



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN MEETING OF THE PLAYING FIELDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7th OCTOBER 2024

Present: Councillors: B. Walton (Chair) M. Tye (Vice Chair); T. Walton; N. Ingledew; R. Bean; H. Parker; Ms. G. Potts – Box Allotment Group; Mr. K. Derby – Bowls Club.

Ms. H. Barbrook (Asst. Clerk)

1. Apologies: Cllr. R. Bolton

2. Public Question Time: No members of the public present.

3. Declaration of Interests: There were no declaration of interest relating to items on the Agenda.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th August 2024, The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th August 2024 were amended as follows 5. b) Allotments should read allotment 1A not 1B; they were then taken as read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

a. **Play Area:**

Community Playground Development Group: ROSPA report to go on website. ROSPA report inspects quality and safety not risk.

Cllr. M. Tye is looking at how issues are reported and then recorded when addressed. Staff have attended ROSPA training and have forwarded an example checklist to Cllr. M. Tye. ROSPA can provide a checklist for the cost of £40.

Action: Cllr. B. Walton to talk to staff at appraisals about using a playground checklist and decide a reporting procedure and report back.

b. **Allotments:**

Update from allotment representative:

G. Potts reported improved conditions on allotments following the letters sent from the P.C. asking for improvement in cultivation.

Following letters to allotment holders regarding security of the site some have complained that the fencing and gate posts need to be improved.

Action: Open Spaces Workers to fix the post to gate leading from recreation area.

Agreed: To put in place a dead hedge, wired to hold in place, adjacent to the stream boundary.

Put money in future budgets to improve fencing.

Action: Cllr. R. Bean to talk to Head of Box School about raising the netting on top of their fence to prevent balls coming into the allotments.

Path retaining work: now completed.

Coppice/pollard Ash Tree: Completed.

Willow T19: Agreed: Cllr. B. Walton to write to resident who owns this tree reminding of the need to prune, the high footfall adjacent to the tree and their need for insurance.

c. Update on Lovar Garden:

Path now clear; need to ensure nettles are removed by bog garden.

Action: Open Spaces Workers.

Cllr. B. Walton is investigating wildlife pond training for the Open Spaces Workers. Sediment is affecting the inlet pond. Possible grants available from Wessex Water but need to make a plan first.

Nettles are next to the dead willow stumps; could Community Payback team pull these and plant seeds for plants in shaded areas; Cllr. B. Walton has seeds available.

Action: Cllr. M. Tye to speak to Community Payback team.

d. Trees and hedges.

Committee looked at the report from Tree Parts Ltd. on possible future work. There is deadwood that needs addressing. Suggestion of succession planting; Parishioners could sponsor a tree. There is still some money in this year's budget that can be spent on some of this work.

Agreed: To put £2.5 k in next budget for tree works for the Playing Fields Committee. Cllr. B. Walton & Assistant Clerk to meet with Tree Parts Ltd. to discuss work and possible costs.

Cllr. B. Walton has booked Mark Taylor to cut the Mill Lane hedge.

Request that any spare logs/dead wood be put in the Cemetery for use there. However, Cllr B Walton said that spare logs were needed around the veteran chestnut.

e. Bowling Green:

K. Derby reported that it had been a good season; relations with the P.C. have improved and they have made contributions to community events.

Agreed: K. Derby will ask the Bowls Club Treasurer to share the figures for the December meeting of the Playing Fields Committee.

Query about whether Charities can use the Lower Pavilion for charitable purposes; **to go on Buildings Committee agenda.**

The Club is keeping an eye on chemicals being used and costs. ASMC are supposed to ask the Club when and where they intend to use chemicals to gain their agreement first but this is not always happening.

Action: Asst. Clerk to liaise with K. Derby and contact ASMC reminding them of this arrangement; inform Bowls Club of outcome.

Materials reconciliation update: Total income: £9,438.00 Total expenditure £8,554.40 difference of £883.60.

Recommendation: Difference of £883.60 to be repaid to the Bowling Club as per previous agreement.

For: 5 Against:1

New light to Bowling Club gate now in place.

Query about status of Bowls Club and VAT on materials; to go to Finance and Governance Committee.

5. Other items for discussion:

Items to be considered for the budget 25/26 and review of charges.

- Basketball Court Fencing
- Tennis Courts £10k
- Durable signs for the Recreation area. **Action: Cllr. H. Parker to investigate costs and report back.**
- Review of charges – football pitch. **Action: Cllr. R. Bean to investigate what others are charging and report back**
- ~~Increase charges for showers building committee~~
- 2 more recycling bins – check current usage first.
- Longer term objective of peppercorn rent for the Bowls Club in 26/27
- Raise allotment fees by 5%

Tennis Courts: The Revels donated an additional £2k on top of the £1k previously donated; fund now at about £15k. Applying for grants - £2.5k from Area Board and £10k from landfill grant. More fundraising events coming up.

Query about whether Tennis Club can lease from the P.C. – Cllr. M. Tye has talked to the Charity Commission and thinks it's ok.

Forward Plan/Risk Assessment: Needs updating.

Action: Asst. Clerk and Cllr. B. Walton to update.

Cricket Club. Cllr. B. Walton to meet with the Cricket Club to discuss maintenance cycle and costs; to include OSW team leader. **Action: R. Bean to contact Cricket Club to arrange meeting.**

Signs on Recreation Ground: Cllr. H. Parker to assess costs and report back.

The signs for the recycling bins have been ordered by the Clerk.

School Path: Work started today. Insurance certificates received from Ashley Rich. Email received recently from 5 Mead Villas resident following the partial collapse of side wall asking to see any correspondence with stone mason; despite trying to make contact 3 times since June this is the first response apart from a verbal conversation with Cllr. B. Walton. A visual check by the stonemason of the corner of the wall stated it looked okay for the pathway work to be done.

Agreed: To ask resident of 5 Mead Villas to remove rubble from public footpath as it is a health and safety hazard, **Action: Asst. Clerk.**

6. Walkabout

- Car Park bin broken – **to go on Highways agenda**
- Move Upper Court Tennis bin next to Cricket bench
- Poor glow to lights up path to Valens Terrace, need proper PIR lights. **Action: Cllr. H. Parker to obtain quotes from Jim Bond**
- Allotments: 7C & 1A allotments both clear now; 4B not cleared – give immediate notice to tenant; 7D – letter to ask for renewal of condition by 1st December; 8B – letter to ask for renewal of condition by 1st December. **Action: Asst, Clerk**

7. Climate Strategy Action Plan – Impact on Playing Fields and Pavilion actions:

No update at this meeting; to go on next meeting's agenda.

8. Items or report:

- **BMX track:** request to update and improve the BMX track. Cllr. R. Bean has spoken to those who would like to see the track updated; all felt that if people were keen to update the track, they needed to come up with a plan that the P.C. can look at and then decide if they can support and put in the Forward Plan. Cllr. R. Bean to feedback to interested parties.
- There is rubble from the collapsed side wall of 5 Mead Villas on the public footpath. **Action: Asst. Clerk to inform them that the P.C. expects the rubble to be cleared ASAP so footpath is clear for public use.**

9. Date of next meeting – 2nd December 2024

Chair

Meeting closed at 21.13 pm