



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING **HELD BY ON 26th JANUARY 2023**

1. Present: Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); 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: A. Barton; P. Rice
Unitary Councillor: D. Walters

The apologies were accepted

3. Absent: Nil

4. Public Question Time: There was one member of the public present.

Mr Elliott asked again about the pedestrian crossing by the Post Office in Box. The Clerk stated that Wiltshire Council had agreed to an upgrade. She will send a reminder to Wiltshire Council re a site meeting.

Mr Elliott also asked about the empty shop now that McColls had vacated. The Clerk stated that a representative from Charterhouse & Simon, the landlord's representatives had been into the office and there were actively looking for a further tenant for the shop.

5. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:

The Chairman announced that letters of resignation had been received from Rose Case and Rebecca Smith. These were accepted.
There were no declarations of interest.

6. Minutes: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th December 2022 were agreed and signed as being a true record

7. Matters Arising:

Market Place Car Park; Letter from a local resident opposing the suggestion that the Lease on the Car Park is terminated.

Pavilion Cleaning Contract: The present contract had been extended to the end of February because of TUPE regulations.

Grit Bins: Cllr Davies reported that he is again pursuing the provision of a grit bin at Dickens Gate with the Management Company

Climate Strategy:

Cllrs H. Parker and Cllr B. Walton had attended a meeting in The Pound where Waste and Plastic Free Corsham had been discussed. They will work with Corsham on this. Further meeting to be held to update the Action Plan. A letter from Wiltshire Council re use of council-owned land for environment mitigation had been circulated.

8. Committees

- i. **Cemetery Management**: The Minutes of the Meeting held were submitted and agreed
- ii. **Planning & Conservation**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th December 2022 and 16th January 2023 were submitted and agreed.
- iii. **Personnel**: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were submitted and agreed.

The **recommendation** that an Ego CS1800E cordless battery operated be purchased at a cost of £313.33 + vat was carried unanimously

The **recommendation** that a new grit spreader is purchased at a cost of £310 + vat was carried unanimously

It was reported that the diesel tank is up for sale as it is no longer required.

iv. **Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces**:

Recommendation that 40 Blackcurrant/Redcurrant fruit bushes for the Box Hill Common Fruit Orchard are acquired from Landcare Nurseries at a cost not to exceed £400. This is in accordance with the Box Hill Common Fruit Orchard project plan with match funding provided by the Corsham Area Board

Recommendation that 1 kg of Yellow Rattle seed is purchased at a cost not to exceed £295

Cllr Wright withdrew both of the above recommendations

9. To receive any urgent correspondence:

- a. **Town, City and Parish Council (four year cycle) Elections costs**: Letter received from Wiltshire Council setting out the charges that will come in for both contested and uncontested elections from May 2025 had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that a reply should be sent asking for more clarification as to what the charges would be if an election was uncontested and also to ask what the estimated charge of £1.70 per elector would cover. The Council was concerned that this had not been sent out earlier to enable the Parish Council to start budgeting for these costs from April 2023.
- b. **Gigaclear and Wiltshire Council delivery of superfast broadband**: Letter received from Gigaclear stating that the public funding had ended on 31st March 2022 and they will now descope builds which are not commercially viable, including Box. After discussion it was agreed that a letter be sent Gigaclear and Wiltshire Council asking if a new contractor is to be appointed and whether the new contractor would be able to use the green boxes, that had been installed, or whether these would be removed and also as Wiltshire Council had paid for the work to be carried out does the infrastructure belong to them or Gigaclear
- c. **Application for Street Trading Licence**: Application received for a Street Trading Licence for Mish Mash Grill & Meat trading at Rudloe Green next to the Community Centre. No objections were raised to the application but it was agreed that the packaging should not be plastic and any litter must be cleared up.
- d. **Restoration of historic Box Stone Quarry Crane**: Copy of the press release received from Mr Tye had been circulated.
- e. **Box Revels – Monday 29th May 2023**: letter asking whether the Parish Council would require a pitch at the Revels. It was agreed that the Parish Council would hire a pitch to include the Neighbourhood Plan and Twinning. A working party comprising Cllrs T. and B. Walton; H. Parker and N. Ingledew will meet to discuss this and it was agreed to ask if the location could be changed so that it was nearer to the tractor shed.

- f. **Queen's Green Canopy Award:** Notification that the submission for the Queen's Green Canopy had been successful. This includes the Community Orchard on the Common and six other sites around the Parish.

10. Discussion on the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting: This will be held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 9th May 2023. It will be run on the same format as last year but to avoid any confusion it will be advertised with a detailed timetable of how the event will be run. It was agreed to invite all groups to have a stand/display and suggested that the Bowls Club might like to run a taster session that night. All Committee Chairmen to draw up their reports and displays.

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

<u>BACS</u>			
Place Studios	-	Expenses	35.32
Landcare Tree Nursery Ltd	-	Fruit trees etc	1293.27
Box PCC	-	Refund of fees for hire of pavilion	100.00
<u>Direct debits</u>			
Hills Waste	-	Refuse collection	98.54
Plusnet	-	Telephone Pavilion	33.95
Plusnet	-	Office	35.93
<u>Debit card</u>			
DLA	-	Road Tax – Mule	180.00
Cleaning Supplies	-	Stainless steel toilet roll dispenser And toilet rolls	87.46

12. Statement of Balances

<u>Lloyds</u>	
Current Account	£ 14739.69
High Interest account	<u>16689.18</u>
	£ 31428.87
Less payments to go out	<u>1886.81</u>
Working balance	£ 29542.06
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ <u>37500.00</u>
Balance in Lloyds	£ 67042.06
Held in BIBS	£ 81901.44
Held in Nationwide	<u>£ 66302.08</u>
	£ <u>148203.52</u>

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

Cllr Brian Mathew reported on the meeting with the Corsham Area Board. He had asked that future meetings do not clash with the Parish Council meetings. He reported that there had been a presentation re Parish Emergency Contact Hubs which would link to the revision of the Council's Resilience Plan. The Clerk will write and express an interest in joining this.

Cllrs H. Parker and D. Wright had also attended the Area Board Meeting. Sgt Mike Trip part of the Community Speed Watch team had reported that the Police priorities are Drugs and Road Safety. He had stated that there was nothing that the police could do about the speed on the B3109. On shore wind turbines – Corsham Area Board are supportive of this

All the grants had been awarded including:

£1000 for improving access to the Box Parish Public Rights of Way network
 £3000 – Selwyn Hall replacement stage extension
 £500 Box Methodist Church, Community Café Warm Welcome Scheme

14. Items of report and future agenda items

- a. Cllr Davies reported on the recent LHFIG meeting held on 11th January
- Chapel Plaister/Market Place - works carried out in April

- Devizes road - Sarah Dearden to make a site visit
- Lycetts Orchard/Mill Lane – Sarah Dearden to make a site visit
- Tunnel Inn - Sarah Dearden to make a site visit
- B3109 – Ongoing look to have flashing signs at school times
- Leafy Lane Speed Assessment review - this will remain at 40 mph
- Henley Lane – Permission had been given for the hedge to be cut back. The Clerk had asked the Parish Steward to do this

- b. **Coronation:** Cllr H. Parker reported that the Area Board had reminder everyone that Road Closure/Licencing applications for the Coronation need to be applied for. Article to be put in the Parish Magazine

15. Vandalism to Public Toilets: This was discussed as a Confidential Item under closed session. Members of the public and press were excluded for this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business and would inhibit Councillors from having a full and frank discussion.

It was reported that the parents of the youngsters involved in the vandalism of the public toilets were working with the Police and the Parish Council to resolve this matter.

Because of the parents involvement the Parish Council **resolved** unanimously that the matter should proceed as a Community Resolution and that a claim for the repairs to the damages be dealt with through an Insurance Claim, with the parents contributing towards the excess and other items of expenditure.

16. Dates of next meetings

Playing Fields & Pavilion Management – 6th February; Planning & Conservation – 13th February; Finance & Governance – 13th February; Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces – 20th February; Full Council – 23rd February 2023

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman