

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 January 2024; Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

PRESENT: Cllr David Griffith (DG), Chair; Moya Grove (MG), Trish Heaton (TH), Julian Hudson (JH)

1. Apologies: Cllr Rick Franke (RF), Nick Horne (NH), Terry Gilmore (TG)
2. Declaration of Interests: Nil.
3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 14 December 2023: amendments were made to the draft minutes:
 - NH should be added to the apologies.
 - TH has suggested an addition to the last para under H) about the discussion of West Down grazing: 'The arrangement for the grazing on Test Valley Farm is a private agreement between the grazier and the owner of Test Valley Farm.'
 - MG commented that she did not comment on the name of Delinked Payments - delete 'MG confirmed that' at the start of para C) III

These amended minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising: discussed under the items below.
5. Finance. The clerk has circulated the monthly update (11124 3). There were no queries on the finance statement.
6. Allotments. Prior to the meeting TG circulated his report on allotment rental charges (11124 1).

Wherwell and Andover charge the same for equivalent square metre, but Wherwell includes water supply while Andover charges for this separately. Chilbolton has no permanent water supply. Our current charges equate to approximately 40p/square metre. Andover proposes increasing their rental by 10% next year and a similar increase would result in an additional £27 income for CPC. TG recommends not increasing the Chilbolton rental above that of Wherwell considering the lack of water supply. COSC agreed with this.

COSC recommend to CPC: no increase for the coming year.

7. The Common. MG had provided an updated report (11124 2a).
 - I. Fishing rights draft. DG reported that the solicitors for the CPC had altered the draft document but the Church Solicitors had found it unnecessarily complex. Tony Ewer had sent the Church Solicitors comments to our solicitors who have yet to reply.
 - II. Delinked payments. Chairman of CPC has made enquiries with a former Cllr to investigate this on behalf of CPC and a response is awaited. In view of the lack of reply, DG and MG will take up the matter with Savills; MG agreed to arrange the meeting. JH volunteered to attend the meeting also.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 January 2024; Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

- III. DG had walked the Common with Rick Nightingale (RN) to view the ash trees on the far side. RN commented that the tree leaning on the fence was a big job and would need to be undertaken by professional tree surgeons. However, this would be expensive and he judged that the fence appeared to be intact and the tree prevented the cattle from escaping. He recommended that the branches across the footpath should be trimmed and would provide a quote for the work. The work would need to be done before the end of February. The other trees in the tree survey had been checked and RN would report back to COSC/CPC.
- IV. Flood hazard at The Old Cottage. The ditch and culvert close to the cottage had been cleared but this would make no difference to the risk because of the high level of the river and water table. MG commented in her report that she had never previously known the cottage to be flooded. River levels are at their highest since the Flood Advisory Group began recording in 2013. It was possible that the river may be constricted below the Common - this should be taken up with the landowners downstream.
- V. Corrections to CPC minutes - flooding. MG had contacted Mike Blackmore of the Wessex River Trust about the work undertaken on the river, seeking his advice on whether this had any unexpected consequences and, if so, how these might be addressed. His response of 9th January is included in MG's updated Common Report. Essentially, it is the amount of water this winter that has affected the catchment area and is therefore extremely unlikely that the works on the Common would have caused the flooding. COSC therefore recommends that the CPC statement in the minutes that the work 'has had an unexpected consequence' should be amended. Mike Blackmore has volunteered to visit to see the problem and his email has been forwarded to Cllr George Marits who may be arranging a meeting. MG's report also includes an email from SW Water about groundwater levels.
- VI. Warden. To be reviewed in the spring
- VII. Educational Access. One visit planned so far for 16th January
- VIII. Grazing. MG will speak to the grazier about 2024 grazing.
- IX. Sleeper Bridge. DG reported that another sleeper may need adding to this bridge once conditions permit.
- X. Parking on the gravel frontage to the houses on the Common was considered, but this is a matter for CPC.

D) Machinery Maintenance: Nothing to report

E) Parish Paths: DG had contacted HCC about filling the gully on the Whitelands path. The tree blocking the bridleway entrance to the Common had been cleared. The Mark Way remains uncut; DG agreed to chase up HCC.

F) Village Greens: Nothing to report

Agreed and Signed (Chariman)

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 January 2024; Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

G) War Memorial Playing Fields

Trees. DH would be walking the playing field with RN on 15th January to assess what needs attention following the tree survey. The tree across the fence needed action and has now been cleared by Rick Nightingale free of charge. Thanks are due to Rick.

Enclosing the field. DG confirmed that TVBC Animal Welfare Officer has advised that if the playing field was enclosed the Public Spaces Protection Order would apply. Nevertheless, enforcement would be an issue; CPC would need to decide whether to proceed with the fencing. He also recommended that the children's play area be fenced off to exclude dogs.

Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower: TH advised that the Delivery Group (DG) had been in touch with the safety inspector to clarify his advice. Based on that, the DG proposed entering into conversation with Caledonia Play over issues of safety and, predominantly, longevity of aspects of the installation. The DG was firm that the split Timber supporting the tunnel should be replaced and the scramble net should be reversed - both longevity issues. Regarding the unevenness of the rubber matting, we need to obtain written assurance from Caledonia Play that the matting provides protection for the potential fall heights. In addition, and potentially rather more problematic, we need to negotiate to see what Caledonia Play is prepared to do to level the matting once the weather permits such work. Some of these conversations may be difficult, so TH asked for support from COSC, which was agreed. In addition, CPC should be aware of the current situation in the event that difficulty is encountered.

H) West Down:

Trees. DG would also be walking around West Down with RN on Monday to assess the tree situation. MG commented on the proposal to place markers around the oak tree in Station Road Wood and move the path around it. After discussion on the responsibility for the ash trees, MG agreed to speak to Glynne Evans about the boundary along the Mark Way adjacent to the recycling centre.

6. Correspondence: There was no correspondence relating to COSC since the last meeting.
7. Questions from Public: Not applicable
8. Any Other Business: JH agreed to pursue the proposal for paintings on the junction boxes.
9. Items for the next agenda: Nil
10. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 8 February 2024 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

Agreed and Signed (Chariman)