



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE BOX HILL & RUDLOE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 16th OCTOBER 2023

1. **Present:** Councillors: D. Wright (Chairman); R. Davies; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; S. Roche; B. Walton; T. Walton
Cllr. D. Walters
2. **Apologies** Cllrs D. Dorey; M. Tye
3. **Public Question Time:** There was one member of the public present.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** Nil
5. **Walk round:** Members of the Committee had walked round prior to the meeting.
6. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st August 2023 were taken as read and signed as being a true record
7. **Risk Assessment and Forward Plan:** The Risk Assessment was reviewed. This links in to the Forward Plan. To be circulated to the Committee
 - a. **Insufficient resource available to deliver the Box Hill Common & Lacy Wood Management Plan:** It had been estimated that 96 working days will be required to deliver the work to the Common and Lacy Wood. Analysis of the timesheets is being undertaken and circulated to Committee chairs
 - b. **Ash tree dieback:** The number of trees with Ash dieback is spreading and will be managed in accordance with the Box Hill Common and Lacy Wood Management Plan. The estimated cost of £2k is within the 2023/24 precept.
 - c. **Stairway to heaven:** Three steps had been replaced this year. £200 to be put in the budget for next year.
 - d. **Rudloe Play Area:** Waiting for the RoSPA report. Cllrs T. Walton and Wright to meet with Mike Dawson from Wiltshire Council on 24th October
 - e. **Interpretation Board:** On going. £200 to be put in the budget for replacement. Id Verde had offered to buy bird boxes etc.
 - f. **Lacy Wood Dry Stone Wall:** The Cotswold Wardens will be carrying out the work when appropriate stone is made available and the walling team have sufficient time to complete the task
 - g. **Retaining wall at Albion Terrace:** Discussed later in the meeting
 - h. **Tree stumps:** £500 to be put in the budget for more treatment
 - i. **Japanese Knotweed:** Monitor this to ensure it does not spread. Any cut materials must be contained. Cllr Wright to speak to Tree Parts about treatment
Action: DW
 - l. **Lacy Wood Tree Safety Action Plan:** Further £5k to be put in the budget to deliver the management of Lacy Wood
 - m. **Thoday Wood:** This is being maintained
8. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a. **Albion Terrace:** The vegetation will have to be cleared from the wall before any works can be undertaken.

Quotation for the work received from Tree Parts Ltd in the sum of £3320 + vat
It is **recommended** that the quotation be accepted

One quotation received from Marcus Mitchel to carry out the repairs to the wall. It was agreed that more quotations were needed

- b. **Wildflower Meadow:** 5 kgs of wild flower seed has been given to the Box Hill Community group to sow on the lower and middle Common. A representative from Jamies Farm will sow seed on the slopes. Expression of Interest to be made to the Bristol Avon Cathment Market for a grant to increase biodiversity by improving the soil conditions in order to promote the growth of limestone wildflower meadows. **Action: DW**
- c. **Box Hill Common residents Group:** The group meets on the first Sunday of each month.
- d. **Community Payback team:** The team is carrying out clearing work twice a month to clear the hemp agrimony
- e. **Box Hill Common - seats:** Two parishioners had offered to donate seats. It was agreed that one could be placed on the upper common to replace the damaged seat and the other could be put on the lower common.
- f. **Lacy Wood Management Plan:** Further work to be carried out next winter
- g. **Rowan tree on Lower Common:** A resident had offered to plant a Rowan tree on the Lower Common to form part of the biodiversity plan
- h. **Box Hill Community meeting:** The meeting had been successful with residents raising concerns about two vehicles which are parked permanently in the car park. They felt that notices could either be put on the windscreens or a notice stating that the car park had been designed for visitors to the Common. Information to be sent to local residents informing them of the constraints. There was a discussion on defining the actual car parking spaces.

9. Management of the Rudloe Area:

- a. **Rudloe Community Centre:**
Cllr Walters reported that the Rudloe Community Association had been revived with the Charity Commission with five new Trustees.
A bid had been made to the Corsham Area Board for the transfer of the Community Centre from Wiltshire Council to the Rudloe Community Association. The Area Board had agreed to refer the application to Wiltshire Council Cabinet for a decision.

Cllr T. Walton stated that he had raised two issues at the Area Board meeting as follows;

- I. The report stated that no funds had been allocated by Wiltshire Council to carry out any repairs to the building. The amount needed is unknown and usually no works are undertaken prior to a lease being granted
- II. The report stated that Corsham Baptist Church are the anchor tenant and whilst the reason for this is understood the lease will restrict any use of the building for political or religious activity eg conducting religious services

Cllr Walters replied that he was negotiating with Wiltshire Council about the repairs being carried out and stated that other local councils has leases with religious groups. The Rudloe Community Association as lessees would be entitled to let it out to any religious group

Cllr Roche asked whether the objectives of the Charity as set were considered acceptable as this would be critical going forward.

Cllr Walters stated that they were looking to simplify this to tidy up some of

the procedures and to look at reviewing the Constitution.

- b. **Rudloe Play Area**: see item 7d above
- c. **Grassed areas at Ashwood Road and Pine Close**: Wessex Water had now cleared away the mess that they had left and had reseeded the area. As stated previously Wiltshire Council has agreed to cut the grassed areas in the future
- d. **Rudloe Community Group**: The Group had raised concerns about the safety of the Play Area which are being addressed.
Cllr Wright to ask the Group for a report on how the grant of £100 had been spent.
- e. **Rudloe surgeries**: The MoD Community Centre is closed at the present time with work commencing on 5th November
- f. **Parish Steward**: Clerk to ask the Parish Steward to clear the pavement on the A4 from Lower Rudloe to Hedgesparrow Lane.
- h. **Grant to the Rudloe Community Association**: Cllr Walters asked for the Parish Council to use its precept to ensure a notional equity so that Rudloe residents feel they are being dealt with fairly, particularly as the position regarding suitable assets or opportunities at Rudloe is changing. The question of the S106 money was also discussed. He also stated that the Association was expending financial support from the Corsham Baptists but the Parish Council needs to consider about its support

10. Budget forecast 2023/24:

- **Albion Terrace**: £5000
- **Box Hill Common resource shortfall** - £6000
- **Tree stump treatment** - £500
- **Lacy Wood management plan**: Tree Parts - £4,500
- **Orchard pruning course** – Cotswold Conservation Board donation - £500
- **Refreshments for Community Payback team** - £300
- **Due Dilligence for Rudloe Green**: Clerk to ask Tony Jones for a quote to cut the Green during the summer months
- **Stairway to Heaven** – steps £200
- **Rudloe Play Area**
- **Interpretation Board** - £200
- **Building up the Fund for Rudloe**

11. Items of report and future agenda items:

- a. It was reported that the handrail on the slope on the Recreation Ground had fallen over – ten posts are needed. Cllr Wright to speak to Joel
- b. An electric bike had been ridden on the Recreation Ground causing extensive damage.

12. Date of next meeting: 14th December 2023

Chairman

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm