



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING **HELD BY ON 24th FEBRUARY 2022**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); A. Barton; R. Campbell; R. Case;
I. Johnston; R. Smith; M. Tye; B. Walton; T. Walton;
A. Woollard; D. Wright;

Mrs M. Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies:** Councillors: J. Clifford; R. Davies; N. Ingledew H. Parker
Unitary Councillor: B. Mathew

The apologies were accepted
- 3. Public Question Time:** There was one member of the public present.
Mr Derek Elliot stated that his thoughts were with the people of Ukraine. He also asked if the notices for the Corsham Creative Market could be removed from the pelican crossing outside Broadwood School.
- 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 27th January 2022 were agreed and signed as being a true record.
- 6. Matters Arising:**

Climate Strategy Working Group:
Letter received with information on the setting up on a Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum. Several Councillors were interested in joining this.

It was reported that Wiltshire Council had adopted their Climate Strategy Action Plan.
- 7. Committees**

 - i. Policy & Finance:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 were submitted and agreed Following the statement made at the beginning of the meeting regarding publication of agenda documents, advice had been taken from WALC; Corsham Town Council and Langley Burrell Without Parish Council. Documents being in the "public domain" does not mean that they all have to be on the website but should be available should anyone request a copy, although it may be best practice to put these online. Cllr B. Walton felt that the Council should aim for best practice and it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Replacement mowers: It was **resolved**, by ten votes in favour and one against, that, taking into account all the information given in the report, the Parish Council proceeds with the acquisition of the Mean Green battery operated mower at a cost of £31847 + vat using a five year lease hire agreement at a cost of £330 + vat per month

Co-option policy: The **recommendation** that the draft policy be adopted was discussed. It was agreed that more details re eligibility etc should be added to the policy and comments on this should be sent back to the Clerk. It was asked if it could be put into the policy that the Council would give preference to candidates from the Ward that the vacancy was in but it was agreed that this could not be added as it could be seen to discriminate against potential applicants.

Side Gate: It was **resolved** by 7 votes in favour and 3 against and one abstention, that the quotation for a new treated side gate in the sum of £160 + £20 to fit be accepted.

Cllr T. Walton felt that the Committee had not addressed the Climate Strategy Action Plan when deciding on this quotation and did not feel that it addressed the security issue.

Highways:

Wadswick/Chapel Plaister: It was resolved unanimously that an Issue Sheet be submitted to CATG to address the serious visibility problem for cars exiting out onto the B3109 on the brow of the hill

Chapel Lane/Junction with A365: The **recommendation** that an Issue Sheet be submitted to CATG to address the poor visibility from the right and request to extend the yellow lines to remove at least one car parking space was discussed. Several Councillors did not see any problem at this junction. There had been no accidents and the risk did not lie with the Parish Council. It was felt that there were far more urgent issues that needed to be addressed and that nothing had changed since this was last discussed. Following a vote, the **recommendation** was unanimously rejected.

Road from Bathford to Kingsdown: The **recommendation** that an Issue Sheet be submitted to CATG for a warning sign for walkers and riders was unanimously rejected.

Wild about Wiltshire: The request from Wiltshire council to parish councils to nominate any grassed areas or public open spaces owned by Wiltshire Council that could be designated as wildflower meadow had been circulated and was discussed. It was suggested that the Council could nominate the verge opposite the Bassetts.

- ii. **Playing Fields & Pavilion Management**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2022 were submitted and agreed.

Rules for hiring the Pavilion: It was **resolved** unanimously, with one amendment, that the draft rules for hiring the pavilion, in line with the Climate Strategy be adopted.

Planting a tree in memory of Mat Rawlings: It was resolved unanimously that a horse chestnut tree be planted on the Recreation Ground in memory of Mat Rawlings, subject to liaising with the Groundsman and the Committee Chairman.

Allotments: It was asked whether any progress had been made re the provision of more allotments and whether consideration had been given to using the area in front of the Mill Lane Hedge. Cllr Case agreed to approach the landowner re the old Box Highlands School site.

Hedging: Cllr B. Walton stated that the hedging whips had been planted and renewal work on the Mill Lane hedge carried out.

- iii. **Planning & Conservation**: The Minutes of the Meetings held on 27th January and 14th February 2022 were submitted and agreed

- iv. **Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces Committee**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2022 were submitted and agreed.

Car Parking Area, Box Hill Common: It was **resolved** unanimously that three quotations be obtained for the work to bring the car park in line with the planning permission.

Albion Terrace retaining wall: It was **resolved** unanimously that three quotations be obtained for a due diligence survey of the wall

Box Hill Common Volunteer Working Group: It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council provides "match funding of £2000 in order to provide materials and equipment for the project and that hand tools (including scythes, bow saws) and wild flower seeds (including yellow rattle), fruit trees and fruit bushes are acquired in order to create the community orchard and wildflower meadow.

Tree Management Plan: It was **resolved** unanimously that three quotations are obtained for a full tree survey of the Common in line with the Parish Council's tree policy. It was also **resolved** to include the Cemetery and Lacy Wood in the request for quotations for a tree survey.

Felling of two Ash trees by F39: It was **resolved**, by 10 votes in favour and one against, that the quotation from Daniel Park in the sum of £1200 + vat be accepted

Planting a tree on the Common: It was **resolved** unanimously that the request to plant a tree be accepted, subject to there being no plaques or memorabilia by the tree and that the Parish Council would agree the type of tree to be planted, agree the location and dig the hole. It was agreed the tree should either be a Hawthorn, Cherry Plum or Bird Cherry.

v. **Personnel**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2022 were submitted and agreed.

Work Placement Student: It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council takes on a work placement student for two days a week for an introductory period commencing from 1st March at the minimum wage of £4.81 per hour. This would be reviewed by the Personnel Committee after four week.

8. Urgent Correspondence:

- a. **Proposed name for new development – former Timer Yard, Box**: Letter received from the developers requesting the Parish Council's views on a new street name. It was unanimously agreed to put the name "Windebanks" forward.
- b. **James Gray MP**: Notices that James Gray will be holding his surgery on 19th March to be displayed.
- c. **Road Closure notices**: These had been circulated.

9. Items for discussion

Review of Committees: This had been brought forward from the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 23rd September 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr T. Walton and seconded by Cllr Tye that because of the lateness of the meeting there should be an additional Council meeting to discuss this.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr S. Parker and seconded by Cllr Campbell that this should be the first item for the Full Council meeting on 31st March.

The amendment was defeated by four votes in favour and seven against and it was **resolved** by seven votes in favour and four against, that the original proposal to hold an additional meeting be accepted.

General Powers of Competence: There was no discussion. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Venue for Full Council Meetings: It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Tye that Full Council meetings should be held in the Pavilion unless they interfere with any bookings. This was **resolved** subject to members helping with the setting up of the room.

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

BACS			
Westcare Supply Zone	-	Refuse sacks	173.76
Bronwen Walton	-	Reimburse plants for pond	102.47
Hi-Tech Engraving	-	Plaque for tree	40.50
Direct debits			
Plusnet	-	Telephone Pavilion	32.88
Plusnet	-	Office	36.72

Cllr Tye raised a query regarding the account paid in December to J.H. Jones & Sons for the work to the flower beds in the Cemetery. The Clerk will supply a breakdown of the costs to Cllr Tye.

11. Statement of Balances

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	£ 10086.78
High Interest account	<u>20901.88</u>
	£ 30988.66
Less payments to go out	<u>671.23</u>
Working balance	£ <u>30317.43</u>

Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 37500.00
Balance in Lloyd	£ <u>67817.43</u>

Held in BIBS	£ 81860.51
Held in Nationwide	£ <u>46279.56</u>
	<u>128140.07</u>

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

Cllr Wright reported on the Corsham Area Board meeting. Some responsibility could be transferred to Parish and Town Councils from Wiltshire Council.

13. Items of report and future agenda items:

- It was reported that the railings by Toast on the main A4 have been damaged

14. Dates of next meetings: Cemetery Management – 7th March;
Policy & Finance – 14th March; Planning & Conservation – 14th and 31st March;
Personnel – 21st March

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Chairman