



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 25th NOVEMBER 2021

1. Present: Councillors: S. Parker (Chairman); A. Barton; R. Campbell; J. Clifford
R. Davies; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; R. Smith;
M. Tye; B. Walton; T. Walton; A. Woollard; D. Wright

Unitary Councillor: D. Walters

Mrs M. Carey (Clerk)

2. Apologies: Councillor: R. Case; B. Mathew
The apologies were accepted.

The Chairman announced the recent death of Mike Williams who was a past Parish Councillor and the Councillors had a few moments reflection in memory of him

3. Public Question Time: There was one member of the public present.

4. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest: There were no announcements or declarations of interest.

5. Minutes: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th October 2021 were agreed as being a true record.

6. Matters Arising:

Replacement mowers: Cllr Ingledew reported that he together with Cllr Tye and the Groundsmen had visited Warminster Town Council to look at a demonstration of the Mean Green Electric mower. He had drawn up a report which he will circulate.

Climate Strategy Working Group: Cllr H. Parker reported that she and Cllr T. Walton had attended a Wiltshire Council seminar on Climate Change along with 33 other representatives. All Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to take action on this. She was alarmed at what little other councils had done and felt that Wiltshire Council was not conveying how serious the situation was and was not doing enough to promote this.

She showed a graph setting out the effects of Climate Change and will circulate this to all Councillors. She reported that the Corsham Climate Action Group was very active. The Corsham Recycling Hub was open and this was being run by Community volunteers

The Council needs to take action and lead a switch to a new social norm.

She reported that she had met with the Clerk to check the consumables used and a lot of these were already complying with the Action Plan. Other changes will be made.

The Action Group was looking at how to implement and for Committees to draft SMART goals. The next task would be a communication strategy and a budget for PR.

She stated that there will be a presentation by the Action Group at the next meeting.

Review of the Website: Cllr T. Walton had received a quotation of £450 to upgrade the website. It was **recommended** that this quotation be accepted and this was carried unanimously. Cllr Campbell is in the process of implementing the new email addresses for Councillors.

Statement by Cllr Davies: Cllr Davies read out a statement on Due Diligence in which he criticized the way the previous Council and the Clerk had dealt with the issue of the S106 monies and the letter from the Agents regarding the proposed sale of the Community Centre. It had been minuted that the S106 “would” be used on the Pavilion and not “could”.

Cllr B. Walton asked when this issue was going to be resolved and felt that at the present time there was nothing else that the money could be spent on. She suggested that the Parish Council could built up a contingency pot of money to be spent at Rudloe. Cllr Campbell stated that there were other areas of the Parish to consider besides Rudloe.

The Clerk reiterated the history of the S106 Agreement and the Chairman stated that there is nothing in Rudloe that the money could be spent on as there is already an agreement between Wiltshire Council and GreenSquare regarding the regeneration of the area.

Cllr Walters stated that if local people are to achieve being carbon neutral the Community Centre needs to be repurposed and not demolished.

It was **proposed** that the money from the S106 Agreement be spent on the Pavilion on the condition that a contingency is built up in future years to be allocated to the Rudloe area.

This was carried by nine votes in favour with 3 against and two absentions.

7. Committees

Policy & Finance: The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2021 were submitted and agreed

Health & Safety Procedures: The recommendation that this be readopted with no changes was agreed unanimously.

8. Cemetery Management: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2021 were submitted and agreed.

9. Planning & Conservation: The Minutes of the Meetings held on 28th October and 8th November 2021 were submitted and agreed.

10. Personnel: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th November 2021 was submitted and agreed.

The **recommendation** that money is put into the budget for succession planning and the Personnel Committee look further at the possibility of providing additional office support was agreed unanimously

The **recommendation** that a small Christmas bonus is paid to the members of staff was carried unanimously.

The **recommendation** that a new hedge cutter be purchased at a cost of £320.82 + vat was agreed unanimously.

11. Urgent Correspondence:

a. **Notice of Road Closure:** The A365 Devizes Road will be closed from its junction with Henley lane to its junction with the Old Jockey from 6th December until 17th December for tree felling. Lower Kingsdown Road will be closed from outside Pinewood for approximately 110m in a north easterly direction for enable Openreach to carry out access to carriageway box and associated works.

