



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 16TH AUGUST 2021

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Davies; I. Johnston
S. Parker; M. Tye; B. Walton;
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
2. **Apologies** Cllrs: R. Case; N. Ingledew
3. **Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Walkround:** The Committee had met and walked round the top and bottom Common prior to the meeting to look at some of the issues to be raised at the meeting.
6. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st June 2021 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
7. **Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached
 - a. **Lacy Wood:** The Committee will walk round the Wood prior to its next meeting on 18th October

Plaque for Tim Kerr – Cllr Davies reported that he had not found anyone to replace the wording on the plaque. It was suggested that this could be washed over with a dark solution and then cleaned to see if the wording could be reinstated. It was agreed to approach Cllr Smith to see if she would be able to do this.

b. **Box Hill Common:**

Creation of parking space;

The Committee had looked at the parking space and agreed that the current configuration does not comply with the planning application. The Clerk had taken advice from the Planning Officer who had stated that an amended planning application would need to be submitted to show how the Council would be addressing the situation. It was agreed to obtain quotations for the work involved to conform to the existing planning permission. If this could not be possible it was agreed to ask for a report on how the issue should be addressed and quotes for this additional work would be obtained. A revised planning application would then be required.

It may be that some form of gabion or retaining wall would be necessary or the height of the bund would need to be lowered.

Seats: The seat next to the GWR seat will need replacing next year. The seat in memory of the Woodgate family needs preservative.

c. **Japanese Knotweed:** Continue to monitor. There is no sign of this at the

present time.

- d. **Boundaries by Albion Terrace**: Continue to monitor
- e. **Removal of shed**: The shed has been removed. The contents, including a bicycle and several tools, have been photographed and removed and are being stored at the Parish Council offices. Discuss this further after the current restrictions have been lifted.
- f. **Interpretation Board**: The Interpretation Board had been erected. It was agreed to drop the height of this to match the height of the existing notice board. **Action: DW/IJ**
- h. **Drain on the Common**: The Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineer had been on site and the work appears to have helped with the discharge of the water. Further work may be needed in the future.

8. Other issues raised:

- a. **Restoration of the retaining wall at Albion Terrace**: The Committee had looked at the wall on the walkround. Cllr Wright had met with builders to look at the retaining wall. He would draw up a risk assessment and obtain quotes for work required. **Action: DW**
- b. **Clearance of invasive bramble on the Upper Common**: The Committee had looked at this on the walkround. One area of brambles has been cut. After a discussion it was proposed that the remaining area be left as it is and kept under control.
- c. **Clearance and processing of the Ash sapling on the Lower Common**: The Committee had looked at the area in question. It was proposed that this area be cleared and a wild flower meadow be created. One quotation had been received and further quotes were being sought. It was agreed to draw up a management plan for the future maintenance of this showing how much time would be required to maintain it. This area would need to be included in any future tree survey. It was reported that there may be funding for this work through the Farming in Protected Landscape. **Action: DW**
- d. **Clearance of brash and coppicing of hazel stools adjacent to F39 in order to open up the ground**: This work will be carried out on 27th October

9. Risk Assessments: Cllr Wright to carry out the risk assessment once a month. Clerk to forward the Risk Assessment forms to him.

10. Rights of Way:

Matters Arising:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths**: On-going.
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths**: Committee members to monitor some of the paths
- c. **Work carried out by Cotswold Wardens:**
 - Clearance of footpaths 56 and 58
 - Clearance of footpaths 43 and 44
 - Clearance of footpaths 11,12 and 22a
 - Clearing overgrowth on footpaths 107a, 39 and 67
 - Repair kissing gate on footpath 39
 - Installation of waymarker post at junction of footpaths 40 and 41
- d. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: The land owner had been asked for permission to repair the footpaths.
- e. **Sign for Middlehill**: The new fingerpost had been completed at a cost of £300
- f. **Dangerous tree on footpath by Henley Court**: The Rights of Way Warden, Paul Millard, is dealing with this.
- g. **Footpath 33 on the Lower Common**: The Committee had looked at this. The footpath is impassable and is no longer needed. It is **recommended** that the Parish Council asked for this path to be diverted to go up the line of the steps.

- h. **Footpath 18:** This footpath runs from Mill Lane along the By-brook and is well used. The surface of the path needs restoring. This is Wiltshire Council's responsibility but the cost involved would be £2500. An application had been made to the Area Board and it had been agreed that the Area Board would fund £1250; Wiltshire Council would contribute £625 and Box Parish Council was asked to match fund £625. The work would be carried out by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. It is **recommended** that the Parish Council contributes £625 for this work. There is money in the budget to cover this.

11. Publication of a Box Parish Walking Map: The cost of producing a Box Parish Walking Map, similar to the one drawn up by Colerne PC would cost £260 for the design and artwork and £320 for the printing – total of £580. Several offers of financial support had been received and Cllr Wright will pursue this further. **Action: DW**

12. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Community Surgery at the Dandelion Café (MoD Community Centre) to gather evidence from local residents in support of speed restrictions etc.**
The next meeting will be held on 14th September. This will be advertised.
- b. **Speed of traffic on B3109:** The request for a metro count had been submitted. The speed of traffic and other issues relating to the B3109 have been made a priority for discussion at the next CATG meeting on 29th September
- d. **Leafy Lane:** Following a meeting of the working party it is **recommended** that the Full Council agrees to the following actions:
- That the speed limit be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph
 - That Wiltshire Council assesses the risk on the road and pursue the issue of a pedestrian crossing
- It had been agreed that Unitary Councillor Derek Walters would take the lead on these issues. He will liaise with Cllr Davies and report back to the Parish Council before presenting anything to CATG in case there are any cost implications involved.
- e. **Tunnel Inn crossroads;** Cllr Davies had obtained data on the use of this and will take it back to CATG.

13. Items for discussion:

- **Farming in the Protected Landscape;** Cllr Wright reported that there is funding available for several projects involving local farmers. He has identified three projects that could attract funding:

Project 1

The restoration of Weaven Fish Pond
Improvements to the water course at Drewitts Mill
Restoration of Kings Barn at Inghalls Cottage

This project would need the support of not just the landowners but the Parish Council and it was felt that this was something the Council should support.

Project 2

Erection of 10 kissing gates to go on the footpaths alongside the old stone stiles. £3500 is required to carry this out. An application for funding can be made but if successful the money would need to be held in a bank account.

It is **recommended** that an application be made in the Parish Council's name to support this project and to hold the funds if successful. However the VAT would not be able to reclaim the VAT in this instances as the kissing gates would not be in their ownership. There should be no cost to the Parish Council.

Project 3

The clearing of the area of Ash Trees on the Lower Common and creation of a wildflower meadow

Building of a retaining wall at the car park – if necessary

Work to the wall at Albion Terrace

Reinstatement of a bridge at the Lovar Garden

14. Correspondence:

- a. **Closure of footpath in Quarry Woods:** Several letters received from residents and Wiltshire Council. The new owner has closed one of the paths in Quarry Woods. However, it would appear that this path is not the definitive footpath but an alternative route that has been used. Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Officer has agreed to meet with the new owner and establish the correct line of the definitive path.
- b. **Sale of Rustic Cottage, Box Hill:** Letter received from the solicitors acting for the owner in the sale of Rustic Cottage. They refer to a Deed between the Parish Council and the owner granting right of access over the path beside the property. They have raised enquiries re the arrangements for the repair and maintenance of the access and whether any future works are proposed. The Committee had looked at this on its walkround. It was agreed that there is no problems with the steps and that no future works are proposed at this time.
- c. **Hedgesparrow Lane – Highways Improvement Form:** A Highways Improvement Form had been submitted by a resident regarding the creation of a walkway from the bus shelter into Hedgesparrow Lane and the installation of a street light. This was discussed. It was **recommended** that the Parish Council does **not** support the installation of a street light. It was further **recommended** that the Parish Council approaches Wiltshire Council to advise on the feasibility and costings for digging out the grass verge and extending the road in this area.
- d. **Forward Plan:** This had been discussed at the Policy & Finance Committee. Cllr Wright had updated the objectives for this Committee. A rolling maintenance programme with costs will be drawn up together with figures for proposed works to be considered with the budget setting. It was agreed that a tree survey will be required.

14. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. **Grove Farm:** it was reported that 800 broadleaved trees will be planted
- b. **Wires round Ash trees on the Lower Common;** Clerk to notify the Electricity Board.
- c. **Footpath 71:** The brambles need clearing from this path
- d. **Overgrown vegetation on Box Tunnel;** It was reported that an Inspector of Historic Buildings will take the matter up directly with Peter Hendy, the chairman of Network Rail.
- e. **Footpath 107a:** The Planning Inspector had recommended a stile be erected but Wiltshire Council has stated that the fence should be taken down instead. The Cotswold Wardens are contacting the landowner.

15. Date of next meeting: 18th October 2021 at 7.00 pm Walk round of Lacy Woods prior to the meeting.

Chairman

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm