

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held on Thursday 14 March '24; 18:30, Poplar Dene, Village Street

1. Apologies: Trish Heaton, Moya Grove, Cllr Rick Franke, Terry Gilmour, Emma Noble

Present: Cllr David Griffiths (Chair), Cllr Julian Hudson, Nick Horne

2. Declaration of Interests: NONE

3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 8 February 2024: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising: Taken over the course of the meeting as appropriate.

5. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows: -

A) Finance –

- i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting: Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached report ([31424_2](#)).

All appeared to be routine and was accepted.

B) Allotments – Prior to the meeting TG had nothing to report. No report.

C) Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([31424_1](#))

- I. Agreed that Sparsholt College should be enabled to construct an extension to the Purleygig Bridge; however HCC currently are uninterested in helping to resolve the issue and have advised that we should simply wait for water levels to fall; also HCC advise no budget is available.
- II. There has been a complaint about the catch on the new horse gate. DG has located the missing part and given it to Andy Bond who will fit it asap.
- III. Some of the fencing placed to restrict parking has been damaged. Also a few dragons teeth have rotted and need replacing. AB has agreed to do this.
- IV. An estimate for the repair of the Sleeper Bridge is waiting for Julian's input.
- V. Rick Nightingale (RN) has done as much tree work as he can. Removing the tree that is lying on the fence will have to wait until the common dries out.
- VI. Update on Fishing Rights: The Clerk (as Proper Officer of the Council and Cllr Ewer (as Chair of the Council) signed and returned the Deed of Grant to strut and Parker. We are now awaiting the return of the signed documents by the Church Commissioners.
- VII. AD has completed and sent the form for Common funds to the RPA

D) Machinery Maintenance: No issues raised

E) Parish Paths:

- I. HCC have had another go at clearing the Mark Way. Also, West Down Volunteers have done some clearing. DG has not had a look, but weather permitting he will walk it next week.
- II. RN has done some tree work along the Mark Way behind the Recycling Centre.
- III. RN has also cleared the Test Way as it runs alongside the WMPF.

F) Village Greens:

- I. The tankers are damaging both the Grindstone Green and the Rectory Green. DG proposed to photo this and submit a claim in due course.

Agreed and Signed (Chairman)

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G) War Memorial Playing Fields – N. Horne to inc.

I. Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower update:

- a) At the CPC meeting held on 4/3/24, Cllrs agreed to the WMPF DG recommendations. Cllr Ewer spoke with Jamie Bruce of Caledonia Play and terms were agreed for the release of the final payment instalment ([31424 3](#)). £5815.87 was paid on 7/3/2024. The WMPFDG were congratulated and warmly thanked as requested by CPC.
- b) Agreed that COSC should NOT seek 3rd party contractor to resolve the concrete under the fireman's pole on the Play Tower due to liability issues.
- c) Query raised regarding the CPC Community Fund (ref. Fundraising Group) and the mechanism for those funds to be distributed.
- d) Discussion of Opening Ceremony for Play Tower. A chance to acknowledge those who funded it. Get all CPC Members there, Local Press, the Development Group, Local Councillors (TVBC/HCC). Have a table with cake and bubbly – needs to be held in SUMMER.
- e) Remaining need to take up and re-lay the safety matting to the Play Tower when weather is drier.

II. CPC update on the proposal to enclosing the WMPF to be able to apply for an 'Enclosed Sports Area' under the TVBC Public Spaces Protection:

- a) At the CPC meeting on 4/3/24, Cllrs agreed to the possibility of reinstating the Test Way path around the WMPF (i.e from behind the pavilion to the Whitelands Path). This would mean no new fencing would be required. COSC were tasked to investigate the feasibility and any costs involved.
- b) See quotes for fencing the play area and the fencing of the Test Way. TE has a radical idea. He suggests that we move the Test Way to the other side of the existing fence and then link with the Whitelands Path. Worth thinking about. A site visit by COSC members was suggested, also need to look into the possible legislative requirements if we seek to change the course of a PROW.
- c) Agreed that fencing off the Play Equipment would be expensive, unnecessary and potentially counterproductive due to future plans for further development within CWMPF.

