



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 25th APRIL 2024

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

Mrs Carey (Clerk) Ms. H. Barbrook

- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs A. Barton ; R. Bolton ; J. Clifford; Cllr D. Walters
The apologies were accepted

- 3. Absent:** Nil

- 3. Public Question Time:** There were two members of the public present.

Mr Varian Tye urged the Council to support the proposal to become a Great West Way Destination Ambassador as there would be considerable benefits to the Parish. He also encouraged Councillors to attend the talk on Box Cemetery to be held in the Library on Thursday 2nd May from 10.30 – 12pm and throughout May

Mr Derek Elliott stated that whilst he appreciated that the improvements to the pedestrian crossing by the Post Office would take place later in the year he felt it was inadvisable to leave the current light out on the crossing as someone could be knocked down and the driver could claim that they had not seen anyone. He requested that Wiltshire Council be asked to replace the bulb as a matter of urgency. The work is to commence on 8th July 2024

- 4. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:** There were no announcements or declarations of interest.

- 5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th March 2024 were agreed and signed as being a true record with a minor amendment to item 7vi to include the words "hours worked in the office"

- 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Climate Strategy Working Group: Cllr H. Parker that the Carbon Audit data input had been completed. Bloom had published a new version of the manual which she would need to go through but hopefully there would be some meaningful data to report to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The leaflet for the guided walks for the Great Big Green Walk had been drawn up. She had obtained a quotation for the printing and it was **resolved** that 300 copies be printed at a cost of £45. The leaflets would be available at the Annual Parish Meeting and the schools would be asked to put them in the children's book bags. Children from both the schools would be visiting Box Cemetery.

Cllr Parker reported that she would be visiting a biodigester on 8th May to get an understanding of how this works.

A volunteer@boxparishcouncil.gov.uk email was being set up for volunteers

7. Committees:

- i. **Playing Fields** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th April 2024 were submitted and agreed.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Under 7s be known as “the Lower Playground”

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation from Tree Parts Ltd for the work to the Ash tree at the bottom corner of the allotment in the sum of £240 + vat be accepted

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation from Tree Parts Ltd for the work to the Horse Chestnut G64 tree in the sum of £185 + vat be accepted

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation from Tree Parts Ltd for the work to the Horse Chestnut Tree T13 and the Tulip Tree T35 in the sum of £660 + vat be accepted

It was reported that the SuDSPod had been installed by the Pavilion. It was agreed that Cllr B. Walton would liaise with GreenBlue Urban over the planting.

- ii. **Planning & Conservation**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th March and 15th April 2024 were submitted and agreed.

It was agreed that Cllr B. Walton would obtain herbs to plant in the Pound at a cost of not exceeding £50

- iii. **Finance & Governance**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th April 2024 were submitted and agreed

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council continues with its membership with WALC for a further year. The cost will be £1160.29 pa

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council becomes a Great West Way Destination Ambassador at a cost of £177 pa based on a three year commitment

The Communications Working Group will pursue this.

- iv. **Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April 2024 was submitted and agreed.

Cllr Wright confirmed that he would deliver the letters to the residents of Albion Terrace over the weekend.

Thanks were given to Cllr Wright for all his work on the Committee. A new Chairman will be needed.

8. Urgent Correspondence: Nil

9. Items for discussion:

- a. **Arrangements for the Box Revels**: The Parish Council stall will be next to the Cotswold Wardens and will include the displays from the Annual Parish

Meeting. There will be posters for the Box Play Grounds Development Group. The primary focus will be the Great Big Green Week and a quiz will be drawn up relating to this. Cllr H. Parker will draw up a rota for Councillors

10. Accounts for payment; The following additional accounts were agreed for payment

<u>BACS</u>	
Fire Alarm Consultancy	- Service 362.40
J. Burgess	- Refund of VAT 101.95
Westcare Supply Zone	- Refuse sacks and stationery 211.40
SLCC	- Advert 265.20
M. Carey	- Balance of Gratuity 19607.15
Bond Electrical	- Replacing PIR light on post 208.45

11. Statement of balances

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	£ 29694.39
High Interest account	<u>70911.78</u>
	£100606.17
Less payments to go out	<u>21054.58</u>
Working balance	£ 79551.59
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 45000.00
Balance in Lloyds	<u>£124551.59</u>
Held in BIBS	£ 83873.95
Held in Nationwide	<u>£ 57748.52</u>
	<u>£ 141622.47</u>

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

Councillors:

Cllr Ingledew reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Selwyn Hall Management Committee but it had been postponed following the death of the Chairman Paul Thomas.

Cllr Davies reported on the meeting of LHFIG. Cllr Ingledew will meet with Sarah Dearden, Wiltshire Council, to look at the bus top by the Chemist; the top of Valens Terrace and Hazelbury Hill

Cllr B. Walton reported that she had spoken to Wiltshire Council regarding the proposed redevelopment of the pedestrian crossing by the Post Office and had explained that the Parish Council holds a S96 Licence to plant the area in front of Vine Court. A Working Group will remove the plants prior to the work. The area would be levelled and Wiltshire Council will plant wild flower seed mix. There were proposals for a new bench, new bin and new bus shelter and she had asked if the new bin could be a recycling one. If not, could a space be left so that the Parish Council could install one. Wiltshire Council will draw up an amended plan.

Unitary Councillors

Cllr B. Matthew read out a statement regarding the issue of the insurance for the Flood Wardens and felt that the decision taken by the Parish Council had been a mistake. He stated that the Flood Wardens meet during the summer and not just in the winter. He praised Cllr R. Bolton for his work as a flood warden but felt that the Parish Council needs to move forward and update the Flood Plan and to arrange public liability insurance. He stated that a letter from Perry Holmes, Director of Legal

and Governance at Wiltshire had moved the situation forward but he did not want to accuse the Parish Council of “kicking the can down the road”

It was agreed to raise this issue again with the Insurance Company.

Cllr T. Walton stated that he was hoping for more information from other Parish Council and not just Melksham Without. He would pursue this with other Parish and Town Councils.

Cllr Wright reiterated the situation re the insurance for the litter picking groups.

13. Items of report and future Agenda items:

- The following Planning issues were raised:
 - i. Barn on land near Longsplatt – Cllr S. Parker to provide the exact location
 - ii. Formation of new entrance at back of No 5 Love Lane
 - lii Positioning of a mobile home in a field at Ashley
- Cllr Davies reported a dead Ash tree on private land overhanging the highways approaching the village. He will take photographs of this and provide an exact location
- Cllr Davies thanked the efforts of the Parish Council and Cllr B. Mathew regarding the work that had been carried out in the Churchyard
- Box Bowls Club would be holding Social Evenings on 3rd and 10th May at 7 pm
- Cllr Tye reported that there will be a second survey shortly re the equipment for the Lower Playground
- Cllr Ingledew reported that he had been approached by a parishioner who would like to contribute towards a new Thomas the Tank Engine on the playground
- Applications for Grants to be considered in May and October this year. To be put on the next Full Council Agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Chair