



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A REMOTE MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 16th NOVEMBER 2020

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); J. Clifford; R. Davies;
H. Parker; B. Walton; S. Parker
Mrs Carey (Clerk)

The two newly co-opted Councillors were welcomed to the meeting

- 2. Apologies** Cllrs J. Cox; S. Gould

- 3. Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.

- 4. Declarations of Interest:** Nil

- 5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the remote Meetings held on 21st September 2020 were taken as read and will be signed as being a true record at the next proper meeting subject to two small amendments.

- 6. Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached

- a. **Lacy Wood:** The wood is looking in a good condition. Cllr Davies will replace the missing bird boxes. He is monitoring these regularly. The plaque in front of one of the trees needs the lettering repainted. The Clerk will speak to the Ground staff. The landowner of the field had given permission for a stile to be put in to prevent the barbed wire in the far corner of the wood being cut again. Clerk to speak to the landowner explaining permissive rights. It was agreed to ask the Cotswold Wardens if they could put the stile in.

- b. **Box Hill Common:**

It had not been possible to have a walkround because of the lockdown restrictions. Cllr Case offered to show the two new Councillors round the Common and Lacy Wood when restrictions are lifted.

The final cut to the Common had not been possible because of the weather

Top and middle Common

The dead tree had been removed.

Creation of parking space; Planning permission had been received and the proposals for the drainage ditch had been approved. Work will commence when the weather permits

Parking on Common: It was agreed to monitor the builders carrying out work on the Black Hut to ensure that they do not park and churn up the Common.

Lower Common Letter sent to the owners of the overgrown hedges which are encroaching across the track and Beech Road and had asked that these be cut back by the end of November. If they were unable to do this the Parish Council could carry out the work and invoice them for this.

The Cotswold Wardens will review their work schedule and will let the Council know if they are able to do any work in January.

- 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 owners of the shed had not complied with the Solicitor's notice to remove this by the end of August. The contents, including a bicycle and several tools, have been photographed and removed and are being stored at the Parish Council offices. The solicitor had written to the owners advising them of this and asking them to collect any of these items by the middle of December. Failing this the Committee will discuss how to dispose of these items at the next meeting.
- f. **Interpretation Board;** Cllr Walton had updated the design of the interpretation board and shared this with the Committee. Quotes for producing this to be obtained and a decision made on where this will be sited.
- g. **Seats:** Monitor the condition of the GWR seat – put on the list of work for the Grounds Staff (medium term)
- 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.

7. Trees: Continue to monitor

8. Risk Assessments: Cllr Case had walked round the Common and Lacy Wood and everything was in order.

9. 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:**
 - F66 - Clearance work and stile restoration
 - Relocation of byway sign at junction of F66 and A365
 - F65 – stile restoration
 - F39 by Quarrymans Arms - clearing overgrowthIt was reported that the waymarker needs refixing. The Cotswold Wardens will look at this.
- d. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor:** Rights of Way Warden to carry out work to the steps on Footpath 59
- e. **Sign for Middlehill:** The work to this by the Shed had been impacted by Covid-19
- f. **Proposed diversion of footpath 50 (part) 52 (part) and 53 (part) at Wadswick** Order for the diversion was made on 18th September 2020. Descriptions of the new paths received.
- g. **Footpath 107A:** It was agreed to ask the Cotswold Wardens to relocate the footpath sign on Boxfields Road to the nearside verge to enable approaching traffic to see it
- h. **Footpath 20 – kissing gate:** Wiltshire Council had agreed to install a kissing gate to prevent teenagers with bicycles congregating. A reminder had been sent to the Rights of Way Warden.
- i. **Footpath by Tunnel Inn:** Clerk to ask the Cotswold Wardens to clear this

10. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- Mosaic sign; The mosaic sign had been erected. The wording for the plaque had been agreed.
- Play Area: Cllr Case had checked the condition of the play area and everything was OK

11. Items for discussion:

Suitable sites for any memorial benches: It was agreed that no further benches are required on the Common. It was agreed to look at any possible sites at Rudloe. All Councillors were asked to look round the parish once the lockdown had finished

Items for consideration with the budget: there were no new items to be considered

Compositing of grass cuttings; The Playing Fields Committee had felt that the compositing area on the Recreation Ground was too large and had suggested that an area on the Common be earmarked for another compositing site.

It was stressed that none of the cuttings, apart from the meadow grass, is taken to the Recreation Ground. The grass cuttings are left on the Common. It was agreed to explore any areas on the Lower Common where the meadow grass could be left. More compositing has arisen from the use of the shredder and the reduction in the number of bonfires.

12. Correspondence: Nil

13. Items of report and future agenda items:

- Horse riding on the Common: new sign to be made requesting no riding of horses or motorcycles on the Common. This will be positioned near the dog bin
- F32 Beech Road to Rudloe: Overhanging trees by Rudloe Woods House. Clerk to ask the Cotswold Wardens to clear this
- Blocked drain and street light: The blocked drain by Love Lane and the faulty street light on Barnetts Hill had been reported to Wiltshire Council

14. Date of next meeting: 18th January 2021

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm