

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 January 2024 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

PRESENT: Cllr David Griffiths (Chairman) (DG), Moya Grove (MG), Nick Horne (NH), Trish Heaton (TH)
Observer: Cllr Debbie Collis (DC)
Members of Public: Nil

1. Apologies: Cllr Emma Noble (EN), Terry Gilmour (TG)
2. Declaration of Interests: NONE
3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 14 November 2024: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. Matters Arising: Dealt with below.
5. Chairman's Report: Nil. The Chairman covered items 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 ([150125 1](#))
 - i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting. COSC noted the Finance Report, remarking on the low interest on the Batty account and discussed the source of S106 funds.
 - ii. To discuss draft 25/26 COSC Budget for CPC approval. DG advised that CPC had approved the draft budget.
 - B) Allotments – Nothing to report
 - C) Common – MG report attached ([150125 2](#))
 - i. Update on Purlygig Bridge. It was noted that the water had subsided, the pathway dried out and the temporary extension was passable again. It was agreed that no further quotes would be sought until a permanent replacement was needed. MG agreed to ask Chilbolton Clerk to write to Nick Gibbs to advise him of the current situation.
 - ii. Autumn cut. It was noted that the cut was underway with the workers using brushcutters/strimmers instead of a tractor. Whilst noting that this was a labour intensive means of cutting, the contract has a set price for the work. The Common was very wet and it was likely that this would cause less damage.
 - iii. Visits. COSC thanked MG for her continuing work with Sparsholt College and, in particular, her recent talk at the College.
 - iv. Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship. A meeting between James Waddington of Savills and Cllr Hall would take place on 22nd January. MG had asked to be kept up to date with progress. MG advised that the acreage of SSSI eligible for payment would be decided by Natural England when CPC asks for an application to be submitted.
 - v. Thistle Cut. DG informed COSC that Hampshire Conservation Volunteers had offered 5 July to assist and the thistle cut would be done then.
 - vi. Path approaching the Purlygig Bridge. DG remarked that this path had a large, muddy puddle on it and walkers were instead taking to the grassy areas on either side. This was causing damage to the grassed areas. It was agreed that DG would get an estimate for restoration work which should be paid for by HCC. As the puddle in on the Test Way, DG would contact TVBC.
 - vii. Track repairs. See Correspondence.
 - viii. Common reinstatement at Old cottage. DG would ask Chilbolton Clerk to write to the owner.

Agreed and signed (Chairman)

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- D) Machinery Maintenance. Nothing to report.
- E) Parish Paths. DG had still to walk the Brackley Warren path.
- F) Village Greens. Southern Water had now paid for the damage done to Rectory Green by its tankers. See Correspondence.
- G) War Memorial Playing Fields.
- i. Update on Wild Flower areas. MG agreed to contact Jenny Hamilton/Sheila Evans about establishing and maintaining a wild flower area.
 - ii. Update on play equipment repairs. NH advised that the clamber stack was safe. He would be hastening Vita Play for their price to supply/fit new timbers but he would also be meeting with another company to see if they might quote to fit the timbers.
 - iii. NH, TH and EN had met with representatives of TVBC the previous week to seek advice and assistance with the proposed pump track. TVBC was very interested in helping and they suggested several possibilities for seeking funding. They also agreed to put us in touch with local enthusiasts who might be able to give practical advice. It was noted that, for safety reasons, the track area should be fenced.
 - iv. Basketball court backboards. EN had agreed to collect the finished backboards. At the meeting with TVBC, they suggested that TVBC funds might be able to help with costs. This looks likely to be £360, a significant amount of the total cost.
 - v. Grass cutting. DG and NH were to meet on 16 January with a grass cutting/arboreal contractor to discuss grass cutting on the playing field and the tree above the container.
 - vi. Football Club. NH reported that the football is going well. There had been minor hiccup on the track with cars from a visiting team. Cars had also made quite an impact on the surface of the playing field the previous weekend. NH would speak with the team manager about managing this.
 - vii. Dog control area. It was confirmed that CPC did not wish to fund fencing to enable there to be a dog control area at present. CPC felt that Likely enforcement would not justify the cost.
 - viii. A resident had asked if the play tower netting could be modified to enable younger children to use it. The Development Group had considered this request but advised COSC that the tower was designed for a range of ages from about 4-14. Making changes to an item would mean that it was less suitable for other ages. There was also concern about the guarantee from the company and insurance matters. COSC agreed. NH would ask EN to respond to the resident.
- H) West Down
- i. DG commented that the paths had been cleared by Rick Nightingale, though there was a lot of mud around. There was no significant interest from village residents to do conservation work on West Down and CPC would need to pay contractors for necessary work. DG would contact TVBC to see if there were any volunteer conservation groups that might assist.
 - ii. Enclosure brush cutting. DG advised that Hampshire Countryside Volunteers would be brush cutting on Saturday 18th January.
 - iii. Cutting the enclosed area. COSC recommended that the quote from Rick Nightingale be accepted by CPC for cutting within the enclosure.

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- l) Tree Warden Report. COSC noted the report ([150125 3](#)), but commented that the trees in Joy's Lane and along Frog Lane did not belong to the Parish Council.

7. Correspondence:

24/10/24 - Track repairs not holding ([41124 22](#)). CPC 6th Jan 2025 minutes - 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.

3/12/24 - SW response re Rectory Green damage ([6125 1](#)). They have agreed to pay full amount as a gesture of goodwill

8. Questions from Public: Nil

9. Any Other Business. Nil

10. Items for the next agenda. None.

11. Date of the next meeting. Thursday 13 February 2024 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

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