



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL COMMON & RUDLOE MANAGEMENT AND RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 17th DECEMBER 2018

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); R. Davies; S.Gould;
M. Tye; J. Whitford
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies** Councillors D. Moore and S. Parker
- 3. Absent:** Councillor P. Van Praag
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were two members of the public present.
Mr Tye spoke about the management of Box Common and the need for an Action Plan. He will circulate a copy of his report to all members of the Committee.
- 5. Declarations of Interest:** Nil
- 6. Actions:**

Issue Raised	Start date	Actionee	Due date
<u>Lacy Wood</u> New Notice Board	October 2018	Cllr Moore/The Shed	Next meeting – 18 th February
Planning Application for creation of hardstanding. Chase Cllr Campbell for plan	October 2018	Clerk Cllr Campbell	Next meeting – 18 th February Full Council
<u>Lower Common</u> Liaise with Cotswold Warden over future work.	December 2018	Cllr Case	Next meeting – 18 th February
Quote from W. Wolf re work to Tree	December 2018	Clerk	Next meeting – 18 th February
Action Plan for Common	December 2018	Cllr Case/Tye	Next meeting- 18 th February
Peppercorn rent	April 2019	Clerk	April 2019
<u>Rights of Way</u> New signpost Middlehill	October 2018	The Shed	Next meeting – 18 th February
Repair stile at Boxfields Rd	October 2018	Cllr Gould	Next meeting – 18 th February
Repair stile at	October 2018	Cllr Gould	Next meeting –

Footpath 20 Signs for paths by Wadswick Green	December 2018	Clerk	18 th February Next meeting – 18 th February
Stiles and paths on Hazelbury Manor need attention	December 2018	Clerk	Next meeting – 18 th February

7. Minutes: The Minutes of the Meetings held on 15th October 2018 were taken as read and signed as being a true record

8. Update on issues:

- New notice board for Lacy Wood: Quotation received from Tim Slade to repaint the images to the Lacy Wood sign in the sum of £165. This was agreed
- Hardstanding: It was agreed to chase Cllr Campbell for the plans at Full Council so that the planning application can be submitted. If he is unable to supply these it was agreed to go out to an architect
- Grant from Cotswold Conservation Board: The grant period had finished. It was agreed to leave this until a later date.
- Rudloe Sign: It had been agreed at Full Council not to pursue the replacement of the sign

9. Matters Arising:

a. Lacy Wood:

A working party had carried out work in the Wood on 4th November. Following a further meeting with Richard Cripps the area had been divided into compartments on the map to aid the delivery of the work required. A copy of this will be given to Joel and Chris.

Cllr Tye had circulated a copy of the Action Plan to all Committee members and spoke to the meeting. She felt that the wood needed to get some life back into it by letting more light in to enable the introduction of snowdrops, primroses etc.

There was a discussion on the need to reduce some of the Field Maples and this will be assessed further in Year 2.

It was felt that the Ash trees in the wood will naturally have some ash die back and it was agreed to wait and see which of these trees do die back. However, it was **recommended** that Network Rail be asked to carry out work to the Ash trees on the railway embankment as these are creating shade.

There are still 16-17 trees that have been marked as needing to be cut down and the Committee voted for the work to be carried out. It was felt that realistically it may not be possible for Joel to carry out all of this work by February before the bird season starts. It was agreed to see how this goes and that it may be necessary to obtain quotations for outside help with the work.

The Action Plan was formally adopted by the Committee and it was agreed that this should be put on the website.

Cllr Davies offered to donate two bird boxes and two bat boxes to be put up in the wood. The Shed had also offered to make some more bird boxes and it was agreed that a further four should be made.

b. Box Hill Common:

Upper Common

It was reported that the outstanding work had been completed.

Middle Common Joel and Chris are managing this

Lower Common

The Cotswold Wardens had carried out more work on the Lower Common to clear the scrub and are willing to allocate more days for clearing the area they have started. It was agreed to ask them how much time they could allocate each year. **Action: RC**

It had been agreed to approach contractors to help clear the Lower Common from the other end which would eventually meet up with the area being cleared by the Cotswold Wardens. The contractors would not quote for the whole area but gave a price for a days work. The three quotes were £260; £240 and £170 per day. It is **recommended** that the quotation from N. Churchill for £170 be accepted and he be asked to carry out one day so that it can be assessed how long it would all take.

There is a very large tree by the seat which needs the crown reduced. Clerk to ask William Wolf for a quotation for this. **Action: Clerk**

View from the Quarrymans: Cllr Case had met with the landlord to discuss this and it was agreed that the trees do not need clearing at the present time as these had only been cut back about three years ago. In the future any work required to protect the view would have to be paid for by the brewery but they could ask the Cotswold Wardens to carry out the work so long as they were paid to do it.

It was agreed that an Action Plan be drawn up. Not all the work could be carried out in one year and would need to be spread over three years. Although the Chalkhill Management Plan was only dated to 2002 it had been validated and endorsed by both the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Richard Cripps as still being relevant and this will be used as a reference document in the Action Plan.

Cllr Case and Cllr Tye to draw up the Action Plan.

Action: RC/MT

It is **recommended** that a donation of £500 be given to the Cotswold Wardens for their help with the work.

The Parish Council staff will continue to keep the area clear by cutting regularly within the season. It was agreed that if any larger saplings are cut down by the Cotswold Wardens they will need to be sealed.

Work to the steps; The Costwold Wardens will carry out the work to the steps shortly when the materials have been delivered.

Thanks were given to Joel and Chris for all their excellent work on the Common

- c. **Japanese Knotweed**: Continue to monitor and spray as necessary.
- d. **Pig and a Jig**: On-going.
- e. **Boundaries by Albion Terrace**:
Letter should be sent annually in April reminding them that the land is owned by the Parish Council.

Shed: After investigation it was established that a peppercorn rental had been paid until 2019. The owners are currently selling land on Box Hill which would take away the necessity for the shed. Clerk had written to state that the Council would not be renewing the peppercorn rental after 2019.

10. Forward Plan: No further updates.

11. Risk Assessments: Cllr Case will carry out a regular risk assessment with Joel when they meet every two months.

12. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths**: On-going.
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths**: Committee member to monitor some of the path
List of the owners of footpaths. On going. Cllr Gould in the process of drawing up a list of owners of footpaths in a format introduced by the Costwold Wardens.
- c. **Items that have been reported**:
New signpost at Middlehill junction: Letter received asking for a new signpost. The Shed to look at this **Action: DM**
Footpath from Boxfields Road: The stile is broken. Costwold Wardens to look at this **Action: SG**
Footpath 20: The stile needs repairing **Action: SG**
- d. **Proposed diversion of part of F56**: Application received. The Parish Council had had no objection to the proposed diversion
- e. **Footpaths at Wadswick (51, 52 and 53)**: Clerk to write to the landowner and ask him to approach Wiltshire Council re the waymarking of the footpaths
Action: Clerk
- f. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: It was reported that this path is in a poor condition and the steps are dangerous. Still need attention. Clerk to write to landowners **Action: Clerk**

13. Forward Plan:

- List of owners of footpaths to be drawn up

14. Management of the Rudloe Area: No issues

15. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Mr Wright regarding an Action Plan for the Common. He referred to the Chalkhill Management Plan for the Common and as stated earlier this will be used as a reference document in any Action Plan.
- b. **Avon Calling**; This had been circulated to all committee members

17. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. **Planting of tree on Common**: It was reported that a native Rowan tree had been planted. It was also reported that the Rowan tree by the seat needs restaking and Cllr Case had approached the lady who had planted the tree. The sycamore tree by the seats may need attention
- b. **Nature trail leaflet**; Cllr Whitford offered to rewrite this
- c. **Wooded area**; The Committee were asked to look at the wooded area on the Lower Common to see if any bluebells should be planted.

18. Date of next meeting: 18th February 2019

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm