



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING** **HELD BY ZOOM ON 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**1. Present:** Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); N. Botterill; R. Campbell; R. Case; J. Clifford  
J Cox; R. Davies; D. Evans; H. Parker; R. Smith; M. Tye; B. Walton;  
A. Woollard  
Unitary Councillors: B. Mathew

Mrs Carey (Clerk)

**2. Apologies:** Councillor S. Gould

**3. Absent:** Nil

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

The Chairman reminded the members of the public that they would not be able to speak after Public Question Time unless the Chairman used her discretion and they should also not comment via the chat button.

Mr Varian Tye read out a statement objecting to the length of fencing that had been erected along the By Brook. He felt that this was an eyesore and asked the Parish Council to register its concerns and also seek clarity to questions such as who originally proposed the fencing. He stated that he felt that the fence did not conserve the area. He queried the use of the Parish Council's logo in support of the By Brook Conservation Group. He stated that there had been no consultation by the group or landowner and requested that the landowner remove the fence.

Mr Tye also thanked the Parish Council for supporting the proposed Kingfisher Trail and the siting of one of the kingfishers in Box.

Cllr Brian Mathew read out a letter that he had sent to the Parish Council raising concerns and asking for the fence to be removed.

Mr Nigel Ingeldew commented on the erection of the fencing. He understood what the landowner was trying to achieve but felt that this did not comply with Defra regulations. He stated that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust did not recommend the use of livestock fencing in the AoNB. He recommended that posts 5m away from the river with electric fencing between the posts for when stock were in the field which could be removed when there was no stock.

**5. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:** The Chairman publically thanked all the members of staff for their work through the past year and also thanked the outgoing Chairmen for their contributions. She thanked those members of the Council who would not be standing for re-election.

**6. Minutes:** The Minutes of the remote Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were taken as a true record and will be signed at the next proper meeting.

**7. Matters Arising:** Nil

**8. Policy & Finance Committee:** The Minutes of the remote meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were submitted and agreed.

It was **resolved** that the recommendation to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in the Selwyn Hall on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm was carried unanimously.

The Chairmen of Committees were reminded that displays of the work of the committees would be required for the meeting.

Confirmation had been received from WALC that the Parish Council must return to face to face meetings from 6<sup>th</sup> May. Members of the public could still attend via zoom.

It was **resolved** by 10 votes in favour, two against and 1 abstention that no further action be taken re the junction at the top of Chapel Lane/Devizes Road at the present time. Cllr Davies spoke out against this recommendation. It was also **resolved** not to formalize the No Parking sign in Church Lane.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council hosts the Kingfisher for the Kingfisher Trail from 6<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September. The possible siting of the Kingfisher was discussed with several suggestions being put forward. It was agreed to pass this to the new Council for consideration at the June Full Council meeting. All Councillors to read the information from the Cotswold Natural Landscape.

**Replacement of water tank on the Bowling Green:** Three quotations had been sought with two obtained in the sums of £2800 + vat and £2975 + vat. It was unanimously **resolved** that the quotation from Waterscape Solutions Ltd in the sum of £2800m + vat be accepted. It was agreed that the money would come out of contingency.

**Hire of football pitch for Cup Final event on 16<sup>th</sup> May:** This was discussed and it was **resolved** that the Parish Council could not agree to staging this event as it did not have the facilities to accommodate it.

**Reopening of the Pavilion:** It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Full Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 4

**9. Playing Fields & Pavilion Management:** the Minutes of the remote meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March were submitted and agreed.

**Steps in Under 7s:** It was **resolved** unanimously that the recommendation for the quotation from A.J. Rich for the work to the steps in the Under 7s in the sum of £2471.35 + vat be accepted. It was asked if in future all quotations could be for the same specification.

**Benches in Lovar Garden:** It was **resolved** unanimously that three benches be purchased at a cost of £1559.27 +vat and plus fittings

**Renewal of Irrigation Service Contract:** It was **resolved** unanimously that the Irrigation Service Contract be renewed at a cost per annum of £555.20 + vat

**Wood chippings:** It was agreed that more wood chippings for the play area be purchased

**10. Planning & Conservation Committee:** The Minutes of the remote meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April were submitted and agreed.

**Risk Assessments:** The Risk Assessment had been carried out. Review again in twelve months

Thanks were given to Cllr Botterill for all his work with the Neighbourhood Plan

**11. Cemetery Management Committee:** The Minutes of the remote meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 were submitted and agreed subject to an amendment.

**Grave markers:** It was **resolved** unanimously that 20 grave markers be purchased at a cost of £390 + vat

Cllr Botterill thanked the members of the Committee for their hard work.

## **12. Urgent Correspondence:**

- a. **New Councillor Training:** A training session for new Councillors had been booked with WALC on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July
- b. **Request for Licence to use the Recreation Ground for personal training:** It was agreed that a Licence be granted to Mr Tony Larkman to use the Recreation Ground for personal training sessions. This would be at a cost of £100 pa from Monday-Friday with a maximum of two sessions a week. School opening and closing times should be avoided and the basketball court, goals and trees should not be used. It was also agreed to ask that he uses the lower part of the Recreation Ground.
- c. **Erection of fencing along the By Brook:** 15 emails had been received expressing concerns about the erection of the fencing along the By Brook. As minuted above Mr Tye; Mr Ingledew and Cllr Mathew had talked at length at the beginning of the meeting and all the concerns raised in the emails had been covered by them. The Chairman had received a letter from the landowner and this was read out to clarify the situation. The landowner was supporting the ByBrook Conservation Group who were following Wiltshire Wildlife reports and guidance, especially the ByBrook Sub-Catchment Action Plan (A. Baker: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust 2020). The Chairman reminded the Council that it had supported the ByBrook Conservation Group when a presentation had been given on the project. It was also reported that Bristol Avon River Trust were working along the ByBrook to enhance the water quality.

Several Councillors expressed the opinion that this was not a Parish Council issue; that the correct stock fencing had been erected and that it was not the Parish Council's position to police the community.

Cllr Cox objected to the shameful way in which the landowner had been treated on the local social media pages which was endorsed by Cllr Davies.

Cllr Tye stated that she did not like the fence and felt that more information and a plan of what would be done in the future was needed.

The Chairman concluded that this was not an issue for the Parish Council to be involved with and the Council would not be discussing this any further. A vote on this was taken with nine votes in favour and four abstentions.

- d. **Climate Strategy Engagement Event:** Wiltshire Council will be holding a event on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 10-11.30 am via Microsoft Teams.

## **13. Items for discussion:**

- a. **Location for the siting of the Kingfisher:** It had been agreed earlier in the meeting that this would be discussed by the new Council in June
- b. **Mowing of the Recreation Ground:** Cllr Walton proposed that with the exception of the football and cricket pitch the mowing should be modified so that there is a "no mow May" and the grass is left to grow longer. This could then perhaps be continued through the growing season with some areas not being mown.

Cllr Case stated that the Recreation Ground was for sports. The parish is surrounded by countryside. This is not an inner city area and she did not feel that this would be the right place. Cllr Woollard stated that there is an area on Hazelbury Common which supports this.

A vote was taken on the proposal with three votes in favour; seven against and three abstentions.

Following a comment made by Cllr Smith, Cllr Case stated that she only ever voted on things that would benefit the public and this was not a personal issue against any particular councillors.

**14. Additional Accounts for payment:** The following additional accounts were submitted and agreed

<u>Cheques</u>			
M. Tye	-	Reimburse refreshments Cotwold Wardens	89.30
Mr. D. Wright	-	Reimburse re materials for Chicane on F2 and F39	71.07
<u>BACS</u>			
Arthur Cole	-	Balance repairs to Cemetery gate	1082.50
John Miller	-	Repairs to brushcutter	430.00
Institute of Cemtery Management	-	Subscription	95.00
The Fire Alarm Consultancy	-	Renewal of Maintenance Contract	300.00
Cotswold National Landscape	-	Donation to host Kingfisher	200.00
J.J. Payne & Son Ltd	-	Creation of car parking area	3000.00
Consortium	-	Stationery	64.61
Environmental Drain Services Ltd	-	Service to Septic tank	264.00
<u>Debit card</u>			
Cleansing Service Group	-	Emptying Septic tank	176.00

**15. Statement of Balances:**

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	25332.22
High Interest account	<u>52092.13</u>
	£ 77424.35
Less payments to go out	<u>6490.06</u>
Working balance	<b>£ 70943.29</b>
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 37500.00
<b>Balance in Lloyds</b>	<b>£ 108434.29</b>
Held in <b>BIBS</b>	<b>£ 81860.51</b>
Held in <b>Nationwide</b>	<b>£ 66279.56</b>
	<b><u>148140.07</u></b>

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

Cllr Mathew thanked everyone and wished the Councillors good luck in the forthcoming elections

**17. Items of Report and Future Agenda Items**

- a. **Notice re co-option to fill vacant seats:** This will go up after the election
- b. **Rubbish in Short Hill:** Clerk to ask the Groundsmen to tidy this up
- c. **Car Par on Common:** The creation of the Car Park had been completed but there needs to be discussion on the issues associated with the mounds. An additional litter bin may be required.
- d. It was reported that The Shed had reopened.