

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2024 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30
PRESENT: Cllrs David Griffiths (Chairman) (DG) and Emma Noble (EN). Moya Grove (MG),
Trish Heaton (TH), Nick Horne (NH), Mandy Denyer (MD).
Members of Public: None

1. Apologies: Terry Gilmour (TG),
2. Declaration of Interests: NONE
3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 17 October September 2024: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. Matters Arising: Dealt with below.
5. Chairman's Report: Items addressed below.
6. 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 (141124 1)
 - i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting
 - ii. To discuss draft 25/26 COSC Budget for CPC approval

MD pointed out that the budget is showing a deficit for the Common due to the envisaged cost of the main bridleway repair. MG noted that the estimated figure for the bridleway repair is quite high, as it is based on the one and only quote received so far, which was high. It is hoped that there will be a cheaper quote. Even with the assumed SFI income and a 50% grant there is still a deficit of several thousand pounds. On this basis savings will need to be made going forward.

Some savings possibilities and amendments were discussed:

MG noted that the estimated educational visit income will be lower than indicated, £900 was given but it is likely only to be £800.

MD raised that there has been no order of dog poo bags so far this year, so this was a saving and the teachers pack will not be required because MG will not be updating it this year.

MG raised that income from educational visits may be down next year as all visits have been from colleges and the new funding only relates to under 16's.

NH asked whether there is a need to pay for the village hall for COSC Meetings. DG said that as he will not be chairing next year, this is in the budget as a precaution.

NH asked why the pads are being renewed on the defibrillator. MD stated that they have an expiry date.

DG suggested that the sign boards on the Common be re-varnished but no extra was deemed necessary.

Agreed and Signed (Chairman)
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Regarding the ash tree over the pavilion on CWMPF / Common boundary, the estimate given is £500 but Rick Nightingale quoted today £2962. MD reported that a contribution from the insurance company could be sought as it is a safety issue.

DG reported that Rick Nightingale has given a quote of £1927 for the repairs to the back of CWMPF from Whitelands path. This will be put in the budget but it is hoped that the HCC Countryside Service will provide labour and the cost will be lower.

COSC agreed that the £600 for a chainsaw course should be removed. Only George Marits has volunteered and two people are required for safety reasons when chainsawing, which probably will not be feasible.

COSC agreed that the £170 for the pavilion cleaner should be removed as the football team are keeping it tidy and MG clears up after the school visits.

COSC agreed that the £200 on the tree inspection could be removed as Rick Nightingale does regular checks.

COSC agreed that basketball backboards can be removed as they are being repaired this year.

COSC agreed there will be no village improvements, so that £100 can be removed.

COSC agreed that the £500 for the strimming on the Common could be removed. DG will advise Ian Daubney not to do this.

COSC discussed the uneven drive on the Common but it was agreed that £700 would be left in the budget pending any better repair solutions proposed by Julian Hudson.

NH asked where the £5000 'Capital Fundraising' was coming from for CWMPF. MD confirmed this was for a possible event, such as Chilfest, but as nothing is planned, this should be removed. MD stated that the £5000 expenditure on CWMPF could also be removed so the two cancel one another out.

B) Allotments – Nothing to report.

C) Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report (141124 2)

i. Update on Purlygigg Bridge

The temporary repairs to the bridleway have been completed including a culvert underneath.

George Marits advised HCC of the repair who replied stating "it has been resolved to their satisfaction".

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Regarding the permanent repair MG asked if more quotes should be obtained. COSC agreed that more quotes should be sought. COSC agreed that until the quotes have been received a decision will not be made on the nature of the final repair.

DG confirmed the Common cut has not yet happened. MG to chase.

MG reported that two Common school visits are booked for January.

MG reported that the cows have been removed.

DG reported that the gate to Grindstone Green has been dealt with. COSC wish to extend thanks to Ed Treadwell.

David Hall is now involved in looking into the new government grant. He will investigate what is required but does not have capacity to see the whole procedure through.

MG reported that she had received a request from an ecology firm asking whether they could relocate three slow worms on the Common. MG contacted NE who said this was not allowed.

DG reported that the Rick Nightingale has cleared the ditch by the Old Cottage past the Cattle grid and along Joys Lane.

Rick Nightingale has been lent the COSC chainsaw as agreed by COSC.

D) Machinery Maintenance: Nothing to report

E) Parish Paths – Cllr Griffiths

TH reported that the top part of the Mark Way is well cut back. DG had not yet inspected the paths on the south side of the A30.

F) Village Greens

DG reported that Southern Water have verbally agreed to pay for the repairs to Rectory Green.

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

I. Update on Wild Flower areas – Not discussed

II. Update on play equipment repairs following annual inspection:

NH reported that the basketball back boards are being repaired using metal sheets by Hurstbourne Forge.

NH reported that the Adventure Tower parts have arrived and will be installed.

NH further reported that the toddler swing seats have been replaced.

III. Update on communications with Vita Play re play equipment timbers:

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NH reported that CPC have agreed that they will accept a replacement timber from AE Evans but either Vita Play or someone else will need to install it at cost.

- IV. Regarding the pump track NH is going to arrange an appointment with Jenny Brain from TVBC and someone from their Sports department to get their opinions on a way forward.
- V. The football team seem very happy now and have done good work on the pavilion. However, NH has sent an email to TVBC as dog fouling has been raised by them as a safety concern. NH has asked TVBC what needs to be done to qualify for a Public Spaces Protection Order. DG reported that he is going to meet Andy Bond tomorrow with a view to Andy amending his quote to show wire fencing rather than wooden posts. DG raised concerns about going ahead with the expense of this fencing if there was no enforcement of the order. DG asked NH to contact TVBC and ask whether the Animal Welfare Officer (formerly the dog warden) do actually take steps to enforce the orders.
- VI. As above, it has been agreed that the ash tree above the container will be addressed by Rick Nightingale and some of the cost may be covered by insurance. MG supports a crown reduction rather than felling.

H) West Down

DG reported a poor turn out to the working party and consequently volunteers can no longer be relied upon. DG has asked for several quotes to cut back along the fence line and cut inside the enclosed area.

DG reported that the cutting outside the fenced area has not been done, despite the work being scheduled some time ago.

MG reported that the HCV have been booked in for January.

DG is meeting Mike Hardy from HCC to discuss blocking off Test Valley Farm and also provide a padlock and chain to secure the bent barrier.

I) Tree Warden report: All issues are dealt with above and see attached report ([141124 3](#))

6. Correspondence:

9/10/24 -Letter to HCC and NE re Chilbolton Common SSSI bridleway repairs ([41124 4](#))

9/10/24 - Email to HCC M Hardy re WD barrier to TVF ([41124 17](#))

25/10/24 – HCC response re WD barrier to TVF ([41124 24](#)) – DG to meet M Hardy and COSC to action installation of barrier

23/10/24 - COSC letter to WRT re help with Test Way/Purlygig path repair ([41124 16](#)) WRT Response ([41124 16a](#))

24/10/24 - Track repairs not holding ([41124 22](#)). CPC draft minutes extract - DG agreed that due to the exceptional wet weather the new repair is not holding up as well as expected. JH agreed to investigate whether there is a more substantial/permanent/cost effective solution. Of course any permanent alterations to the track will require NE consent. Clerk has informed resident.

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30/10/24 – SW letter re tanker damage to Rectory Green ([41124 28](#)). Copy of repair invoices sent to SW. They have requested that they be notified at the time of 'suspected 'damage so that they can investigate immediately.

1/11/24 - Southern Water Infiltration Reduction Plans 2024 ([41124 31](#))

7. Questions from Public: none

8. Any Other Business – For information only:

NH raised whether the FAG are looking at the Southern Water report. MG reported that they are.

EN raised about the email from Julian Hudson from a member of the public wishing to help with conservation work. DG will contact him and EN could have assistance with cutting back the bank on West Down if no other suitable jobs are available for him.

9. Items for the next agenda:

10. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 14 December 2024 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8:23