

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 August 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

Present: David Griffiths (DG), Moya Grove (MG), Nick Horne (NH), Rick Franke (RF)

1. Apologies: Terry Gilmour (TG), Trish Heaton (TH), Abby Purver (AP), Julian Hudson (JH)
2. Declaration of Interests: None
3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 20 July 2023: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting apart from one point raised by NH, it should be 'bird spikes' not 'bird wire' on the swings.
4. Matters Arising:
5. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows: -

- A) Finance – Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached report ([10823 1](#)). All allotment rents have been received for 2023.

NH raised the issue of a hole in the rabbit wire on the playing field by the zip wire. RF to look at a possible repair. It is mentioned on the finance report that Ian Daubney fixed the fence on the playing field. DG to clarify what fence this related to.

NH raised the issue of a 'Virtual footpath' mentioned on the precept budget. NH is going to look into this further and report back if there are any issues as we were unable to locate the entry during the meeting.

NH would like to know from CPC how the information boards were financed (c£4000), as the total income for the Common is in the region of £5800 and there should be no use of the precept for Common repairs. This is particularly relevant to the the Option One / Option Two statement discussions below. Before issuing Option One, NH would like to be certain that no money comes out of the precept so that we are not giving out incorrect information.

- B) Allotments – T. Gilmour had nothing to report.

NH to check with MD as to whether all money has been collected for the allotments. It was noted by EN after the meeting that the allotment rents have been received, see note above inserted by the Parish Clerk Mandy Denyer (MD).

- C) Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([10823 3](#)).

- I. Update on Fishing Rights – Nothing to report
- II. MG and MD went to a meeting attended by Defra and the RPA (Rural Payment Agency) on Monday 7/8/23. No information was given regarding what will replace the Higher Level Stewardship and Countryside Stewardship payments that we are currently receiving, in the coming 5 years. MG was told by the NFU representative that there was free help available from land agents. MG has established that Savilles in Winchester have land agents and they are willing to advise us. MG established that we can switch and change during the lifetime of the scheme we are on; we do not need to stay on the same one for the full 5 years. MG would like it noted by CPC that Savilles will give us

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 August 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

free advice on this matter. Although we are already involved with Savilles in Salisbury concerning the fishing rights, MG recommends the Winchester office as the Winchester agent lives locally.

- III. Thanks to MG and RF for the design and installation of the new sign at the top of Joys Lane.
- IV. MG reported that Wessex Rivers Trust (WRT) were on the Common today. MG contacted them to have a look at the area up stream of the Purleygig bridge, where the new stone bank has started to erode, but has not heard back as yet. WRT have also provided the wording of the River Restoration Scheme. MG has advised she has sent back some suggestions as it is rather wordy.

- V. COSC discussed the letter from [REDACTED] and the two suggested replies from MD. MG believes Option One needs 'beefing up' with more emphasis on aggressive behaviour and a clear statement that there is officially no parking.

DG noted that COSC feel disappointed by the letter from [REDACTED] as attempts have been made over and over to address the problems but have been thwarted repeatedly by poor parking and other issues.

NH would like the addition of the Option One background information somewhere on the website. DG to amend the wording of Option Two in line with our discussions.

DG believes [REDACTED] is justified in her point about disabled parking. DG suggested putting additions to the roadside finger posts to say 'the Common'. TH earlier suggested that blue badge holders be given the gate code and DG would support this. EN suggested an annual code reset. RF thinks that the gate will be left open if too many people are given the code. NH suggested that we give the code to anyone who asks if they have good reason. It was agreed that access would be given to blue badge holders who request it with a discretion to include non-blue badge holders where appropriate. Those given the code will be informed that they must ensure no one else follows them in and that they close the gate after them.

- VI. The new gate at the bottom of Joys Lane was discussed with regard to the problem of it being 'bounced' open. The simplest way to deal with the problem is to move the hinges back to the other side where the posts are stronger. The difficulty is that it may partially obstruct the horse access gate. DG suggested this time the gate will only go back 90 degrees so as to lessen the impact on the horse turning area. EN went through the options provided by AP:
- a. To move the horse gate forward, so that it was in line with the end of the new gate. The difficulty with this was that the ditch would need to be fenced over in some way.
 - b. To use a shorter gate in its current position, then have a short section of fence between the cattle grid and this gate in line with current British Horse Society guidance.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 August 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

- c. To leave the Joys Lane access gate in its current position but fill the post with concrete to add extra support.

COSC deemed the costs involved in the above to be prohibitive. The main gate hinges will be moved back to the other side, but only set back to 90 degrees. The effect will be monitored.

- VII. DG has bought the salt licks to try to deter the cows from nibbling the Old Cottage. They will go on the gravel area to avoid them interfering with the soil.
- VIII. MG noted that the Management Plan says we should clear scrub from the boundary and we did a good job last year. We ought now to look at the South boundary. RF will chop the fallen trees down. Once the trees are removed, the fence will need replacing. DG confirmed this will be actioned.
- IX. There was a positive response to the ITV Meridian filming which was broadcast today, just prior to the meeting. congratulations to MG for her performance.
- X. Subject to the quote, COSC are happy with the arrangement suggested by AP to the new horse gate at the Long Bridge.
- XI. Andy Bond provided a cheaper quote for improving the stone road on the Common. He will scrape the top and hire a leveller and roller to make the surface level again. He provided a combined quote for removing the root from the ditch next to the Abbots Mitre, digging out the Rectory Green ditch, removing the slide mound and doing this work to the gravel road on the Common. It made sense to do all the as he will have already hired machinery to clear the slide mound. DG to take this back to CPC for an approval. COSC would like to recommend all this work.

D) Machinery Maintenance

The parish council chainsaw was taken to Andover Garden Machinery and they got it started but found that there is no air filter on it. As the saw has not been used DG will go back to the original supplier who is going to sort this out.

E) Parish Paths – Cllr Griffiths

Footpath no 16 (Test Valley Farm path) is badly overgrown and the lengths man has been contacted to clear it.

F) Village Greens

DG suggested dragons teeth be added all the way along to the pumping station to prevent parking on the grass. COSC agree.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 August 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

G) War Memorial Playing Fields – Prior to the meeting NH circulated the attached report ([10823 2](#)).

- I. Update on CWMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal update. NH reported that the Adventure Tower is coming in September and the slide mound will need to be removed before the end of August. The soil will be put towards the pump track.

NH requested an update on football users. DG was notified afterwards that there had been a match on Saturday. The football team were supposed to notify NH but the message did not get through or was not sent. However, they got in using the gate codes without help and there were no problems.

The Public Protection Order has been extended but the Playing Field has not yet been included. COSC agreed that there would be 3 gates (one to the Common, one to Whitelands Path and one to the Playing Field) in roughly a straight line between the existing two gates. COSC's recommendation is: we would like these orders to cover CWMPF and that we should get a quote for the fencing. MG would like it clarified before we go ahead, that it definitely covers Chilbolton. CPC to confirm please.

NH reported concerning the professional tree works, that we have a quote for the Playing Field which was in the region of £500 from Nick Ives. As it is aerial work it does need to be done professionally. RF also has a contact who will provide a quote. NH requested that we also look at the branch that goes over the container, although it is accessible, its size and position means it would be better done by a professional.

NH reported an update on the zip wire. He and Ed Treadwell are looking at whether greater tension can be put on the wire. The scramble stack has a pinion detached, but Vitaplay are not being helpful. Both of these are a work in progress.

NH asked when the wild flower area would be cut? DG is prepared to do it in the winter when he puts the beast away.

The grass contractors did not do the most recent cut because they did not have the gate code and are unable to come back before the next football match as they have a tight schedule. NH or EN to cut the grass with their ride on mowers.

NH reported that we will try and sell the slide and get for it what we can. Jenny Brain at TVBC has also been contacted to see if she knows of any local councils wanting a slide.

H) West Down

DG reported that the two oak trees appear to be dead, but the other Green Canopy trees are doing well.

DG confirmed that a new gate has been installed to Dobb's field but there is a big gap next to it. This was due to the vegetation being cut right back. It should bush back up and fill in the gap. Carole Eton is going to put a no cycling sign on the gate and DG is in the process of obtaining this.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 August 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

The West Down working party will begin again in September. There will also be some tree felling in the sycamore wood.

MG asked if Glynne Evans is in touch with the grazier as they appear to have taken the cattle off West Down already and we need them there as part of the maintenance of the land.

EN said she will buy the posts and paint them ready to go in along the bridleway.

6. Correspondence:

27/7/23 email received re Common access and CPC agreed response sent 1/8/23 ([4923 6](#))

7. Questions from Public:

8. Any Other Business – For information only

NH raised the ambassador / wardenship scheme. He does not propose re-writing it but will contact Jenny Brain for more details as she has said TVBC will help.

9. Items for the next agenda: none

10. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 14 September 2023 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at: 8:15pm