III. RN has completed tree work apart from the tree above the container. This needs equipment we don't have (cherry-picker). He is trying to borrow one.

IV. Still talking to VitaPlay regarding the Scramble Stack, which needs remedial work. VP claim that it is out of warranty, so they will take no action.

V. Nick Adams costs circa £150 and is always available; Play Safety have similar costs. ACTION: Development Group to consider further and advise on which safety inspectors to use.

VI. Andy Smith has donated some soil for the proposed Pump Track and Felix Rabeneck will do the same once his construction work concludes. Andy Bond is also keen to assist with the Pump Track construction. Design of Pump Track by local youth and may also involve 2 young people from Wherwell.

VII. NH noted need to remove barbed wire sections from fencing adjacent Pump Track site.

VIII. Query regarding potential for GW (who owns a digger) to be involved in Pump Track construction.

H) West Down:

- i. Very little clearance done in enclosed area largely due to bad weather. Vespa cleared a lot and made a considerable difference but it was costly. RE: Shortage of volunteers, DG mentioned possibility of volunteers camping as has been done in the past, possibly staying in Village Hall over a weekend
- ii. See Jenny Hamilton's email offering help from students at Sparsholt College. It's a bit late as COSC are not supposed to do clearance work outside October to February. DG proposal is that they be asked to clear along the fence inspecting it as they go to check whether any repair is necessary – this was AGREED.

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- III. CPC have tasked COSC with ensuring that the temporary access to TVF from the Concrete Road will be blocked by a post and rail fence. DG has emailed Mike Hardy of HCC about the access situation, and has had no reply. It was agreed to ask AB to carry this out, and DG will notify the grazier. Liz Blakemore has noted that there is an insecure manhole cover in this area which may be part of historic development on West Down (i.e. during WW2) DG to examine and advise further.
- IV. Rick has completed the agreed tree work. Should we ask him to take over from Glynne as the Tree Warden? RESOLVED: To offer RN role as Tree Warden. He will not need to attend every COSC meeting, but will provide reports where needed.
- V. JH also informed COSC that Martin Gosling is happy to assist with chainsaw work where needed and other scrub clearing on an occasional/regular basis. ACTION: JH to put Martin in touch with DG.
- VI. Need to complete the way marking of the West Down Bridleway. ACTION: EN

6. Correspondence:

6/2/24 - A Graham-Smith (NE) email re Southern Water overpumping ([3424 3](#)) and MG response

7/2/24 - CPC letter to Southern Water CEO (cc Caroline Nokes and David Drew) ([3424 2](#)) 9/2/24 - Caroline Nokes response ([3424 2a](#))

14/2/24 - DG email to M Harding, HCC, re West Down access to TVF ([3424 8](#))

15/2/24 - Letter to SW re equipment on Grindstone Green ([3424 7](#))

23/2/24 - SW issues in Longparish ([3424 12](#)) – Cllr Marits has responded ([8424 1](#))

28/2/24 - Notification of water pollution incident - River Test at Fullerton ([3424 21](#))

29/2/24 - Resident email re Common ([3424 25](#)) – Resident has been informed of the potential project to extend the Purlygig Bridge and that the cattle will be returning in May and that the Grazier will inspect the ground before their arrival.

7. Questions from Public: NONE

8. Any Other Business – For information only:

JH discussed the proposals for seeking additional volunteer support, as this particularly is a priority for COSC. There will be a short presentation at the 26th March 2024 CPC public meeting, and potentially further discussions at the Annual Parish Assembly. JH spoke of the need to promote volunteering as an opportunity and not an obligation, the need to present Parish volunteer work as something exciting, important but also interesting and positive. Noted that previous appeals have had limited impact. DG wished JH luck in his efforts.

9. Items for the next agenda: None mentioned.

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