

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF
CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)
To be held on Thursday 11 July 2024 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30
A G E N D A P A C K

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Approval of Minutes – [Thursday 13 June 2024](#)
4. Matters Arising
5. [Chairman's Report](#)
6. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows: -
 - A) [Finance](#) – Clerk
 - i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting
 - B) [Allotments](#) – T. Gilmour (also see [Chairman's report](#))
 - C) [Common](#) – M. Grove to inc.
 - I. [Update on Fishing Rights](#)
 - II. Discussion on extension of Purlygig Bridge (see [Chairman's report](#))
 - III. To discuss repair to Sleeper Bridge (see [Chairman's report](#))
 - IV. [To discuss and decide on the use of a 'Smart Padlock'](#)
 - V. To discuss and decide on Common Gravel Area plan - updated to include the proposed horse gate ([11724 2](#))
 - D) Machinery Maintenance
 - E) [Parish Paths](#) – Cllr Griffiths
 - F) [Village Greens](#) – Cllr Griffiths
 - G) War Memorial Playing Fields – N. Horne to inc.
 - I. Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower update
 - II. Update on the proposal to enclosing the WMPF to be able to apply for an 'Enclosed Sports Area' under the TVBC Public Spaces Protection (see [Chairman's report](#))
 - III. [Annual Play area inspection](#): to discuss and decide on actions to be taken
 - IV. To discuss and decide on the use of chemicals on the Playing Field (also see [Chairman's report](#))
 - H) West Down (also see [Chairman's report](#))
 - i. update on request for memorial plaque on a WD bench (or installation of a new bench with memorial plaque)
 - ii. to discuss Teasel Field as per resident email ([1724 9](#))
 - I) Tree Warden report
7. To Discuss and decide on Lengthsman tasks for the following month (to include number of hours allocated per task)
8. [Correspondence](#)
9. Questions from Public
10. Any Other Business – For information only
11. Items for the next agenda
12. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 8 August 2024 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

Mandy Denyer (Clerk)

Published 04/07/2024

5 Chairman's Report:

Allotments:

In view of the fuss concerning the use of Roundup at the WMPF I have suggested to Mandy that we ask all the allotment holders if they have any objection to its use. Obviously it needs to be applied carefully on a still day to avoid spray drifting onto adjacent allotments.

Purleygig Bridge:

Julian and /or Moya will report in full on a meeting they attended. Basically, HCC say the cost of extending the bridge is prohibitive; as the path currently flooded is a bridleway HCC Highways should have been consulted before WRT carried out the removal of the timber revetments and it was not; HCC want the revetments replaced and the surface of the path repaired. Who pays has not been decided.

The Sleeper Bridge:

CPC have decided to accept the quote provided by Huttons. Andy Bond is OK about this. Julian will write to FR suggesting that he should meet 80% of the cost of repair.

Repairs to tracks:

Andy B is due to carry these out this month

Horse Gate:

This has been delivered. Andy is planning to do the work this month.

Pedestrian Gate:

Julian has amended the plan to prevent parked vehicles obstruction this gate.

Ditch adjacent to the Old Cottage:

George Marits is organising the digging out of this ditch to try and help with flooding problems at the Old Cottage

Ash tree leaning on Fence at far side of the Common:

Rick Nightingale reports that the ground is still too boggy to safely remove the tree.

Barrier at entrance to the Common:

This will be closed for the whole of the school summer holidays

West Down:

CPC have agreed to the hiring of a mulching mower to test the suitability of such a machine for clearing of scrub on West Down. The feeling is that the Beast is hard work and necessitates the raking up and burning of the arisings. Mulching should make the task of clearing much less onerous. We will see.

Footpaths:

The Lengths Man has cleared the Test Valley Farm Path and the Station Road Path. This month he has been tasked with clearing the southern section of the Mark Way.

Southern Water:

CPC are writing to SW to seek payment for the cost of repairing the damage caused to the Old Pond verge and the Rectory Green verge by tankers.

