

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street

PRESENT: David Griffith (DG), Moya Grove (MG), Trish Heaton (TH), Emma Noble (EN), Julian Hudson (JH)

1. Apologies: Terry Gilmore (TG) Cllr Rick Franke (RF) who is on a 6 month sabbatical.
2. Declaration of Interests: None
3. Approval of Minutes – [Thursday 9 November 2023](#): These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the 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 ([141223 1](#))
 - i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting: details within the finance report.
 - ii. To discuss s106 funds available and potential new projects: s106 details within finance report.

DG noted that Andy Bond has been paid for the new sign which points down to Whitelands path.

TH raised whether some of the CIL funds for Fenstanton could be considered for the DG works on CWMPF. The development group won't know what is required until after the pump track is completed, but would like the interest noted.

B) Allotments – Prior to the meeting TG had nothing to report.

TG to be reminded to check whether our allotment prices are in line with other similar local allotments.

C) Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([141223 2](#))

- I. Update on Fishing Rights: CPC Chairman gave the following report at the 4.12.23 CPC meeting: - TE and DG met with Giles Bevan-Thomas of Parker Bullen, Andover. The legal cost is expected to be between £750 and £1000 plus VAT.

MG added that there are a couple of items she would like addressing regarding the Fishing Rights. First, is that it gives Freelands permission to look after existing bridges and seats (part 7). The two main bridges are HCC's responsibility so a distinction should be made. Secondly, one of the ways Wessex River Trust (WRT) manages the river is to cut trees down into it because it makes a varied habitat for fish. MG would like it added into the report that the fishermen do not remove trees that have been cut down by WRT.

- II. MG informed that a parking letter is being sent to all residents of the Common to ask that there is a formal agreement for parking two cars only. JH is going to draw up a plan next week to go with the agreement.

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- III. Delinked Payments are the new word for the Sustainable Farming Incentive. TE has made enquiries with a former councillor on behalf of COSC. DG and MG will approach the land agent at Savilles.
- IV. MG noted that only ONE of the two fallen trees on the Main river cattle fence needed attention. Freelands, if they are to tackle the job, must be advised about this and Cllr TE also. No heavy machinery to be used. COSC have concerns about the use of this machinery before the bird nesting season. It's not realistic to expect that the heavy machinery that Freelands propose to use is appropriate in the foreseeable future due to wet ground conditions. Therefore COSC recommend that it should be done either by volunteers or otherwise a paid contractor.
- V. Regarding the suggestion from the Flood Action Group of using machinery to clear the silt from the Abbots Stream, COSC do not recommend this as damage to the stream bed should be avoided.
- VI. COSC recommends that the self closing gates and fencing be checked before the cows return next year.
- VII. TH raised the issue of the wardening scheme. This will be postponed for consideration in the spring.

D) Machinery Maintenance

Nothing to report

- E) Parish Paths – Prior to the meeting DG reported the following: - “The Lengths Man cleared the Whitelands Path and the Mark Way as it runs parallel with FP 16. I have not checked his work yet. HCC have yet to clear the rest of the Mark Way”.

DG has now confirmed the bottom part of the Mark Way up to the first turning has been done by the Lengthsman as has Whitelands Path.

TH noted that there was a deep channel appeared in Whitelands Path where rain water has run down. DG will contact HCC to arrange to have this filled in.

- F) Village Greens - CPC approved the attached Cutting of Stock Green Policy at the 4.12.23 meeting ([41223 4](#)). This has already been agreed.
- G) War Memorial Playing Fields – Prior to the meeting NH circulated the attached report ([141223 3](#))
 - I. Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower update: TH reported that the Development Group met today to discuss what snagging needs to be sorted by Caledonia Play on the Adventure Tower. There are a few points which the Development Group don't understand so contact will be made with Nick Adams the inspector to clarify and a further

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meeting will take place in the New Year to decide which points need addressing, and which can be left as they are. The development group decided to defer the decision on payment until the New Year. The main concerns are areas of split wood and that the ground surface wasn't flat.

- II. Discuss and Decide on proposal to CPC re enclosing the WMPF to be able to apply for an 'Enclosed Sports Area' under the TVBC Public Spaces Protection: Regarding the enclosing of the Playing Field, DG is going to contact TVBC to confirm what is covered.
 - III. NH will contact Spalding to see if he can get some agreement on Basket Ball hoop repairs.
 - IV. NH is going to contact the person in Wherwell who was interested in the slide. Otherwise it is hoped it can be sold elsewhere privately.
 - V. TH noted that NH has contacted a person from Vitaplay regarding the clamber stack repairs and a representative will be attending tomorrow.
 - VI. DG noted that there was a plan to mark the boundary of CWMPF with proper posts, they are currently marked with little flags. Before the next meeting Geoff Cockram and DG will hammer in some posts to mark the boundary.
- H) West Down: Prior to the meeting DG reported the following: - "Rob West has cut the non-enclosed area as requested. He has also cut inside the enclosed area but not as I asked. I wanted him to tackle the open areas. Instead he has cut under trees. I have spoken to him and I am trying to arrange a meeting on West Down when I will point out the areas I want cut.

Tuesday sessions have not been too productive due to weather and unavailability. Tony Ewer's request for volunteers has fallen on deaf ears.

I have not yet tackled the matters arising from the Tree Survey. I am aware that I must get on with it".

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MG confirmed that the parish boundary is up the centre of the Mark Way and the far side is Leckford Estate where the dying ash trees are located. DH will look into this with a view to getting MD to write Leckford PC a letter asking them to arrange tree felling.

EN raised the possibility of having a bench on West Down in Abby Purver's memory; this has been requested by her husband. COSC agreed that this shouldn't be a problem but permission ought to be sought from the landlords (HCC). EN to look into this.

MG raised that the The Test Valley Farm planning application has indicated in the the 'mitigation' section that they will re-wild the non-developed area and it will be grazed by cattle currently used by CPC on West Down. MG considers that COSC should keep a watching brief on the application because it may affect the agreement and the grazier.

6. Correspondence:

8/11/23 - Letter sent to Caledonia Play re balance of payment for Adventure tower ([41223 2](#)), Caledonia reply ([41223 2a](#), [2b](#)), Cllrs emails agreeing to pay 75% ([41223 2c](#)), letter to Caledonia ([41223 2d](#))

7. Questions from Public:

8. Any Other Business – For information only:

9. Items for the next agenda:

10. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 11 January 2024 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.