



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### **A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT MOD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2024**

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Davies; D. Dorey  
N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; S. Roche; M. Tye; B. Walton  
T. Walton
2. **Apologies** Nil
3. **Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Walk round:** Members of the Committee had walked round prior to the meeting.
6. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>TH</sup> February 2024 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
7. **Risk Assessment and Forward Plan:** Both the Risk Assessment and Forward Plan had been circulated. The Risk Assessment was reviewed. This links in to the Forward Plan.
  - a. **Insufficient resource available to deliver the Box Hill Common & Lacy Wood Management Plan:** The Groundsmen are now spending more time on the Common. This, together with the work carried out by the Community Payback Team; Cotswold Wardens and Community Volunteers has improved the situation. However, Cllr Wright has stated that he will be cutting back on managing the Community Payback Team which could impact on this.
  - b. **Ash trees:** The Cotswold Wardens had felled twenty of the trees. This is on-going in the Management Plan.
  - c. **Stairway to Heaven:** The work was completed last week. This will need to be redone in the future.
  - d. **Picnic Table on top Common:** Continue to monitor
  - e. **Bridleway 33** – this has been cleared and steps have been put in to link to the other footpath.
  - f. **Tree stumps:** The Groundsmen are treating the stumps
  - g. **Recycling bin:** Money has been put into the budget but it was agreed to look how the recycling bin on the Recreation Ground is being used.
  - h. **Japanese knotweed:** This has returned. Groundsman to treat it
  - i. **Hemp Agrimony:** The Community Pay Back team have dug this up but more is growing back
  - j. **Posts on edge of Common:** Five more posts are needed by the car park to prevent a car from parking there long term. It was suggested that metal fence stakes and tape could be put there in the meantime. The car owner will be invited to the residents meeting.
8. **Monitoring of budget:** The budget is looking healthy as not so much money as expected had been spent on the Play Area

**9. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

- a. **Albion Terrace – Dry Stone Wall:** The next phase of the repairs to the wall is due to start at the beginning of June. This will cause problems with the access to Albion Terrace and a letter inviting local residents to a meeting in the Quarrymans Arms on 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm to enable the stonemasons to outline the plan for the work
- b. **Lacy Wood Management Plan:** Daniel Part had carried out the second phase of the work in Lacy Wood. The groundsman will carry out coppicing in the Autumn as required. It was agreed to check the ownership of the dry stone wall.
- c. **Thoday Wood Management Plan:** The Cotswold Wardens will assess the Ash trees in June to look at those that will need cutting in the Autumn. There is a lot of firewood left on site and it was agreed to leave some of the larger sections as a wildlife habitat
- d. **Box Hill Common Management Plan:** As stated above Cllr Wright will no longer be managing the Community Payback Team and the Committee will need to find someone else to take this on. He will draw up a checklist of what is involved.
- e. **Committee report for the Annual Parish Meeting:** The draft report had been circulated and was agreed. Photos will be added.
- f. **Interpretation Boards:** The final design was agreed which included the logo for id verde and Wiltshire Council.  
Thanks were given to Cllr B. Walton for her hard work with this

**10. Management of the Rudloe Area:**

- a. **Rudloe Community Centre:**  
Cllr Dorey had met with Mike Dawson from Wiltshire Council and confirmed that Wiltshire Council had offered a 7 year lease with a 2 year break clause which would mean that Wiltshire Council could cancel the lease after two years. This would affect the chances of obtaining funding to carry out the repairs. The Community Centre, Play Area and Rudloe Green had been listed by Wiltshire Council as a strategic asset for low cost housing but it is not known when they are planning to use it.  
  
The Baptist Church are still willing to be go ahead.  
  
The Community Association will need to focus on making sure the Community Centre thrives.
- b. **Rudloe Play Area:** As stated above this will be affected by Wiltshire Council's decision.  
The work to remove the bridge and stones had been completed and the area had been reurfed.  
Cllr Roche felt that it would help the Community if the Parish Council could do more with the play area. It was explained that the Parish Council has a maintenance lease with Wiltshire Council and would need clarification from them that if any items were replaced these would become the property of the Parish Council.  
It was suggested that a Community Group could be formed to look into obtaining funding.  
It was agreed to continue to maintain the Play area
- c. **Rudloe Green:** This is also affected by Wiltshire Council's decision. The Parish Council will continue to maintain this
- d. **Rudloe surgeries:** These are held regularly at the MoD Community Centre with a few local residents attending. Councillors felt that it is important to be available for the Rudloe area

**11. Items raised at the walkround:** The following issues had been raised:

- A new bridleway sign is needed for Footpath 35

- The dry stone wall had been examined
- It was agreed to coppice the hazel on Footpath 31
- Cotswold Wardens to brushcut the area at the top of the Upper Common to clear brambles

**12. Correspondence:**

- a. **Youth Justice System:** The Youth Justice System will be working with a youngster for four days on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June. They will be asked to take out brush and build dead hedges. Cllr Dorey offered to liaise with them

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

- a. Thanks were given to Cllr Wright for everything that he had done during his time as Chair of the Committee
- b. Date of next working party – 12<sup>th</sup> May

**12. Date of next meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Chairman**

*Meeting closed at 7.55 pm*