



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN MEETING OF THE PLAYING FIELDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2nd JUNE 2025

Present: Councillors: B. Walton (Chair) N. Ingledew; H. Parker; M. Tye; T. Walton
G. Potts – Box Allotment Group;
K. Derby – Bowls Club.
J. Wellsby - Cricket Club

1. Apologies: Nil

2. Public Question Time: No members of the public present.

3. Declaration of Interests: There were no declaration of interest relating to items on the Agenda.

4. Election of Vice Chair: Cllr M. Tye was unanimously elected as Vice Chair for 2025/26

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd February 2025, The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2025 were taken as read and signed as being a true record.

6. Matters Arising:

Play Areas:

Playground Checklist:

A revised checklist had been agreed. Clerk to remind the Open Spaces Manager to complete this and forward it to the Clerk on a weekly basis

Action: Clerk

Cllr Tye reported that a piece of metal that had been sticking up on the play engine had been removed.

Cantilever tyre swing:

No reply had been received from Bigwood Play. The RoSPA resistograph test had showed that there was some rot which would need to be repaired before the next RoSPA check in September. Quotations to be sought before the end of July.

Action: Clerk/MT/TW

Under 7s Play Area:

The play house has now been removed for Health & Safety reasons.

Mark Hughes from Bigwood Play had visited the site and drawn up a proposal for new equipment to be positioned on the slope using treated Welsh grown larch for durability. The equipment would conform to the required standards and would be guaranteed for ten years. A quotation for the equipment had been received.

Cllr Tye explained that she had sent the design to the Playground Working Group. Although they were not completely happy with this Cllr Tye had explained why the work would be done and that this would be the first phase of the redevelopment. A further meeting of the Working Group will be held. Although the proposed equipment would not be accessible for disabled it was agreed that a special piece

of play equipment could be put in the upper play area which could be used by anyone with a disability.

It was agreed that more quotations would need to be obtained. A specification for this to be drawn up.
Action: Clerk

Allotments:

Gilly Potts, the Allotment Group representative, reported that all the allotments were being worked and were in a good condition. Children entering the allotments had been asked to keep to the paths. Improvements had been made to allotment numbers 8B and 7D and it was agreed that letters of thanks be sent to the allotment holders.
Action: Clerk

A membrane had been put down on Allotment 9B but no work had been carried out. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the allotment holder explaining that 50% of the allotment needs to be under cultivation and ask for this to be carried out before the next meeting at the beginning of August.
Action: Clerk

The fence next to the lower gate had been repaired

Allotment Gate: Only one quotation had been received which was considered to be too high. Two further quotations had been sought but there had been no replies. Clerk to chase further quotations to be in for consideration at Full Council on 26th June
Action: Clerk

There is currently no-one on the allotment waiting list and it agreed to put an article on Facebook and Parish Magazine

Update on Lovar Garden: The area around the picnic bench had been topped up. Community Payback to cut back the nettles. The dogwood needs cutting back

Fallen tree: It was agreed to ask Daniel Part if he could remove the tree
Action: Clerk

Trees and Hedges:

Quotation for mulch mats to be put round the dogweed and hazel by the back gate at the allotment in the sum of £2.99 + vat for a 1m sq mat.
It was agreed that ten mulch mats be purchased at a cost of £29.90 + vat

Succession Planting Plan: Daniel Part had drawn up a succession planting plan. Cllr B. Walton has been in contact with the Wiltshire Council Great West Forest who have stated that the Parish Council could apply for a grant towards this. Cllr B. Walton to meet with their representative next Wednesday **Action: BW**

Mill Lane hedge: It was reported that Mr I. Lonsdale had had to clear debris from his side of the hedge after the cutting. Hopefully as the hedge will not need to be cut so much next year this will not happen again.

Veteran Chestnut tree notice board: Thanks from Tree Parts to be added to the notice board

Car Park Hedge: It was agreed to mark out some trees which could be left to grow up.
Action: HP

Bowling Green:

Bowls Club representative K. Darby thanked the Parish Council for the deep clean in the Pavilion and for supporting the Box Revels. The Community Payback Team are carrying out maintenance and cleaning work on 15th June.

Due to efforts from the Club they had received requests for a group from London and a local group of Worman's Footballers to come and use the Bowling Green and asked if this would be acceptable to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council had no issues with this.

A meeting with of the Bowls Club Working Group to discuss how to evolve the relationship with the Parish Council to be arranged.

Tennis Courts

Working Group update The report from the meeting held on 6th May had been circulated and was discussed.

The Revels event had been successful

Managing courts going forward: Julie Jones from the LTA has offered to help and Cllr B. Walton, as the Parish Council's representative, will arrange a meeting with her.

