



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 26th OCTOBER 2023

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

Mrs Carey (Clerk)

- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs J. Clifford; R. Davies; D. Dorey WC Derek Walters
The apologies were accepted.

- 3. Public Question Time;** There were three members of the public present.
Mr Brian Burchfield reported that he was currently setting up a Pickleball group in Colerne and he would like to do this for Box as well. He was advised to contact the Selwyn Hall and to consider approaching the Thelma Haines Trust for a grant as well as the Parish Council.

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

Cllr T. Walton reported that he had attended the WALC AGM and it had been advised that Chair be used instead of Chairman.

Councillors were also advised of the new email address for the Clerk

Councillors were reminded to check the grit bins for damage or if they need refilling

- 5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th September 2023 were agreed and signed as being a true record.

- 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Reply from Ruth Cooke GreenSquare Accord: The letter had been circulated. It was agreed that a further letter be sent reiterating the Council's concerns about the sale of some of the flats in Springfield House. It was also agreed to state that the reason GreenSquare did not proceed with the planning application for the Rudloe regeneration could not be blamed on the application for Community Asset re the Rudloe Green.

Climate Strategy Working Group: Cllr H. Parker reported that she is currently inputting the data for the Carbon Audit. She had put questions to Bloom which had arisen from the audit. When she has received the Audit from Bloom the Working Group will meet

Cllr H. Parker reported that she had attended the Net Zero Cotswolds Workshop. A carbon based line assessment showed that the carbon footprint in the Cotswolds was 26% higher than other UK residents.

The Protected Verges had been discussed – it was stated that a baseline on the verges is needed before any improvement can be shown.

7. Committees:

- i. **Playing Fields Management:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October were submitted and agreed.

It was **resolved** by ten votes in favour and one abstention that the work to the veteran Lime tree for a bracing system and remedial tree works to reduce end weight leverage on the seven main vertical boughs on the main stems and shorten southern leverage, pruning back to points of new generation in the sum of £2500 be accepted

- ii. **Finance & Governance Committee:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2023 were submitted and agreed

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council looks at using Earmarked Reserves to go towards the cost of the replacement mule.

- iii. **Planning & Conservation Committee:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th September and 9th October 2023 were submitted and agreed.

It was reported that an extensive letter of objection had been sent regarding PL/2023/07741 – Land at Ashley Garage. This will be shown as an Appendix to the Minutes

- iv. **Box Hill Common and Rudloe Open Spaces:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2023 were submitted and agreed

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation from Tree Parts Ltd for clearing the Vegetation from the wall at Albion Terrace in the sum of £3320 + vat be accepted

- v. **Highways:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2023 were submitted and agreed

The recommendation that more posts with small solar lights, up to a cost of £200 be installed to go from the Bowling Green entrance down to the Car Park was withdrawn as the majority of the work had been carried out.

A365 Devizes Road, Box: It was **resolved** unanimously that the proposed scheme for “SLOW” on the road and a “Reduce Speed Sign” be accepted in the sum of £1450 with a contribution from the Parish Council of **£362.50** be accepted

Tunnel Inn Crossroads:

It was **resolved** unanimously that the proposed scheme for two agricultural vehicles signs and a new crossroads sign in the sum of ££700 with a contribution from the Parish Council of **£175** be accepted.

Mill Lane/Lycetts Orchard :

It was **resolved** unanimously that the proposed scheme for “SLOW” on the road and a new junction scheme be accepted in the sum of **£1150** with a contribution from the Parish Council of **£287.50** be accepted.

It was reported that Hills Waste could not access Valens Terrace to empty the bins in the car park because of a parked car. This will be added to the Agenda for the next Highways Committee meeting and to look at a new sign for “no parking”

It was reported that an additional short meeting of the Highways Committee will need to be held in November to address the issues to be put forward for the next LHFIC meeting

8. To consider any applications for grants: Four applications had been received from Box Parish Magazine; Box Pre-School Playgroup; Green Room Youth Club and the Selwyn Hall Management Committee

After discussion it was **resolved** that the following grants be made:

Parish Magazine	-	£100
Box Pre-School Playgroup	-	£500
Green Room Youth Club	-	£500
Selwyn Hall Management Com	-	£1000

9. Urgent Correspondence:

a. Defibrillator at Rudloe Community Centre: Confirmation received that the defibrillator is now in place

b. Letter from HMRC re VAT claim: Letter received regarding the claim for £5136.72 to HMRC for output tax on non-business sports supplies.

The claim in relation to the VAT on the football and tennis bookings had been agreed in the sum of £1290. The claim in relation to the Bowls Club was awaiting a policy decision.

10. Items for discussion:

To discuss the Health & Safety issue in the Cemetery – split branch on Scots Pine and to consider the quotation from Tree Parts in the sum of £480 + vat to remove this

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously to accept the quotation from Tree Parts in the sum of £480 + vat

11. Accounts for payment: The following accounts were agreed for payment

<u>BACS</u>			
Salaries	-		6048.06
HM Revenue & Customs	-	PAYE	0.00
Avon Sportsground Main Co	-	BG contract	640.70
		Materials	515.20
J.H. Jones & Son	-	Cemetery Contract (inc VAT)	816.50
T.F. Slade	-	Underpayment from last month	5.00
Wiltshire Council	-	Lease on Dyers Yard	50.00
EFX Solutions	-	Installing new computer network	480.00
ES Electrical	-	PAT testing at Pavilion	127.80
Castle Water	-	Market Place Car Park	2.63
Wiltshire Council	-	½ yr NDR Office	1074.00
		½ yr NDR Cemetery	1113.00
Gallagher	-	Cyber insurance cover	367.36
Hooble	-	Website	131.87
Centrewire	-	Kissing gates etc	3854.40
Water2business	-	Bowling Green and PFs	20.17
PKF Littlejohn	-	External Audit	756.00
Westcare Supply Zone	-	Refuse sacks/stationery	72.77

<u>Direct debits</u>			
NEST	-	Pension contribution	193.69
Initial Washrooms	-	Feminine Hygiene	83.20
Hills Waste	-	Refuse collection	128.57
bOnline	-	Office	39.33
Online	-	Pavilion	39.32
Hitachi (Novuna)	-	Mule Lasehire	344.74
Novuna	-	Mowers Leasehire	396.00
Fuel Card Services	-	Petrol	32.60
Wiltshire Council	-	NDR Car Park	91.00
Wiltshire Council	-	NDR PFs & pavilion	247.00
<u>Standing Order</u>			
T.H. White	-	Mule service contract	63.60
Giffgaff	-	Tablet monthly plan	8.00
<u>Debit card</u>			
Englebert Strauss UK	-	PPE for Groundsmen	424.92
AVG	-	computer security	

12. Statement of balances

Lloyds

Current Account	£ 24417.99
High Interest account	<u>85790.50</u>
	£110208.49
Less payments to go out	<u>1203.77</u>
Working balance	£109004.72
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 40000.00
Balance in Lloyds	£154004.72

Held in BIBS	£ 82203.81
Held in Nationwide	£ <u>56654.16</u>
	£ <u>138857.97</u>

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

Cllr T. Walton reported that he had attending the WALC AGM which he had found very interesting. He had expressed concerns that that the service level from WALC was not value for money with only minimal service levels being delivered. The current subscription from the Parish Council this year was £944.36 + vat made up of WALC £685 and NALC £259.36. He reported that there was discussion on planning and highways issues where it was stated that it was felt that Wiltshire Council do not take local residents opinions into account regarding speed limits

An Executive Meeting of WALC is to be held shortly and Cllr T. Walton will attend this.

Cllr B. Mathew reported that he had written to the Officers at Wiltshire Council about the work to the trees in Box Churchyard. They are working together on the faculty to repair the graves

He confirmed that he had asked for application PL/2023/07741 – Land at Ashley Garage - to be called into Committee, should the Officer be minded to approve

There will be a further meeting re the Box to Bath Cycleway

The grit bin by the Selwyn Hall needs topping up.

14. Items of report and future Agenda items:

- It was reported that Dave Hill was retiring shortly. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to him
- Zoom meetings to allow Councillors to listen in at meetings – to be discussed by the Communications Working Group
- It was reported that the road is breaking up on the B3109
- Vacancy on Parish Council – Councillors were asked to think if they knew anyone who may be interested.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chair