



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 15th DECEMBER 2022

1. Present: Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); A. Barton; R. Campbell; J. Clifford;
R. Davies; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; M. Tye; B. Walton;
T. Walton; D. Wright
Unitary Councillors: B. Mathew
Mrs M. Carey (Clerk)

2. Apologies: Councillors: R. Case; R. Smith
Unitary Councillor: D. Walters

The apologies were accepted

3. Absent: Nil

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

Mr Richard Bean read out a statement raising concerns about the Bowls Club and the cost of running the Bowling Green. He will forward a copy of the statement to the Parish Council.

Mrs Claire Champion raised concerned about the impact the possible relinquishing of the current lease on the Market Place Car Park could have and registered her objection to this

A representative from the Bowls Club stated that she would like to ensure that Mr Bean had his facts right about the Bowls Club

5. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest: There were no Chairman's announcement or declarations of interest.

6. Minutes: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th November 2022 were agreed and signed as being a true record

7. Matters Arising:

Climate Strategy:

Cllrs H. Parker reported that she was looking at the Dark Skies Policies for the Cotswolds. Version 2 of the Action Plan was being drafted.

8. Co-option to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council: Three letters of application had been received from Mr Richard Bean; Mr David Dorey and Mr Phillip Rice. The applicants spoke about why they wished to become a Parish Councillor.

Following the Parish Council's Co-option Procedure members of the public were asked to leave for a closed session for the Council to consider the candidates and to decide they were suitable to be considered for co-option. It was agreed that there were all suitable.

The meeting was re-opened and a vote was taken. Mr Phillip Rice was elected with 7 votes. Mr David Dorey received 5 votes and Mr Richard Bean received no votes

9. Committees

- i. **Playing Fields & Pavilion Management:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2022 were submitted and agreed

Recommendation that the revised charges for use of the Pavilion and other facilities was adopted by ten votes in favour and two against subject to clarification of the increase for the use of the Pavilion by the Bowls Club which was more than 10% and that the block booking be amended to read “one off block bookings of more than 5 hours: contact the Clerk”

To discuss the Cleaning Contract for the Pavilion and to consider comparative quotes received:

Quotations received from Eco Cleaning in the sum of £4160 pa; Imperial Cleaning in the sum of £4680 + VAT and Perry Poppins in the sum of £5040 + VAT

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the cleaning contract for the Pavilion be awarded to Eco Cleaning. This will be reviewed after three months.

- ii. **Planning & Conservation:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2022 were submitted and agreed.
- iii. **Finance & Governance:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2022 were submitted and agreed

Recommendation that the Parish Council discusses terminating the Lease on the Market Place Car Park and hand this back to Wiltshire Council. At the present time the Parish Council pays £910 Non-Domestic Rates per annum and has the responsibility for the front wall, which is insured. The Clerk outlined the history of the Lease for the Car Park which had been drawn up following the decision by Wiltshire Council to put parking charges on the car park.

The Councillors put forward opinions which included that the Car Park was used by local residents who need somewhere to park; that local residents be given the opportunity for input on this and to look at the impact on local business; the council would need to establish what the cost would be for handing this back to Wiltshire Council; the Parish Council should look at the total cost of the asset as there is no money in the budget for anything that needs doing.

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that this be deferred to enable more information to be obtained and to get parishioners views on this.

Recommendation that the automatic grant to the Selwyn Hall Management Committee of £1000 be stopped. The Selwyn Hall can apply to the Parish Council for a grant in the same way as other community groups. This was **resolved** by eleven votes in favour and one abstention

Recommendation that the Parish Council discusses asking Wiltshire Council to transfer the Lease of the Jubilee Youth Centre, Market Place to Management Committee. Cllr S. Parker had spoken to the management Committee who have requested a meeting in the New Year to discuss this. It was stated that there needs to be clarity on liability and a written agreement with the Management Committee. Cllr Tye reported that the Nursery School and Box Kids had received an “Outstanding” Ofsted report and agreed that whilst the arrangement needed formalizing she did not think it was work jeopardise the future of the Nursery School.

It was **proposed** and agreed unanimously that the Council does not proceed with the transfer to Wiltshire Council but discusses formalizing the situation with the Management Company.

Recommendation that the Precept for 2023/24 is set at **£178,865** which will result in a Band D charge of £100.72 pa. This will be an increase on last year of £10.43 which is equal to a 11.5% increase was agreed with one abstention.

