

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 September 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

1. Apologies: Nick Horne (NH), Rick Franke (RF), Moya Grove (MG), Terry Gilmour (TG), Abby Purver (AP)
2. Declaration of Interests: None
3. Approval of Minutes – The signing of the minutes of Thursday 10 August 2023 to be deferred to the October meeting.
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 ([13923 1](#)). DG would like it agreed that queries about the finances should be raised with the Parish Clerk in the first instance and only brought up at the meeting if not satisfactorily addressed by her. COSC agreed with this suggestion.
 - B) Allotments: Prior to the meeting TG had nothing to report.
 - C) Common: Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([13923 3a](#)) and the notice for volunteers to help clear Abbots Stream ([13923 3](#))
 - I. Update on Fishing Rights: Prior to the meeting the Clerk reported that Cllr Ewer has received the draft agreement. Cllr Griffiths to review. Legal advice will be required (TE reported to CPC that Strutt and Parker may cover at least some of this cost). DG confirmed that a deed had been sent by Freelands which has been viewed by MG. It is couched in legal language. DG and TE will look into obtaining some independent legal advice on the document and proposed agreement. JH suggested HALCs. DG to investigate.
 - II. DG and MG will meet on the Common to decide what work needs doing. Once that has been established it will be decided whether it can be done by volunteers or if professionals will be needed.
 - III. DG will contact Rob West at Vesper to discuss the autumn cut.
 - IV. DG provided feedback following gate closure. Feedback from villagers was that there was little litter / overcrowding / anti-social behaviour, so it seemed to have worked. There are benefits in that cars parked in the village street slow traffic generally and the shop and pub gained extra business. The two Andys will be attaching 'The Common' signs on the three finger posts to the Common from the village street.
 - V. Regarding the horse gates, the Wherwell side is now satisfactorily resolved. At the Joys Lane side the new security gate was moved to the other side to prevent the wobbling open of the gate, but it is now said to be obstructing horse access. The 3 suggestions provided by AP some time ago were discussed. It was decided that the security gate will be rehung back on the right

Agreed and Signed (Chairman)

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hand side as you look at it from Joys Lane and the post will be reinforced. More sturdy dragons teeth to be installed to prevent cars blocking the horse gate. DG to contact Andy Bond to discuss the best way of moving it back on the pedestrian gate side with a substantial post on which to hang it.

- VI. DG noted that the football team managed the opening and closure of the gate by themselves with no difficulties. Thanks should be passed on to the football team. It must be made clear to any future users that if they use the CWMPF when the gate is closed they must ensure that no unauthorised vehicles are let in.
- VII. DG said that a member of the public has attached the no cycling and no horse riding signs on the low posts on the Common at the request of COSC.
- VIII. All tracks (including the area where cars park) on the Common have been repaired. DG to speak to MD about getting contributions from Common Residents.

D) Machinery Maintenance:

- I. DG took the chainsaw to AGM to fix and they said it was missing an air filter. This has now been returned to the company which provided the chainsaw. They will supply and fit an air filter free of charge.

E) Parish Paths:

- I. DG reported that the lenglts man has done a good job on footpath 16 (Test Valley Farm path). Three emails have been sent to HCC about the Mark Way, but due to lack of staff, this is now not going to be cleared until later in the year. **PUT A LINK TO HCC EMAIL**
- II. TH reported that along part of Whitelands Path a new metal fencing has been installed.

F) Village Greens:

- I. DG reported that more dragons teeth have been installed along the verge towards the pumping station.
- II. DG suggested in relation to Stocks Green, MG and Jenny Hamilton draft a policy on how best to manage that area for future protection of the orchids and other wild flowers. COSC agreed.
- III. TH mentioned that the backs of the phone boxes have still not been painted. DG to chase this up.

G) War Memorial Playing Fields:

- I. Update on CWMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal - DG has confirmed that the slide mound has now been removed. EN reported that Caledonia Play have confirmed that due to supplier issues it's likely to be October before the adventure tower is installed.
- II. Several offers of soil have been received for the cycle track. EN to contact the villagers and collect soil.
- III. CCTV and basketball hoops to be addressed on NH's return.

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- IV. DG reported that as yet, he has not obtained any quotes for fencing off the end of the CWMPF. DG to look into whether Chilbolton is covered in the Public Spaces Protection Order.
- V. DG also reported that the boundary has been agreed with the owners of the Watch Estate and the gate will be moved back in line with this agreement.
- H) West Down:
- I. EN reported that the paint and posts have been bought for the bridleway signs and will be painted ready for installation.
- II. DG reported that a grant from Test Valley Borough Council for finger posts will be applied for.
- III. DG is making enquiries to see if a man and a tractor can cut part of the enclosed to enable the working party to concentrate on less accessible areas.
- IV. DG confirmed that the working party will recommence in October.
- V. The area outside the enclosed area, including the picnic area, will be cut by Rob West.
6. Update on ways to make Virgin Media and BT Junction boxes around the village more aesthetically pleasing. Prior to the meeting JH circulated draft application template ([13923 2](#)) and competition guidelines ([13923 2a](#)). COSC discussed the idea and raised concerns that the idea of a competition was slightly misleading. It felt the plans were a good first start, but it needed to be less complicated. Thanks to JH for his work so far. Further discussions required when NH is back.
7. Item for next agenda: to discuss and decide a Stocks Green cutting policy to be approved by CPC:
8. Correspondence
- 8/8/23 - PRA roundtable meeting held on 7/8/23 ([4923 9](#))
- 29/8/23 - Hampshire Forest Partnership tree planting in Test Valley ([4923 13](#)) ([Map 4923 13a](#))
9. Questions from Public:
A member of the public, Claire Lane attended to discuss concerns about the horse gate at the bottom of Joys Lane. These discussions are covered above.
10. Any Other Business – For information only
Matters briefly discussed at the request of Parish Clerk by DG:
- I. Warden arrangements for Common - this is an outstanding matter for NH.
- II. Tree survey – This is an outstanding item for DG and RF. Will be dealt with in the near future.
- III. CWMPF boundary – This is in progress (as above).

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- IV. Coronation Green – this is an outstanding action for DG. The bench needs repairing, the top strut needs replacing. DG spoke to Brian Fakes about it but this is ongoing.
 - V. CCTV at the basketball court – TBC with NH.
 - VI. Residents parking – this was briefly discussed, but deemed not a matter for COSC.
 - VII. Enclosed sports area – DG to deal as above.
 - VIII. The tree root in the ditch has been removed. The ditch was to be lined with concrete but DG has been advised that this is not a good idea. COSC is of the view that lining the ditch with concrete is not appropriate.
11. Items for the next agenda:
- I. RPA Sustainable Farming Incentive
 - II. To discuss and decide on whether to stipulate a number of cattle to be grazed on the Common at any one time
12. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 12 October 2023 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 08:15pm