



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### A REMOTE MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD BY ZOOM ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

1. **Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); J. Cox; R. Davies; D. Moore;  
B. Walton; C. Parker; J. Whitford  
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
2. **Apologies** Cllr 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 Meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were taken as read and will be signed as being a true record at the next proper meeting.
6. **Matters Arising:** Issues – see attached
  - a. **Lacy Wood:** The wood is looking in a good condition. Message on facebook thanking the Groundsmen for such a good job in the wood to be passed to them. The seat is ready to be painted and will be back in place by the end of the month
  - b. **Box Hill Common:**  
**Lower Common** The Cotswold Wardens had carried out clearing work in January. They had been due to return but the present situation with Covid-19 has prevented this. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to them and to invite them back when they are able to do so. Clerk to ask the Cotswold Wardens to notify the Council if they have a planned walkround so that Councillors can join them.  
**Creation of parking space;** The planning application had been submitted to Wiltshire Council in August 2019. This had finally been granted in March 2020 with two conditions. One to submit a scheme for the discharge of surface water from the site (including surface water from the access) incorporating sustainable drainage details (ie soakaway) to be submitted and approved prior to commencement of the work and secondly to provide samples of the materials to be used prior to commencement of the work. It was stated that the contractors will honour the quote that had been agreed, submit to any small increase in cost of materials. The Clerk had contacted Paul Coleman re the soakaway and will continue to press the Planning Officer for a site visit. Clerk to check the drainage issues with Paul Bollen from Wiltshire Council. Clerk to continue to pursue a site visit with the Planning Officer.
  - c. **Japanese Knotweed:** Continue to monitor
  - d. **Pig and a Jig:** Due to Covid-19 this year's event had been cancelled
  - e. **Boundaries by Albion Terrace;** Continue to monitor
  - f. **Removal of shed:** A letter had been sent from the solicitors to the owners of the shed instructing them to make arrangements for it to be removed by the end of February 2020. Failure to do so would result in the Council making arrangements for it to be physically removed. Because of Covid-19 and the lockdown it had not been possible for this to take place. It was agreed that the solicitor writes a further letter giving them until the end of June to remove the shed. If it is not removed the

Parish Council will make arrangements for its removal with two members of the Council present. A photographic inventory will be taken and items removed but any chemicals will be destroyed. If the Parish Council has to make arrangements for its removal it would look to the owners for reimbursement of the cost involved.

- g. **Interpretation Board**; Cllr Walton reported that she had received some photographs. She will draft some wording, including a short history of the Common and circulate to the Committee. The Committee will discuss the siting of the board at a later date.
- h. **Seats**: Clerk to ask Joel to replace the rotten wood under the GWR seat.
- i. **Clearing of saplings by Quarrymans Arms and Ash Cottage**; The work had been carried out but the wood had been left on site. Following a letter to the owner of Ash Cottage, he had replied stating that he had no plans to remove the remaining wood. It was agreed that if they asked for permission again in the future this would not be given unless the wood was removed. The Cotswold Wardens had offered to clear this.

**7. Trees**: The work to the trees had been completed.

**8. Outstanding work on the Common/Lacy Wood**: Priority had been given to completing work on the Playing Fields and the Play Area. The work outstanding was:

- Complete repairs to the picnic table
- Complete the tidying up of the area near the coppice
- Complete the bench for Lacy Wood
- Clear the nettles in Lacy Wood

There will be a walkround in July to look at any other outstanding work.

**9. Risk Assessments**: Because of the current situation the safety of the employees when working was paramount and the Cllr Case could not have the usual walkround with Joel. It was agreed to ask Joel and Robert to walk through the woods on the Upper Common and report any issues.

**10. Correspondence**:

- Letter received from a resident of Albion Terrace asking for the Council to consider sell a small section of the land along the lane to allow cars to be parked. After discussion it was **resolved** that the Parish Council was not in a position to sell any sections of the Common as this would create a precedent.
- **Parking on Lower Common**: Letter from a resident complaining about the number of cars parked on the Common. Clerk to write to the owners of the cars involved and instruct them not to park on the Common or other green areas.

**11. Rights of Way**:

**Matters Arising**:

- a. **Clearing of footpaths**: On-going.
- b. **Monitoring of footpaths**: Committee members to monitor some of the paths
- c. **Items that have been reported**:
  - Stile on Boxfields Road – Cllr Gould and Davies had looked at this. Clerk to ask Cllr Gould to chase this
  - Quarry Woods – Letter from the owner of Quarry Woods stating that he had improved one section of the bridleway this year and would tackle the next section next winter/spring depending on the weather. He had put up some new fencing at the top of the woods to steer people onto the footpath and bridleway but this had been cut within a week. Parishioners to be reminded that this is private land.

- e. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor**: Clerk and Cllr Gould had taken these up with the Rights of Way Warden as a matter of urgency. Clerk to contact him again. If nothing happens by the end of the month it was agreed to remove this from the Minutes.
- f. **Bridge by Real World Studios**: Clerk will check if this has been done
- g. **Sign for Middlehill**: The work to this by the Shed had been impacted by Covid-19
- h. **Clearing work by Cotswold Wardens**:
  - Large tree removed from Footpath 61
  - Footpath 107 between Boxfields and the playing fields had been cleared
  - Footpath sign erected at junction of footpath 49 and the Bradford Road
  - Footpath 56 at Chapel Plaister had been cleared
- i. **Footpath 96 – The Drum**: Wiltshire Council had made an application to extinguish this footpath on the grounds that it is not needed for public use
- j. **Proposed diversion of footpath 50 (part) 52 (part) and 53 (part) at Wadswick**: Waiting for a decision by Wiltshire Council
- k. **Footpath to Speke Memorial**: Clerk had sent a letter to the landowner asking for the still on the footpath to be reinstated.

## **12. Management of the Rudloe Area:**

- **Rudloe Green**: Work to the soil sample survey to be carried out on 28-19 May
- **Mosaic sign**: The mosaic is completed and is at the Shed. Clerk to chase Cllr Anderson as to when this will be erected
- **Play Area**: The work to repainting the play equipment has been completed.
- **Seats at the top of Box Hill**: The two seats need repainting
- **Article in Box & Corsham Matters**: Cllr Davies stated that the article in the Box & Corsham Matters re the Rudloe Community Centre had been misleading
- **Planning application for the new mine at Rudloe**: Planning permission had been granted with no change to the speed limit. It was agreed that the Parish Council asks for this to be taken back to CATG to consider a reduction in the speed limit
- **Overgrown hedge by 1 Berry Cottages**: clerk to write to owners and ask for the hedge to be cut back so that the footpath is passable

## **13. Items of report and future agenda items:**

- **Heavy lorries**: it was reported that B&NES are redirecting all lorries through Box to Melksham. The heavy lorries using the A365 was causing the houses to shake. It was agreed to take this to CATG
- **Tennis Courts**: The top court had been reopened on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Notices with guidelines for use had been put up on the court and in the Post Office. It was reported that some people had forced their way in the courts over the weekend. Discuss at Full Council
- It was reported that there had been travellers by Drewitts Mill. The police had been called and had issued a poaching ticket and had checked the vehicles to establish whether they were taxed
- As it had been stated that “farm vehicles” sign could not be put up at Boxfields as it was not a prescribed sign, it was asked if this to go back to CATG to see if there was an alternative sign that could be used.

## **14. Date of next meeting:** tba