WMPF:

The grass has now been cut by G & G. The use of Roundup has led to a protest by one concerned resident. We need to discuss this and decide our response. ID has used it along the fence line for some time. I have used it in front of the pavilion for some years. All without mishap or complaint. The use of glyphosate is not illegal in the UK. ROSPA advise against its use on playing fields and children's play grounds.

Improvement of Test Way as it enters the WMPF. I need to take this forward with HCC Countryside.

CPC have agreed that the proposed re-routing of the Test Way to avoid the cost of fencing is not practical. I am today meeting Simon Martin to arrange another quote for fencing off the Test Way.

How to deal with the ash tree branches that overhang the container has yet to be decided.

West Down:

A meeting is taking place on 9/7 with HCC to discuss: access to TV Farm; the damage to the steel height barrier and some possible encroachment by a resident of Station Road. Meet 10 am in top car park.

Simon Martin has completed repairs to the fence surrounding the enclosed area. I have notified the grazier, Mike Thompson, who intends to put his cattle on West Down imminently,

RAGWORT PULL 10 AM 13/7 AND 14 /7

David Griffiths
03/07/2024

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6 A finance report:

Receipts since last report –Allotment rents £40 (there is one outstanding allotment rent).

Payments since last report –

- 24/06/2024 - Hampshire Rural Management (WD fencing) £2298.00
- 25/06/2024 - Grass and Grounds (WD path cutting) £84.84
- 27/06/2024 - D Griffiths (Salt Licks for Common) £11.65
- 28/6/24 - Direct Debit SSE (Pavilion Electric 1/4-6/6/24) £51.52

Ringfenced accounts as at 03/07/24

Ringfenced Common Funds (held in current account)	
Opening Balance 2024/25	10011.73
Income to date - PRA grants	0.00
Income to date - Other	691.35
Expenditure to date	-1138.15
Closing Balance	9564.93

Ringfenced West Down Funds (held in current acc)	
Opening Balance 2024/25	8903.95
Income to date - RPA grants	0.00
Income to date - Other	0.00
Expenditure to date	-2820.44
Closing Balance	6083.51

WMPF and Batty accounts balances		%
Batty account	3294.98	46.0
WMPF Account	3863.74	54.0
Closing balance	7158.72	100.0
WMPF account adjustment (transfer to current acc) for 23/24	-172.00	
Batty Account balance	3294.98	
WMPF Balance	3691.74	
Closing balance	6986.72	

2024/25 Precept budget review attached [here](#)
2024/25 Ringfenced budget review attached [here](#)

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6 B Allotments: One plot (A12) remains available for rent.

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6 C Common Report:

June report for July meeting COSC

1. Meeting with HCC Countryside Management Hampshire - 28th June 2024

Beth Rutterford (CM H) was very clear that WRT (who did not attend) had not sought their permission re the bank restorations of 2022. They HAD sought permission from another separate HCC department Ordinary Watercourse re flooding and that had been consented

According to Beth as the footpath has been affected by the works we are liable for damaging the footpath/bridleway. There was some disagreement on this but CMH offered materials and labour to help rectify the damage. They are insisting on the re instatement of the boarding next to the upstream side of the footpath. We are to prepare a plan of action.

Beth will assist by closure notices when work is underway.

Stuart Robertson of Sparsholt (who was unable to attend) in a phone call to me, will help with work if it fits in with the curriculum– we only have to ask.

COSC members agreed that the Clerk should write to WRT asking them to confirm what permissions had been sought and seeing if they would assist. The letter was circulated and agreed. CPC decided to send it at the July meeting.

The bridge repair/extension was rejected out of hand as being too expensive.

See also MG draft plan for action below.

EN summary of proceedings- circulated

JN letter to WRT attached by clerk please

MG is out of action for the near future. Emma Noble has kindly volunteered to open the WMPF and pavilion for Rookwood School of July 11th.

Rick Nightingale has been approached to open the pavilion for Wherwell school on July 9th. No approach has been made to MG. I have asked Rick and my contact at Wherwell (Ruth McNee) to clarify. I have sent the forms and the Teachers' Information Pack.

