



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 27th OCTOBER 2022

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

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

In the absence of Cllr S. Parker the Chair was taken by Cllr R. Campbell

3. Absent: Nil

4. Public Question Time: There were five members of the public present. Anne Henshaw attended to present the certificates for the Best Kept Village Competition. Cllr Sarah Warren attended to speak about the East of Bath Express feasibility study and Deborah Bourne from WALC attended to offer advice on the motion that had been put onto the Agenda.

Cllr Walters stated that he was completely dissatisfied with the way in which Wiltshire Council had dealt with the speed limit issue on the B3109. Their hands are not tied by Central Government. The Atkins report gives no detail as to which element of the guidance that it was giving weight to. He felt that there was no transparency with Wiltshire Highways to offer 40 mph and not 30 mph particularly with reference to vulnerable users. The School is very concerned about this and Cllr Walters had set up a survey to get local support. He would continue to put pressure on Wiltshire Council on this issue

Anne Henshaw from the CPRE presented the two Certificates for Box coming equal 3rd in the Large Village section of the County round and 1st in the North Wiltshire Round. She outlined the issues that CPRE were trying to address including Climate Change and Environmental issues and the reclassification of some agricultural land.

Cllr Sarah Warren from B&NES Council and the Cabinet lead on Climate Change & Travel sport about the East of Bath Express feasibility study on Link and Ride to look at alternative solutions to congestion and viable alternatives to using the car. The advantages to including Box in this would be a sustainable transport route through the village; improve walking and cycling in Box and fast buses to Bath and Chippenham.

She was asked why there was a feasibility study without prior consultation and she stated that there was no money at the present time for a scheme. This would have to be applied for which would involve a consultation at that stage. She was also asked why the A46 and A36 were not included and she replied that these might have to be tackled in a different way. She was asked if the air quality in Box, Rudloe, Ashley and Corsham would be affected and felt that more money should be put into improving the frequency of the buses and reducing the fares.

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

6. Motion by Cllr Tim Walton:

An addendum be made to the Standing Orders part 3 "Meetings generally entitled Ad Hoc participation in meetings:

- i. For the purposes of informing the discussion of one or more agenda items, the Chair of the meeting may invite councillors or non-councillors, who do not already sit on that committee, to participate in the discussion of specified agenda items, without the requirement for the meeting to close. With the exception of voting rights, their participation in any discussion to which they have been invited will be on the same basis as committee members, and follow the same Standing Orders for Rules of Debate at meetings (Standing Orders section 1)
- ii. The Chair will announce the participants at the start of the meeting and confirm the purpose and scope of their participation.
- iii. These participants will not be allowed to participate in discussion on any items on the agenda which have not been specified by the Chair at the start of the meeting
- iv. These participants will hold no voting rights on any agenda item.

Deborah Bourne from WALC had been asked to attend to offer advice on this issue.

She stated as follows:

- The motion had come about as several Councillors were frustrated as they understood that to participate in discussions within committees they must first be appointed to the said committee or be treated in the same way as members of the public attending such meetings.
- Participation from non-members of the committee (either fellow Councillors or residents with a special interest) is under the control of the meeting chairman. It is usual to specify on the agenda an amount of time for public participation (Box SOs say 15 minutes) but this can be altered by the chairman at the time, if there are a lot of people wishing to speak the chairman can allow time to be increased.
- Additionally, in a committee meeting, discussions tend to be less formal. At the discretion of the chairman of the meeting a non-committee Councillor can be invited to join in with discussions at other times during the meeting if they have something positive to add. This shows deference to the elected status of Councillors as opposed to attendance by an ordinary member of the public.
- Only Councillors elected to sit on that particular committee are entitled to vote, once debate has ceased all non-committee Councillors must step back from the table to allow for voting to take place; this will help when votes are being counted, or if any voting Councillor still wishes to clarify a point.
- After discussion it was felt that the motion put forward by Cllr Walton was not required and he asked for it to be removed from the agenda. Provision is made in the Council's Standing Orders Section 4d to cover this

Deborah Bourne also stated that only elected members can speak during a meeting, unless clarification is needed, when the respective professional (clerk, council solicitor, RFO, Internal Auditor) will be invited to address the meeting to give their advice verbally. At these times it is not necessary to close then open a meeting as it is deemed the professional will be giving unbiased (factual) advice and not impeding any discussion or vote. There was a need for clarification of Public Legislation, council Standing Orders and Best Practice at council meetings; therefore, it was appropriate to allow her to answer questions within the meeting, rather than from the outside.

She also clarified points regarding the Chair of the Council as an ex officio member of the committees who can attend each meeting but does not have voting rights if she is not an elected member of that committee.

7. Minutes: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th September 2022 were agreed and signed as being a true record

8. Matters Arising:

Climate Strategy:

Cllrs H. Parker reported that the recycling drawers that she had placed by the bins had been stolen

Provision of additional allotments: Mr. Tim Barton had offered part of the field behind Barn Piece for more allotments. A feasibility study would have to be carried out on this and Cllr Wright will lead a working group to look into this and report back to the Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces Committee.

9. Committees

- i. **Playing Fields & Pavilion Management:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2022 were submitted and agreed

Red Chestnut Tree: It was **resolved** unanimously that the work to the Red Horse Chestnut tree be carried out at no cost to the Council and that fencing is put round the base of the tree to mitigate risk at a cost of £1281.61+ vat. Jon Price had whole heartedly agreed with this and applauded it.

2026 Legacy Trees: The **recommendation** that the trees are obtained from Landcare was withdrawn at the present time. Wessex Water are planning mitigation works to rectify outfall spills in the Summer of 2025 and this would affect the area where the Legacy trees were going to be planted.

