



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**1. Present:** Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); R. Campbell; J. Clifford  
R. Davies; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker;  
M. Tye; B. Walton; T. Walton; A. Woollard; D. Wright

Unitary Councillor: B. Mathew

Mrs M. Carey (Clerk)

**2. Apologies:** Councillors: A. Barton; R. Case; R. Smith and Derek Walters  
The apologies were accepted

Clerk read out a statement regarding predetermination and reminded Councillors that they must come to a meeting with an open mind and be prepared to make a decision on the evidence that is put forward at that meeting. If not, this could affect the validity of the decision and that decision could be open for challenge. There should also be no evidence given that debate is being curtailed or again this could be challenged.

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

Mr Derek Elliot reported that signs for Corsham Christmas Market had been tied to the pelican crossing outside the School on the B3109 which could be a distraction. It was agreed to remove these.

Mr Paul Turner read out a statement reiterating what he said at the October meeting regarding the S106 monies. He outlined two possibilities for the use of the money and stated that there was no reason why the S106 money should not be spent at Rudloe

Cllr Mathew read out a statement by Cllr Walters stating that there is a proposed visit to the Community Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> January and that the Parish Council should defer its decision until after that time.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed and signed as being a true record.

**6. Matters Arising:**

**Climate Strategy Working Group:** Cllr H. Parker reported on the Steering Group's next steps which included;

- Finalise Committee responsibility, adaptations and SMART goals
- Input environmental considerations into Forward Plans
- Working with Climate Area Board to log a Directory of Environmental Action
- Draft a User Group for groups and individuals using the Parish Council facilities
- Plan a Parish Council stall at Box Revels
- Consider a stand-alone Climate Event
- Research additional recycling possibilities

- Input into revised Allotment User Guide
- Continue with schemes for planting trees, shrubs, meadows and hedges
- Recruit an active “walking” volunteer group within Box Parish
- Highways Working Party to research EV charging points
- Step up the message to parishioner

She showed a slide showing how people could reduce their carbon footprint

It had been suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting next year should focus on the Climate Strategy and that there could be a training session about engaging with the public

## **7. Committees**

**Policy & Finance**; The Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were submitted and agreed

**Lease of field behind the Cemetery**: There was an amended **recommendation** that the field be let from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at an annual rental of £400 but the field will be topped if necessary prior to the survey taking place.

This was carried with eleven votes in favour and one against.

The vote on the original recommendation that the field be topped before she moves the horse in was defeated by one vote in favour and eleven against.

**Use of S106 monies**: Cllr Davies read out a statement reiterating some of the issues that he had raised at the last meeting and stating that the existing Community Centre could be upgraded and not demolished. He felt that morally the S106 money belonged to Rudloe.

A statement by Cllr Barton was read out in his absence.

It was stated that the Council’s reputation was at risk and that Rudloe had been pushed to one side.

Cllr T. Walton stated that the Community Centre had closed through lack of interest and the Council was proposing unrestricted funds be allocated to Rudloe.

Cllr Johnston felt that the Council should follow up on some of the comments made and that a decision was premature at this stage.

An amended **recommendation** was made that the S106 monies received re the Dickens Gate development be spent on the Pavilion, on the condition that a contingency fund is set up in the budget to support Rudloe. The £12k earmarked reserves held in the Pavilion budget should be moved to start up this fund.

This amendment was carried by eight votes in favour and four against

The original recommendation which excluded the transfer of the £12K earmarked reserves to start up the fund was voted on and defeated unanimously.

**Budget for 2022/23**: The **recommendation** that a precept of **£158064** be set for 2022-23 which will result in a Bank D charge of £90.29, an increase of last year of £4.85 pa and an increase of 5.68% This was carried unanimously.

Cllr Tye stated that it had been shown that the precept should not be reduced too much in one year or this will need to be increased more the following year.

**Leafy Lane**: The **recommendation** that the Parish Council meets the total cost of £875 for a speed assessment (£625) and a pedestrian crossing review (£250) was carried unanimously.

## **8. Playing Fields & Pavilion Management**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were submitted and agreed.

**Tree Survey:** The **recommendation** that the quotation from Treework Environmental Practice be accepted in the sum of £1505 + vat was carried unanimously

**Public toilets:** The **recommendation** that during British Summer Time the toilets are kept open 24 hours a day. In the Winter Time these should be open in daylight hours but only the disabled toilet would be left open all the time was carried unanimously

**Review of Charges for 2022/13:** The **recommendation** that the charges are increased by 5%. The charges for casual users of the Pavilion should be £25 per hour with a 50% deduction for anyone in receipt of benefit was carried unanimously

**John Deere Mower:** The repair to the John Deere Mower at a cost of £1065.55 was discussed and it was **recommended** unanimously that this should be carried out.

