



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE **HELD ON 16th JUNE 2025**

- 1. Present:** Councillors D. Dorey (Chair); S. Roche; M. Tye; B. Walton; T. Walton
Mrs M Carey (Clerk); Mr S Vickery (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr R. Davies and I. Johnston.
- 3. Absence:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public in attendance
- 5. Declarations of Interest:** Nil
- 6. Appointment of Vice Chair:** Cllr I. Johnston was voted unanimously as the Vice Chair.
- 7. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th February 2025 were taken as read and signed as a true record.
- 8. Matters Arising/Actions:**
 - a. Leafy Lane Playing Fields – new 3G Floodlit playing surface:**

Cllr D.Dorey had met with Andrew Simpson to discuss the project. A planning application is being drawn up.
Concerns were raised about possible issues with floodlighting (light pollution) and bat protection. The planning application would need to have an Environmental Impact Assessment and Bat Survey.
It was agreed to write to Andrew Simpson with a copy of the Parish Council's Climate Strategy Action Plan and a copy of the Bat Corridor document attached to the Neighbourhood Plan.
In order for the Parish Council to support the planning application the concerns raised would need to be addressed.

Action: Clerk to send a letter.
 - b. GWR seat and seat re "Woodgate" - update on condition:**

The Common visit confirmed that the wooden bench (named after the Woodgate family) requires refurbishment. The OSM to action. The GWR seat does rock but it is secure and in good condition; not considered as urgent but may need a paint, using Council or working party resources. In time, a quote to repair the wooden parts of the GWR bench would be required.

Action: OSM to refurbish the benches on Upper and Middle Common.
 - c. Peppercorn rents for the Common - update:**

There does need to be a regular reminder for those residents who do and who do not wish to pay annually. The Upper Common charge is set by the Council. The Lower Common rent fee is fixed as per the deeds from G Lacy. It was agreed that as well as a rent reminder, encroachments (eg sheds, washing lines) cannot be permitted. A question was raised about about building materials at the Lower Common; this will be monitored by Cllr D.Dorey.

Action: Clerk to send rent and encroachment reminder letter.

d. Management of Thoday Wood:

It was confirmed that the Cotswold Wardens had reduced the number of hazel trees considerably and some dead trees would remain as a natural habitat. A suggested tree walk to the Thoday and Lacy Woods with the OSM and Tree Parts to produce a tree management plan for the Open Spaces staff was proposed. The Ash dieback issue remains and the requirement to check what needed to be removed or maintained for the habitat.

Action: OSM and Tree Parts to produce a tree management plan.

e. Suggested Meadow area for the Upper Common:

It was confirmed that the OSM has a plan for the different heights of meadow grass at the Common(s). It was suggested that pathways should be considered as part of the management plan. It was agreed that the OSM will produce an overlay map of the grass heights for consideration.

Action: OSM to produce a grass overlay map of the Common(s).

f. Notice boards on the Common:

The boards have been cleaned and spruced up by OSM and OSW. It was suggested that the frames on the Lower Common be painted and made more substantial. Cllr T.Walton was able to complete the angle iron work and the OSM was asked to check the stain colour and quantities of stain.

g. Orchard

The Community Payback team had strimmed the new Orchard bushes and would return in July. It was agreed to source a further 40 mulch maps (approx. £100) for the fruit bushes. Cllr T.Walton would confirm the actual number.

9. Update on the management of the Rudloe Area:

a. Community Centre – update:

Cllr D.Dorey stated that the Centre is looking in good order. It has been painted and the roof repaired. A soft opening is planned in July. There is ongoing work in the kitchen. A manager has been appointed to run the Centre. Councillors were pleased to hear the news.

b. Westwood Road Play Area:

- i. The excel checklist sheet needs to be forwarded weekly; check forms need to be sent regularly. Goal areas remain a Box PC responsibility and the areas need to be refurbished.

Action: OSM to check whether goalposts can be moved and if so, the refurbishment of the goal areas (filling pot holes and reseeding) is required prior to the summer holiday (18th July).

- ii. The current playground lease was discussed. It was suggested that this lease and the goal area licence run concurrently with the Community Centre licence. The possibility of extending the area of responsibility (with funding if possible) to entire grassed area was also discussed.

Action: Clerk to investigate lease tenures and feasibility of wider responsibility.

10. Items for discussion:

a. Request to use an area in Thoday Wood as an outdoor learning area:

Little Nature Explorers wish to use part of Thoday Wood for outdoor learning; once a month for 90 mins. There would be a need for a licence and annual rental (akin to dog-training licence). The business plan does need a map of the area, car parking details and dates. It was agreed that Cllr D.Dorey would meet the lead to discuss further, especially car-parking and litter. Councillors considered that the Lovar Garden might be more appropriate. The final plan would be recommended to the Full Council once ready.

Action: Cllr D.Dorey to meet the lead.

b. Condition of tree by Black Hut:

Cllr R.Davies has been investigating and passed on advice to the resident.

11. To receive any correspondence: Nil

12. Update on Forward Plan/Risk Assessment and Asset Register. Nil

13. Items of report and future Agenda items

Christmas Lights for Rudloe (Magic Tree or Patio).

The Cemetery work party for 21 June is cancelled.

14. Date of next meeting - 18th August 2025

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chair