



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 19th JUNE 2023

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; M. Tye; B. Walton; T. Walton
2. **Apologies** Cllr I. Johnston
A letter of resignation had been received from Cllr P. Rice
3. **Public Question Time:** There were four 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. **Election of Vice Chair of Committee:** It was **recommended** that Cllr Johnston be elected Vice Chair.
7. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2023 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
8. **Risk Assessment and Forward Plan:** The Risk Assessment was reviewed. This links in to the Forward Plan. To be circulated to the Committee
 - a. **Insufficient resource available to deliver the Box Hill Common & Lacy Wood Management Plan:** The Council staff will be spending more time on the Common.
 - b. **Ash tree dieback:** These will be assessed by September and a four year programme for maintenance drawn up.
 - c. **Stairway to heaven:** The handrails will be extended
 - d. **Rudloe Play Area:** The Parish Council has a Licence to maintain the play equipment but this is owned by Wiltshire Council. The estimated maintenance cost is about £14K pa and the estimated replacement costs would be £70K over a 10 year period.
 - e. **Interpretation Board:** On going. Money in budget for replacement
 - f. **Lacy Wood Dry Stone Wall:** The Cotswold Wardens will be carrying out the work when appropriate stone is made available and the walling team have sufficient time to complete the task
 - g. **Retaining wall at Albion Terrace:** Survey to be carried out. It was agreed to ask the residents not to park near the wall
 - h. **Footpath 35:** Wiltshire Council will not do anything to this path
 - i. **Tree stumps:** The stumps will be treated. Joel and Chris to deal with those that are not suitable for treatment
 - j. **Litter bins:** Put money in budget to replace
 - k. **Lacy Wood Tree Safety Action Plan:** The Groundsmen are following the Management Plan. It was suggested that the stiles could be replaced with kissing gates. Phase 1 work agreed
 - l. **Small Wood:** John Kerr has drawn up a four year management plan.

9. Monitoring of the budget: The budget was being monitored in line with expenditure

10. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a. **Albion Terrace residents meeting – update:** Cllr Dorey reported on the recent meeting which was attended by four local residents. There were no complaints. They did not want the potholes in the road filled and they are aware that the Common is owned by the Parish Council and will respect the area. The trampoline will be removed. Further meeting to be held in the future
- b. **Albion Terrace retaining wall:** Cllr Wright to meet the Structural Engineer tomorrow who will give a report and quote for the work required. It was reported that SSE are replacing the mains electricity pole and if the bank is damaged they would be asked to replace it.
- c. **Community Orchard:** 43 Apple, Plum and Pear trees have been planted and are thriving. The black and red currant bushes are growing well.
- d. **Box Hill Common residents group:** These meet on the 1st Sunday of the month maintain the Orchard and remove the hemp agrimony.
- e. **Community Payback Team:** The team is coming twice a month and will be on site on 1st and 2nd July to dig up the hemp agrimony.
- f. **Lower Common Wood Management Plan:** The draft survey from John Kerr (CVW) had been circulated. He will conduct a tree survey of the wood by September 2023 and then proceed at pace with the work in order to improve the woodland biodiversity. Resources will be provided by the CVW team.
- g. **Lacy Wood Management Plan:** Quotation received from Tree Parts Ltd for the first phase of the work at a cost of £3500 + vat with support from the Groundsmen. The second stage will be considered with the budget

11. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **GreenSquare Accord:** Letter received from Wiltshire with notice of intent to cease the redevelopment of the Rudloe site.
- b. **Rudloe Community Centre:** An Expression of Interest had been received from the Baptist Church although it is understood that Wiltshire Council will not support the use by any political or religious groups. It was stated that this need a Community Interest Group to take this forward. The deadline for submission has been extended to 21st July. The Rudloe Association Charity is still in existence with some funds in place but the trustees had resigned. Cllr Walters is taking the lead on this and the Parish Council's powers are limited. There will be a viewing of the Centre on **12th July.**
- c. **Rudloe Play Area:** The bridge needs clearing as this is a health and safety issue. Four people have looked at this but are not willing to do the work. Cllr Tye stated that there is a working group looking at obtaining grants for play equipment on the Recreation Ground and this could be done at Rudloe but this would need someone to take this forward.

The play equipment is owned by Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council has a licence to maintain it.

After discussion it was **recommended** that the Parish Council gives notice to terminate the Licence and hand responsibility back to Wiltshire Council.

- d. **Rudloe Community Group:** Cllr Rice was leading this and he has recently resigned.
- e. **Rudloe surgeries:** The Parish Council had been asked to put in a Expression of Interest for both the Rudloe Green and the Play Area. In light of the above recommendation it was **recommended** that an Expression of Interest be submitted to take over the Rudloe Green as a Community Asset.

12. Items for discussion:

- a. It was **recommended** to formally name the small wood adjacent to the Quarrymans Arms car park "Thoday Wood" in accordance with the Ordnance Survey guidance
- b. It was **recommended** to formally name "Lacy Wood" in accordance with Ordnance Survey guidance
- c. It was **recommended** to install a Bristol Gate to replace the stile adjacent to the A4 in order to improve vehicle access to Lacy Wood at a cost not to exceed £418
- d. It was **recommended** that the footpath through Lacy Wood be registered on the Definitive Map
- e. It was **recommended** that the footpath connecting Box FP 34 and 35 above the Box Hill Common fruit orchard be registered on the Definitive Map
- f. It was **recommended** to donate £200 to the Glorious Cotswolds Grassland Project in recognition of the generous support provided by the Cotswold Conservation Board to the Box Hill Common limestone Meadow project.
- g. It was **recommended** to install a Kissing Gate to replace the stile at the junction with Box FP21 in order to improve the public Right of Way
- h. It was **recommended** to install a community library in one of the bus shelters on Leafy Lane

13. Correspondence:

- a. **Memorial seat:** letter requesting permission to put a memorial seat on the Common. A local carpenter had offered to make the seat. The offer was accepted but it was felt that a low maintenance seat should be purchased similar to the ones purchased on the Recreation Ground. Clerk to forward details.

14. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. The issue of the speed of traffic at Rudloe was raised and it was confirmed that this would be dealt with at the Highways Committee meeting next Monday.
- b. **Planning application at The Science Park:** it was explained that this was in the Corsham Parish and would be dealt with by the Corsham Town Council.
- c. **Provision of allotments at Rudloe:** there had been nothing back from the MoD

15. Date of next meeting: 21st August 2023

Chairman

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm