



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL COMMON & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2019

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Case (Chairman); R. Davies; S.Gould;
D. Moore; S. Parker; B. Walton; J. Whitford
Mrs Carey (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies** Cllr J. Cox
- 3. Absent:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
- 5. Declarations of Interest:** Nil
- 6. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meetings held on 17th June 2019 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
- 7. Matters Arising:**
 - a. Lacy Wood:** The Committee had walked round Lacy Wood on 2nd July and the following were noted:
 - Nettles at entrance to be cut
 - Section 4 by the compost area near the top to be cleared
 - Keep grass area cut as it is
 - Keep shrub by bench as it is, trim as necessary
 - Trim bushes around metal seat and remove nettles to widen path seat
 - Remove nettles by metal seat to widen path making it clearer
 - Repair work to the bench
 - Committee to visit Lacy Wood once a quarter
 - Put the Lacy Wood sign back in position with name side facing gate – this has been done
 - b. Box Hill Common:**
Lower Common
Reduce the crowns on two very large Ash trees – see actions
Work on the Lower Common will be carried out as soon as possible. Offer of Cotswold Grassland Wildflower seeds received. This was accepted.
 - c. Japanese Knotweed:** The area had regrown. Joel will continue to strim this regularly as the weather permits
 - d. Pig and a Jig:** This was successful
 - e. Boundaries by Albion Terrace:**
Letter sent annually in April reminding them that the land is owned by the Parish Council. Any new residents would be sent a letter.
 - f. Interpretation Board:** Collect photos for the Board
 - g. Grant from Landfill Communities Fund:** Possible funding available to the Parish council.
 - h. Signpost on Common by old footpath:** Sign to be removed and fingerpost put at the bottom of the steps
 - i. Removal of Sycamore:** The large sycamore is dying. It was agreed to get a quote for felling this – to allow the sapling to grow – and also a quote for

falling the old Elder tree. It was also agreed to ask Joe Thomas to lift the branches on the trees by the Car Park.

It was agreed to make it a policy that if a tree is taken down it should be replaced with a new tree

8. Questions raised by Mr Wright:

Please pass on my thanks to Box PC for publishing the three page Box Hill Common Management Plan. Noting the International Infrastructure Management Manual definition of an Asset Management Plan:

"a plan developed for the management of one or more infrastructure assets that combines multi-disciplinary management techniques (including technical and financial) over the life cycle of the asset in the most cost effective manner.

I would like to raise the following questions.

- 1. Does the Plan compliment or replace the Chalkhill Consultants Management Plan (1998-2002)?**
 - 2. The Cost column does not appear to have any costs associated with the activity, has the plan been costed?**
 - 3. Where is the designated picnic area on the Lower Common?**
 - 4. Where is the conservation activity and subsequent costs for the following:**
 - a. This is responsible for the management (including costs) of the Ash saplings adjacent to the Quarrymans?**
 - b. What are the Whole life management costs of the seats on the Common?**
 - c. What are the Whole life management costs of maintaining the Car Park?**
 - d. What activity and what are the costs of managing of the Lower Common Woodland?**
 - e. Who is responsible for the clearance of the rubbish on the Lower Common Woodland and what are the projected costs?**
 - f. What are the costs for the Whole life management of the steps and rails on the Lower Common?**
 - g. What are the costs for the management of Footpath BOX33 - currently inaccessible from BOX35?**
 - h. What are the costs for the management of Footpath BOX34?**
- I would also like to ask for an update on the Lacy Wood work recommendations, noting that the cost projections have been provided.**

The Committee discussed this and the answers are as follows:

1. The Management Plan does not replace the Chalkhill Consultants Management Plan. It compliments this
2. There are no costs as the work is done in house by Council staff
3. This has not been discussed. Designated picnic area on Lower Common not necessary.
- 4a It is unsure which Ash saplings are being referred to. Cllr Case will meet with Mr Wright
- b-h Indeterminate. Work carried out in house. Money has been put in the budget for the management of the whole of the Common and this will be prioritised as needed.

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. **Items that have been reported:**
New signpost at Middlehill junction: On-going. This is being made by The Shed at a cost of £400
Footpath from Boxfields Road: The stile on one of the newly designated paths is broken. Cotswold Wardens to look at this
Footpath 20: The stile needs repairing
- d. **Proposed diversion of part of F56:** The diversion order had been made and the Cotswold Wardens would be installing a kissing gate
- e. **Footpath 59 and 60 – Hazelbury Manor:** Clerk to ask Carter Jonas to take the issues up with the Estate Manager as a matter of urgency. The Rights of Way Warden at Wiltshire Council had also been contacted.
- f. **Bridge by Real World Studios:** The non-slip covering on the bridge needs attention. Clerk to write to the Studios
- g. **Footpath sign by St Patrick's:** This Rights of Way Warden has dealt with this sign in the past and the sign has been agreed by Wiltshire Council

10. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- **Rudloe Steering Group:** *Transfer to Policy & Finance and Full Council*
- **Mosaic sign:** The Shed are making the frame for the sign and the artwork was being drawn up by the School.
- **Play Area:** See Actions

11. Correspondence: Nil

12. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. **Cemetery:** The Council had been thanked for the work to the driveway in the Cemetery and also for the improvement to the lower part of the Cemetery
- b. **Bargates:** The grass is very overgrown. Cllr Parker to enquire whether the Parish Council can take over the responsibility for this providing there is funding.
- c. Cllr Davies reported a speeding car along Boxfields Road. He had spoken to Mr Freeman about this regarding the possible danger

13. Date of next meeting: 21st October 2019

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Chairman