- b. **Wiltshire Public Transport cuts:** Letter received from Melksham Transport User Group regarding the proposed withdrawal of through trains from London to Trowbridge and Bradford-on-Avon from next month and the direct service to Warminster is being reduced to just one a day. It was agreed to write objecting to this. In light of the Climate Strategy this is a retrograde step.

12. Applications for Grants:

Four applications for grants had been received. It is understood that Box Pantomime Group, who had applied, will not be holding the pantomime this year.

Box Revels - Request for a grant of £1500 towards the hire of a marquee for the 4 day Revels event. It was **recommended** that a grant of £750 be given to them and the Clerk will advise them to approach the Area Board for match funding.

Wiltshire Citizens Advice - It was **recommended** that a grant of £20 be made

Wiltshire Search & Rescue - It was **recommended** that a grant of £20 be made

13. Items for Discussion: Cllr Davies had raised the following issues:

War Memorial at Ditteridge: Cllr Davies was concerned about the state of the War Memorial at Ditteridge. He was informed that the memorial is owned by the Northey family. The War Memorial Trust had raised the issue of maintenance works and this had been passed to the family. The Parish Council had been asked by the family to look at perhaps transferring ownership as a gift to Ditteridge but it was felt that the necessary repairs should be carried out before any discussions about its future are entered into.

Defibrillators: Cllr Davies raised the issue of more defibrillators. There are currently two in the village and one at the Golf Club. It was stated that the Leafy Lane Playing Fields were considering installing one. It was suggested that the phone box at Ashley could be considered and also a request made to the MoD to put in some at Rudloe.

14. To receive any additional accounts for payment: The additional accounts for payment were agreed

<u>Cheques</u>			
RBL Poppy Appeal	-	Wreath	16.00
<u>BACS</u>			
Ultra-warm	-	Service to boiler, Lodge	216.00
Wiltshire Council	-	PC Contribution F18 (match funding)	625.00
Wiltshire council	-	½ yr NDR Offices	1023.00
Wiltshire council	-	½ yr NDR Cemetery	803.00
Westcare Supply Zone	-	Two printer cartridges	171.60
Wiltshire Council	-	Council Tax Lodge	212.72

15. Statement of Balances

<u>Lloyds</u>		
Current Account	£	14808.43
High Interest account		<u>51900.91</u>
	£	66709.34
Less payments to go out		<u>3078.00</u>
Working balance	£	<u>63631.34</u>
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£	37500.00
Balance in Lloyd	£	<u>101131.34</u>
Held in BIBS	£	81860.51
Held in Nationwide	£	<u>46279.56</u>
		<u>128140.07</u>

16. Chairman's Diary, Representatives' reports and report from County Councillors

Cllr Walters reported that there had been several issues with Gigaclear over the location of the cabinets and how the reinstatement work is carried out afterwards.

Cllr Mathews had raised the issue re problems with speeding through Box and had suggested that Autospeed Speed Watch cameras at a cost of £600 each could be purchased to enable the data to go through the Community Speedwatch to the police. The Chairman stated that at the present time the police are not accepting information from cameras. Waiting for confirmation from the Policy & Crime Commissioner on how speedwatch and the police can work together.

Cllr Walters was pursuing the Speed Assessment Review on the B3109 Bradford Road.

He reported that he had had a meeting with Cllr Wright and the Estates and Head of Housing to look at the Green at Rudloe. 73 objections had been raised over the proposed loss of the Green. He is waiting to hearing from GreenSquare to enable Councillors to view the Community Centre. Cllr Wright stated that residents do not want disruption and several want things to remain as they are.

17. Items of report and future agenda items:

- It was reported that there will be an online meeting between Corsham Area Board and Gigaclear on Wednesday 1st December at 6 pm
- It was agreed that an article should go into the Parish Magazine about the works to be carried out by Gigaclear.
- Cllr Barton reported that the lane at Lower Wadswick had been repaired but this was not very satisfactory.
- Clerk to ask the Groundsman to clear the leaves at Northey Hill.
- Cllr Clifford gave her apologies for the Playing Fields & Pavilion management committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.59 pm

Chairman