2. Cattle: Late onto the Common this year because of the flooding. 28 beasts.

3. Suggested Plan of Action for work on the Test way Footpath:

Action to date 30 6 24

Agencies Natural England NE, Countryside Management Hampshire CM, Chilbolton Parish Council CPC. Sparsholt College SC, Wessex Rivers Trust (WRT)

Actions in hand which need rapid resolution:

1. Advise Sparsholt of the discussion (MG – done)
2. Amend summary of meeting if needed and circulate to COSC, Tony Ewer, Clerk, CM - if agreed (EN)
3. Write to WRT asking for their position (JH draft circulated. To be finalised, and sent to Clerk for forwarding to WRT asap)
4. Contact AGS of NE (MMG) to get their steer – in hand

Depending on responses:

5. Apply to NE for relevant permissions (MMG) (this can take time.....)
6. Liaise with WRT if willing to take on the repair.
7. Decide on date for boarding to be reinstated and footpath remade. August is often wet
8. Liaise with WRT NE CM and SC re labour and materials and footpath closure

Moya Grove, 02.07.2024

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6 Ci Fishing Rights:

Strutt and Parker are no longer agents for Church Commissioners. The new agents, Farrer, have the deed signed by the Commissioners and will register the Grant of Deed. A signed copy will be sent to CPC.

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6 Civ To discuss and decide on the use of a 'Smart Padlock':

Notes on the "Smart Padlock"

1) VERY IMPORTANT:

Before using the lock for the first time, the owner/administrator must download an App ("eSmartLock") to register the account.

The App will also allow the administrator/owner to register their fingerprint.

- 2) The Lock must be charged using the USB cable provided. It can be fully charged within 40 minutes, and then has a standby battery life of 1 year. We will be able to tell if the battery is low, as a red light will flash rapidly.
- 3) The Lock can be registered to support up to 15 fingerprints. Numbers 1 and 2 will always be the fingerprints of an owner/administrator.
- 4) Each user will need to be registered in order to be able to use their fingerprint to unlock the Lock. This means that we would need to use at least 8 of the 13 authorised fingerprints to grant access to the residents of the four properties on the Common. It also means that we would have to check whether all those residents would be happy for us to keep/control their fingerprint data (which would probably have Data Protection/GDPR ramifications).
- 5) The remaining five authorised fingerprints could be allocated to other users of the Common, but this is considered highly unlikely to be sufficient to enable free and convenient access for all necessary users such as:
 - a. TVBC Waste Collection Services
 - b. Oil delivery tankers
 - c. Royal Mail (and other delivery companies)
 - d. British Telecom (and other communications providers where relevant)
 - e. Southern Water
 - f. Wessex Rivers Trust
 - g. Other authorised contractors
 - h. Emergency Services, particularly Fire and Ambulance
 - i. Disabled motorists wishing to gain authorised access to the gravel parking area.It is also worth considering that in most of the above cases, there is more than one person from each organisation who may require access.
- 6) It is uncertain whether the Smart Lock is designed for outdoor use, or what impact inclement weather may have on its functionality.

Proposed Resolution:

Although COSC recognises and welcomes the intentions behind provision of the Smart Lock, it is considered that in practice it is unlikely to be a feasible solution. The current system of locking with a passcode which can be shared as necessary with appropriate individuals and organisations is considered preferable for the foreseeable future; the code also has the advantage that it can be changed/updated if it becomes widely known and/or abused.

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8 Correspondence:

4/6/24 - Resident email re overgrown vegetation on WD ([1724 3](#)) - forwarded to COSC/resident has cut back vegetation at the WD car park

11/6/24 - Letter to Old Inn Cottage re sleeper bridge repair ([1724 7](#)) responses from resident inc. quote from Hutton ([1724 7a](#)) 18/6/24 JH email to Hutton ([1724 7b](#))

13/6/24 - Resident email re WD barrier to TVF and other COSC matters and MD response (forwarded to COSC as requested) ([1724 9](#))

22/6/24 - Weed Spraying at WMPF ([1724 18](#)) – forwarded to COSC for response

25/6/24 – Emailed letter to Southern Water re WD barrier ([1724 20](#)). Initial automated response from SW ([1724 20a](#))

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