Clerk to chase up the issue of a Peppercorn Rental with the solicitor **Action: Clerk**

Weeds are still coming up through the surface. Open Spaces Manager to spray them and Grimshaws will come out when the weeds have died down **Action: OSM**

A membrane has been purchased for the ditches and this will be laid by the Community Payback Team

Marestail has been seen growing up between the lower court and the Pavilion and these need to be sprayed on a regular basis with a herbicide. Clerk to speak to the Open Spaces Manager **Action: Clerk/OSM**

Quotations received from A.B. Garrish for four bulk bags of type 1 at a cost of £176.00 and 5 tons of sharp sand at a cost of £271.50. It was agreed to purchase the four bulk bags of type 1 next week. Clerk to speak to the OSM re delivery as this will need to be laid as soon as it is delivered. **Action: Clerk**

Quotation for the lower court: Quotation received from Grimshaw in the sum of £21029 + vat plus £220 + vat for marking out a Pickleball court. It was agreed that netball markings are not required. The Working Group will discuss any other markings. A grant application is being made to Area Board and to the Bingham Hall Trust towards the cost of the work. A grant of £10,000 has been awarded from Community First. Work to be carried out later in the year.

7. Items for discussion:

Cricket Club:

The Cricket Club representative, Jordan Wellsby, reported that there had been a positive start with two teams a week playing.

The Cricket Club is currently looking at a bid for funding from the English Cricket Board to cover work to the Cricket Square and some work to the outfield ie overseeding and stripping back. It was agreed that there should be a separate meeting with the Cricket Club and the Parish Council's groundsmen re the impact on the Parish Council re allowing contractors on site to do the work to the outfield.

The Parish Council were concerned about using Parish Council's resources and had suggested that the outfield should only be cut once a week but the Open Spaces Manager had stated that this would be false economy as it would take twice as long than currently.

Cllr Tye stated that the Council was looking at the priorities for the Grounds staff throughout the Parish – not just on the Recreation Ground.

Jordan stated that there are a lot of different grasses in the outfield which makes it a poor quality – this is not a result of any work carried out. The Cricket Club are aware that there is work to be done on the outfield ie pitch markings. The Opposition Captain gives marks for the pitch after each game. The main comments are always the length of grass.

He was asked whether the standard was up to expectation for a village cricket pitch.

Jordan replied that he plays in several other villages. The grass on the outfield in Box is longer than some of the other pitches and should be cut to between 10 and 20 mm. The new mower is capable of this and Cllr B. Walton will discuss this with the Open Spaces Manager.

Action: BW

He was asked whether the Cricket Club could carry out any cutting if the Parish Council only cut once a week or stopped cutting altogether. Jordan replied that he has a machine on loan from Corsham which they are trialing to see if it is a viable option but this would take between 2-3 hours a week. It was explained that the Deed of Gift gives the right to the Cricket Club to play cricket but it does not mean that the Parish Council has to maintain it.

A proposal was put that the outfield should be cut to the same standard as the Recreation Ground within the terms of the Climate Strategy policy and not to be cut more than once a week

The vote was two in favour two against with the Chair having the casting vote.

Jordan felt that this would have a huge impact on the Cricket Club - they are not able to generate a lot of income and a mower would cost about £3500 and take four hours a week to maintain.

After further discussion it was agreed not to implement the proposal at the present time but to work together to try to find a solution. A working party with Cllr Parker as a representative should meet to try to find a way forward.

Path lighting

The cost to hire a mini digger for a week to dig out the trench would be £247.72 + vat with and additional £128.80 for a cable avoidance tool

The sharp sand needed would be £271.50

Clerk to confirm with Jimmy Bond that the quotation still stands – work to be carried out in first week of July.
Action: Clerk

Recommendation that a mini digger is hired and sharp sand order at a total cost of £648.02 plus the cost for the electrical work.

8. **Climate Strategy Action Plan:** It was agreed to obtain a quote for a further lockable bin or weekly empty, as this would be cheaper than paying excess on the present situation.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Parker will check that all the stickers are in position on the bins.

Action: HP

9. **Forward Plan:** The Forward Plan had been updated with action tracker added

- It was agreed to revisit the Beech whips in the Autumn/Winter. The quote for the next tree survey will need to be discussed – looking at continuously updating the current survey for all the trees.
- It was also agreed to discuss how to quantify the value that the Council are getting from Tree Parts Ltd – noting all the extra benefits and advice that he gives on a regular basis. It was felt that an ongoing assessment of trees was preferred to a 5-yearly assessment as recommended by Tree Parts. The relationship with Tree Parts was regarded as very positive and they would be invited to present a concept for ongoing tree maintenance. Cllr Ingledew felt that this approach had merit but also that a competitive tender should be held at future intervals.

10. **Correspondence:** Letter re condition of the Play Area – to be included in discussion with the Working Group

11. **Items of Report and Future Agenda items:**

- Cllr Ingledew to look at options for dog bag dispensers
- CPRE – they are celebrating their centenary next year – Cllr Parker to contact them
- Grasscrete for outside Tractor shed – Cllr Tye to check what strength is needed
- Further meeting of the Tennis Working Group on 3rd June
- Turf had been removed from the Bassetts. The couch grass had been weeded out and wild flower seedlings had been planted

12. **Date of next meeting** – 4th August 2025

Chair

Meeting closed at 20.57 pm