



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### **A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 21st JUNE 2021**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Case; R. Davies; N. Ingledew; S. Parker; M. Tye; B. Walton; Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies** Nil
- 3. Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
- 4. Declarations of Interest:** Nil
- 5. Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr R. Case was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman

Cllr Wright thanked Cllr Case for all her work as the past Chairman and also thanked the Groundsmen for the way they maintain the Common and Sid Gould for his work with the Cotswold Wardens.

- 6. Minutes:** The Minutes of the remote Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were taken as read and signed as being a true record with one amendment re the plaque for Tim Kerr in Lacy Woods.

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

- a. **Lacy Wood:** The Cotswold Wardens have erected the stile in the top corner of the wood.

Plaque for Tim Kerr – Cllr Davies had spoken to the relatives and was looking into getting a quote for repainting of the words on the plaque.

It was agreed to have a walkround in Lacy Wood prior to the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August and draw up a list of what additional planting can be done. Cllrs Walton and Tye offered some plants that could be used.

- b. **Box Hill Common:**

Creation of parking space;

The work to the creation of the parking space had been completed but due to the large amount of rubble this was slightly smaller than on the plan. It was agreed to look at ways in which the parking spaces can be marked out.

A large bund had been created with the spoil taken out. This had settled down and it was agreed to monitor this and look again in September. It may be that some of the height will need to be taken off

A letter had been received from a resident expressing concern about the height of this bund.

It was suggested that once the height had settled a mesh could be put on and wild flowers seeds sown.

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 and posts had been received. It was agreed that this should be sited next to the Notice Board on the Top Common at the same height of this board. Because of the rock in the ground it will be necessary to get someone in to use an auger to dig out the holes for the posts. Clerk to obtain a quote for this. **Action: Clerk**
- 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**: An assessment of the safety of the wall will have to be undertaken. Clerk to contact Marcus Mitchell to ask him for his advice on this. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **Clearance of invasive bramble on the Upper Common**: This will be included in the groundsman's work plan. Cllr Wright to speak to the Groundsman **Action: DW**
- c. **Clearance and processing of the Ash sapling on the Lower Common**: These are the trees on the area behind the Quarrymans Arms. Permission had been given to local residents to clear these trees but the debris had not been taken away and this area now needs regular managing. Quotes to be obtained for clearing the Ash saplings, coppicing the hazel and managing the buddleia. Cllr Wright to speak to the Groundsman re the ongoing maintenance of this area once it has been cleared. **Action: Clerk/DW**
- d. **Clearance of brash and coppicing of hazel stools adjacent to F39 in order to open up the ground**: This is the path that runs from White Ennox Lane to the Common by Tisbutts Cottage. The coppicing will be carried out by the Cotswold Wardens in the Autumn. **Action: Cotswold Wardens**

**9. Risk Assessments**: Cllr Wright to carry out the risk assessment once a month.

**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**:
  - **Footpath 2** – Major work over six weeks to clear the path and reinstate the surface etc.
  - **Footpath 107A**: This had been cleared. In the Inspector's decision on this it was stated that the Order for the footpath had been agreed subject to the addition of a stile by the squeeze gap. The Rights of Way Warden will speak to the landowners to get the fences by the stile removed.
  - **Box Hill/Rudloe Gateway**: The Cotswold Wardens had inserted a block of limestone and there will be a sign stating "Welcome to the Cotswold National Landscape"

- d. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: No work can be carried out without the landowners permission. Letters had been sent but there had been no response. Wiltshire Council will take this up.
- e. **Sign for Middlehill**: The work to this by the Shed had been impacted by Covid-19
- f. **Installation of a chicane on F39**: A request had been received from a local resident asking for the installation of a chicane to prevent cyclists using the footpath which goes close to his property. Wiltshire Council has advised that because there is no livestock the path cannot be blocked. As landowners it was agreed that the Parish Council should not install the chicane but instead would put up a post with a sign stating “No cycling”

**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  
It was suggested that contributions towards the cost of this could be obtained from local businesses and the Cotswold Conservation fund.

**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.**  
Cllr Wright to hold regular meetings, the first one will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 9-11 am.
- b. **Rudloe Woods**; It was reported that there are Tree Preservation Orders on all the trees in Rudloe Woods. Some of the land is under new ownership, and the owner has conducted a comprehensive tree survey and has produced a management plan describing the work to be carried out providing the necessary planning consents are agreed.
- c. **Speed of traffic on B3109**: This had been discussed at the Policy & Finance Meeting who had recommended that the Parish Council supports Broadwood School in pursuing the provision of flashing lights; 20 mph speed limit at school times and a permissive footway to the pedestrian crossing. It had also been recommended that the Parish Council asks for a metro count to be carried out on the B3109 near the School. Cllrs Wright and Davies to locate the suitable site for this.
- d. **Leafy Lane**: A recommendation had been made at Policy & Finance that the Parish Council goes back to CATG and asks for the proposed scheme of dropped kerbs and signage to be put on hold until all further options had been considered. Cllr Tye reported that she had enquired about the speed limit on Leafy Lane and had been informed that this had changed from 30 mph to 40 mph in 1995 but had not established the reason for this.  
It was agreed that a working party comprising Cllrs Wright; Davies and Tye draw up all the relevant information and bring back to the next Committee meeting to discuss further action. **Action: DW;RD;MT**  
Cllr Tye reported that she would be attending a meeting re the closure of the Cleveland Road Bridge
- e. **Tunnel Inn crossroads**; Cllr Davies had obtained data on the use of this and will take it back to CATG.

**13. Correspondence:**

- a. **Parking Area**: letter from resident on the safety of the bund noted under item 7c above.

**14. Items of report and future agenda items:**

- a. **Footpath 40**: Cllr Ingledew queried the line of Footpath 40 in Quarry Woods where it meets F41. Cllrs Wright and Ingledew to meet and look at this
- b. **Dangerous tree on footpath by Henley Court**: The diversion of the path is still in place but the dangerous tree which should have been felled is still in position. Cllr Wright to speak to the Rights of Way Warden. **Action: DW**

- c. **Mountain Ash tree on Common**: it was reported that this had bent over. The local resident who planted the memorial tree was looking at this
- d. **Grove Farm**: it was reported that the land owners have been working closely with the Cotswold Conservation Board in order to develop a large tree planning programme
- e. **Wires round trees on Common**; Clerk to notify the Electricity Board

**15. Date of next meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 pm Walk round of Lacy Woods prior to the meeting.

**Chairman**

*Meeting closed at 8.15 pm*

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