**9. Planning & Conservation:** The Minutes of the Meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were submitted and agreed.

It was **recommended** that the Parish Council subscribes to Parish Maps Online at an annual subscription of £180. This could be used by both the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously

**10. Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 was submitted and agreed.

It was reported that a large Beech tree had fallen on the Common – there was firewood available for anyone who wanted this

**Application for funding from Farming in the Protected Landscape** The application re Car Park had been unsuccessful. However, the application for the wild flower meadow had been successful. The ten kissing gates funded by the Farming in the Protected Landscape would be delivered tomorrow.

A notice had been prepared for residents at Albion Terrace regarding the state of the wall.

**Call Off Contract:** The **recommendation** that the Council should enter into a Call Off Contract (Framework Contract) with a tree surgeon to provide arborist services for a period of three years was agreed unanimously. Competitive tenders for this will be obtained. It was **recommended** that a full Tree Survey is done at the same time as the Call Off Contract is renewed ie every three years. This was agreed unanimously.

**11. Urgent Correspondence:**

a. **Notice of Road Closure:**

Mill Lane will be closed from its junction with the A4 to its junction with C152 on 9<sup>th</sup> February until 13<sup>th</sup> February to enable Gigaclear to carry out works

The Old Jockey, Box will be closed from its junction with C48 to its junction with A365 from 3<sup>rd</sup> March for four days to enable Gigaclear to carry out works

b. **Grant:** Thank you letter received from Citizens Advice Wiltshire for the grant

c. **Christmas Waste and Recycling Collections:** Details of the dates had been circulated.

**12. Items for Discussion:** Cllr B. Walton had raised the following issue:

**Replacement mowers:** Cllr Walton felt that this should be expedited. The Parish council can no longer use red diesel and this would not conform to the Climate Strategy Action Plan. It was **recommended** and agreed unanimously that Cllrs Campbell, Ingledew and Tye should liaise with the Groundsmen and put together a proposal for purchasing the new electric mowers. This information will either be

presented to the Policy & Finance Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January or the Personnel meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**13. To receive any additional accounts for payment:** The additional accounts for payment were agreed

<u>Cheques</u>			
JFW Garden Maintenance	-	Bulbs for Lovar Garden	140.50
<u>BACS</u>			
BHIB	-	Motor Insurance policy renewal	920.47
Wiltshire College	-	Chain Saw Course	595.00
Water2business	-	Water charges Pav/Rec grd	44.96
Vastern Timber	-	Oak beams	80.21
Ultra-Warm Ltd	-	Repairs to Pavilion	310.25
James Long (Masons) Ltd	-	Repairs to Palmer Memorial	168.00
<u>Direct Debits</u>			
Hills Waste	-	Refuse collection	100.56
Plusnet	-	Telephone Pavilion	32.88
Plusnet	-	Office	38.24

Cllr B. Walton queried the account for the Bowling Green Maintenance Contract and asked for this to be on the Agenda for the next Playing Fields & Pavilion Management Committee meeting

**14. Statement of Balances**

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	£ 16615.05
High Interest account	<u>36901.34</u>
	£ 53516.39
Less payments to go out	<u>2801.58</u>
Working balance	£ <b>50714.81</b>
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 37500.00
<b>Balance in Lloyd</b>	£ <b><u>88214.81</u></b>
Held in <b>BIBS</b>	£ <b>81860.51</b>
Held in <b>Nationwide</b>	£ <b><u>46279.56</u></b>
	<b><u>128140.07</u></b>

**15. Chairman's Diary, Representatives' reports and report from County Councillors:**

Cllr B. Mathew reported that he had met with the new Policy & Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson whose objective was for a safe county in the most cost effective way. He would be looking at the question of speed and the data from Speed Watch, SID and Auto Speed Watch cameras which could all be taken into account by Police. More speed enforcement officers were being recruited.

Cllr Mathew raised the need of excessive speed and the need to identify who the drivers are. Auto Speed Watch Cameras can be purchased at £600 + £100 pa. This will be discussed with the Speed Watch group.

**16. Items of report and future agenda items:**

Cllr Woollard raised the issue of Chapel Plaister. This will be discussed by the Highways Steering Group and an Issue Sheet drawn up.

**17. Dates of next meetings:** Cemetery Management - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January; Policy & Finance – 10<sup>th</sup> January; Planning & Conservation – 10<sup>th</sup> January; Personnel – 17<sup>th</sup> January; Full Council – 27<sup>th</sup> January