Recommendation that a grant of £550 is made to the Box Methodist Church to help towards covering the additional costs incurred in running a Warm Welcome Community space with a

hot soup lunch offer was agreed unanimously

Recommendation that a grant of £50 is made to Wiltshire Citizens Advice was agreed unanimously.

- iv. **Highways:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2002 were submitted and agreed.

Extending the 40mph speed limit on the A4 out of Bath to include the houses on the end of the road following the proposed resurfacing of the A4:

Recommended that a Highways Improvement Request be submitted asking that the 40mph is extended beyond Rosedale. A letter had been received from Wiltshire Council that it would require a legal order to move the speed limit signs which would require a new speed limit assessment (£2500). If the extended section meets the criteria for 40 mph there could be a cost to implement of £5000 funded by Box Parish Council and LHFIG. It was **resolved** by 10 votes in favour and two abstentions not to pursue this request.

Complaint received relating to pedestrian safety and a maintenance issue at Middlehill

A Highways Improvement Request Form had been received from a resident at Middlehill stating that the speed at which vehicles are driven past her house and on other local and very narrow, twisty roads is dangerous and asking for a speed limit of 20 mph.

Recommended that the Highways Improvement Request Form be forwarded to Wiltshire Council to ask if anything could be done to reduce the speed was agreed unanimously

10. To receive any urgent correspondence:

- a. **Requests for more grit bins:** Two grit bins requested at Dickens Gate and one at Henley Lane by the telephone box. Cllr Davies to ask the Management Committee at Dickens Gate to supply the bins. There is already a bin at Henley Lane. It was agreed that no new bins be purchased.
- b. **Accident to Telephone Box, Henley Lane:** Letter received stating that a car had skidded on the ice and crashed into the telephone box causing extensive damage. The repairs to this are being pursued by the owner of the car.
- c. **Police and Crime Commissioner:** Letter stated that the PCC would be increasing its precept by £15 per year per Band D household.
- d. **Selwyn Hall Management Committee:** Request to be considered for a further grant.

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

<u>BACS</u>			
Avon Sportsground Main Co	-	BG contract	604.50
		Materials	402.07
Water2Business	-	Water bin – Council offices	58.93
Mrs M. Carey	-	Reimburse Minute Book	40.10
The Brunel Shed	-	Bird and Bat boxes; Varnish	72.00
Tree Parts Ltd	-	Trees in Cemetery and Rec Grd	2628.00
 <u>Direct Debits</u>			
Initial Washrooms	-	Feminine Hygiene	33.08
Plusnet	-	Telephone Pavilion	35.93
Plusnet	-	Office	40.36
Fuel Card Services	-	Petrol	34.07

12. Statement of Balances

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	£ 15808.21
High Interest account	<u>31677.33</u>
	£ 47485.54
Less payments to go out	<u>1852.88</u>
Working balance	£ 45632.66

Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 37500.00
Balance in Lloyds	£ 83132.66

Held in BIBS	£ 81901.44
Held in Nationwide	<u>£ 66302.08</u>
	£ 148203.52

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

Cllr Mathew reported that the salt boxes on Hazelbury Hill and Barnett's Hill needed filling. The Clerk had asked Wiltshire Council to do this.

Cllr Mathew had written to Cllr Sarah Warren to arrange a meeting with Wiltshire Council and B&NES to discuss the proposed bridleway/cycleway. The Parish Councils, Cotswold Wardens etc would be invited

Cllr Mathew reported that there is £7000 in the Area Boar Capital Fund for projects – deadline for submission is 29th December

14. Items of report and future agenda items

- a. It was suggested that the Parish Council could support a scheme by local co-operatives working together to provide a wind turbine development at Rudloe. The large mast could be seen to have set a precedent.
- b. It was reported that there had been further serious vandalism to the disabled toilet at the Pavilion which had resulted in flooding that had leaked through to the downstairs changing rooms causing the electrics and fire alarm to short out. At the present time the area was being dried out before the damage could be assessed. The culprits had been identified and this had been reported to the police. It was agreed to put a notice on the toilet door that this would be closed during the Groundsman's absence due to vandalism
- c. CCTV notice: Clerk to obtain a notice for the toilet door.
- d. Footpath 11 by the Church: Clerk to ask the Rights of Way Officer what is happening
- e. East of Bath Express Way – Cllr Wright had written to Wiltshire Council asking them to engage with B&NES

15. Dates of next meetings

Cemetery management – 9th January 2023; Planning & Conservation – 16th January
Personnel – 23rd January; Full Council – 26th January

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Chairman