project.**

**b. Application from Box Bowls Club – Revised application received for funding in the sum of £240 to provide four corner steps to improve access to the Bowling Green for less able bowlers and visitors. It was **resolved** unanimously to support the grant in the sum of £240**

**c. Application from St Thomas a Becket: Application for funding towards the Children's Summer Holiday Club in the sum of £590. It was **resolved** unanimously to support the grant in the sum of £590**

**d. Application from Box Methodist Church: Application for funding to help towards covering the additional costs incurred in running a Warm Welcome Community Space in the sum of £702. It was **resolved** unanimously to support the grant in the sum of £702**

**e. Application from 1<sup>st</sup> Neston and Box Scout Group: Application for grant of £750 towards the purchase of replacement climbing and camping equipment.**

It was **resolved** by ten votes in favour and three abstentions to support the grant in the sum of £750

**12. Finance:**

**a. Additional Accounts for payment;** The following additional accounts were agreed for payment

John Miller Ltd	-	2 stroke petrol, chain oil, gear grease	99.28
A.J. Rich Landscaping	-	Work to path at Lovar Garden & Allotments	8676.62
Water2Business	-	Pav/PFs	18.79
Travis Perkins	-	Bitumen etc	119.88
T.F. Slade	-	Updating Book of Remembrance	108.00
		Updating name boards	138.00
Environmental Drain Services Ltd	-	Service re Cemetery Lodge	288.00
Ultra-Warm	-	Service to Pavilion boiler	282.00
Ultra-Warm	-	Service to Office boiler	264.84
Greenway Training Ltd	-	Emergency First Aid course	300.00
Glenys A Gill	-	New Councillor Training	20.00
Bond Electrical Ltd	-	Light in Car Park	132.40
The Brunel Shed	-	Notice Boards	310.00
Fire Alarm Consultancy Ltd	-	Service to Fire Alarm Pavilion	70.56
 <u>Cheques</u>			
Wiltshire Search & Rescue	-	Grant	100.00

**13. Statement of balances**

**Lloyds**

Current Account	£ 19059.81
High Interest account	<u>16011.88</u>
	£ 35071.69
Less payments to go out	<u>10885.81</u>
Working balance	<b>£ 24185.88</b>
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 45000.00
<b>Balance in Lloyds</b>	<b>£ <u>69185.88</u></b>
Held in <b>BIBS</b>	<b>£ 83873.95</b>
Held in <b>Nationwide</b>	<b>£ <u>57748.52</u></b>
	<b>£ <u>141622.47</u></b>

**14. Chairman's Diary, Representatives' reports and report from County**

**Councillors:**

Cllr Walters reported that he would be having a meeting with the local Green Square Accord Senior Management Team for the Box area and stated that any Councillor could join him.

He updated the Council on the Task Group set up to look at concerns over Speed Limit Assessments. There are six Wiltshire Council on the Task Group and there is support within the Group to ensure that future speed limit assessments take local information into account to provide a better and more transparent assessment.

SID on B3109 – It had been reported that there could not be a SID on the B3109 within six months of the change in speed limit and would have to have a metro count. Part of Swindon and Wiltshire Road Safety Unit were working on this.

Rudloe Community Centre – Wiltshire Council is drawing up the Lease

Funding for Rudloe – Cllr Walters asked that if the lease for the Community Centre goes through could there be support financially by the Parish Council

Cllr Roche reported on the Town and Parish Planning Forum that she had attended on 25<sup>th</sup> June covering restructuring of the Planning department; presentation on Neighbourhood Plans and Enforcement.

Area Board meeting – Eight Parish Councillors had attended. It was a very good meeting. A grant of £2500 had been received towards the resurfacing of the tennis courts

**15. Items of report and future Agenda items:**

- Playing Fields Working Group – 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Box Hill Working Green – first Sunday of the month
- Choir Concert in aid of the tennis court resurfacing
- Concerns were raised about the number of Councillors who are not giving apologies for meetings
- Cllr Davies thanked Cllr H Parker for her work with the Car Park light which is now working and also Cllr Ingledew for his report on a recent meeting with Highways
- There are currently six vehicles parked long term in the Car Park. One is unlocked and is dangerous as it has profane cylinders inside.

*Meeting closed at 9.20 pm*

**Chair**