Security light outside the public toilets; **Resolved** unanimously that the quotation from ES Electrical in the sum of £272.37 + vat be accepted

- ii. **Finance & Governance:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th October 2022 were submitted and agreed

Christmas Tree: **Recommendation** that the Parish Council proceeds with the Christmas tree this year with the purchase of extra lights to decorate the Fountain as well.

The proposal to discuss a Christmas tree at Rudloe will be put onto the next Box Hill & Rudloe Committee agenda

Forward Plan/Budgets: It was **resolved** by ten votes in favour and one abstention that from next May there should be a separate Committee for Maintenance of the Pavilion/Public Buildings

It was **resolved** by ten votes in favour and one abstention that Tools & Equipment be moved to the Personnel Committee from May next year.

Composition of Finance & Governance Committee: It was **resolved** that Cllr M. Tye join the Finance & Governance Committee.

- iii. **Planning & Conservation:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th October 2022 were submitted and agreed.

- iv. **Highways:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2002 were submitted and agreed.

B3109 Bradford Road: It was **resolved** by eight votes in favour, two against and one abstention that as the majority of local parishioners, the School, MoD and the Parish Council supports the 30 mph limit, this decision and the financial implications should be deferred and the money ring fenced to be taken forward pending further investigations.

- v. **Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2022 were submitted and agreed

Rudloe Green: It was **resolved** by ten votes in favour and one against that the Box Parish Council approach Wiltshire Council with an expression of interest in transferring ownership to Box Parish Council. Cllr Wright will establish who the contact is at Wiltshire Council

Repairs to two footpaths: It was **resolved** that the Parish Council asks for a grant from the Corsham Area Board to restore the two footpaths subject to match funding from the Parish Council. This will be in the region of £1000 for the two projects.

It was **resolved** that the Rights of Way issues be transferred to the Highways Committee because of the line with LHFIG subject to Cllr Davies checking this with Sarah Dearden

vi. **Playing Fields & Pavilion Management:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th October 2022 were submitted and agreed

Toilet vandalism: It was **resolved** that both the Ladies and Gents public toilets be shut at night with only the disabled toilet left open. Security light to be fitted outside the toilets at a cost of £282 + vat

10. To receive any urgent correspondence:

- a. **East of Bath Express Feasibility study:** Link and Ride – one of the options being considered is to set up a short-term trial using existing car parks that lie on the existing X31 service route as interchanges. This could involve a low set-up costs and would help identify the potential demand for such a scheme. It was felt that the Recreation Ground Car Park would be impractical for this scheme. It was agreed to set up a Working Party comprising Cllrs Campbell; Tye and Wright to report back to the Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces Committee
Copy of a letter received from Mr V. Tye had been circulated.
- b. **Strategic Outline Business Case for Corsham Station:** Letter from Corsham Town Council requesting support for the preferred scheme options outlined in the letter. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support Corsham Town Council in this
- c. **Mapping of Local Community Food Providers an EV Charging Infrastructure Funding:** Letter from Wiltshire Council. The letter had been circulated to all Councillors
- d. **Council's budget:** Letter received from a parishioner requesting the Council aims for neutrality to avoid a council tax rise to help parishioners who are unable to meet energy charges and are using food banks.

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

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| <u>Cheques</u> | | | |
| Mr. C. Cunningham | - | Commission on tennis bookings | 146.00 |
| <u>BACS</u> | | | |
| Greenway Training | - | Basic tree survey course | 216.00 |
| Playsafety Ltd | - | RoSPA reports | 256.20 |
| Water2Business | - | Pavilion/Play Fields | 53.09 zero vat |
| Wot a Load of Rubbish | - | Removal of water tank | 25.00 zero vat |
| Rialtas | - | Conversion to I&E accounts | 420.00 |
| <u>Debit card</u> | | | |
| British legion, The Poppy Shop | - | Wreath for Remembrance Day | 28.98 |

12. Statement of Balances

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|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Lloyds</u> | |
| Current Account | £ 18859.55 |
| High Interest account | 46971.64 |
| | £ 65831.19 |
| Less payments to go out | 675.28 |
| Working balance | £ 65155.91 |
| | |
| Held on deposit in Lloyds | £ 37500.00 |
| Balance in Lloyds | £ 102655.91 |
| | |
| Held in BIBS | £ 81901.44 |
| Held in Nationwide | £ 66302.08 |
| | £ 148203.52 |

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

Cllr Mathew reported that the Wiltshire Officer for Sustainable Transport is Alan Priddy.

Flood Wardens Training will be held in Salisbury on 23rd November

A parishioner living on the edge of the parish at Ashley has asked that when the A4 is resurfaced in the Spring the 40 mph sign could be moved up to their house on the bend – this will be discussed at the next Highways Committee meeting.

14. Items of report and future agenda items

- a. **Lime Tree**: The Working Party to carry out the mulching under the Lime Tree will be on 6th November
- b. **Xmas tree for Rudloe**: It was suggested that they apply for a grant from the Parish Council
- c. **Remembrance Day Service**: This will be held on Sunday 13th November
- d. **Area Board Climate meeting**: Cllr H. Parker will attend this on 18th November and will feed back on the Link & Ride
- e. **NALC**: National Conference to be held virtually on 7th November. The speaker will be from a charity dealing with Rights of Way in Wiltshire

15. Dates of next meetings

Personnel - 31st October and 14th November
Cemetery Management - 7th November
Planning & Conservation - 14th November
Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces - 21st November
Full Council - 24th November
Playing Fields & Pavilion Management - 28th November

Meeting closed at 10 pm

Chairman