

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2025 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

PRESENT: Cllrs David Griffiths (Chairman) (DG), Debbie Collis (DC) and Emma Noble (EN). Moya Grove (MG), Nick Horne (NH)
Members of Public: None

1. Apologies: Trish Heaton (TH)
2. Declaration of Interests: None
3. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday 15 January 2025: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting. ([COSC Minutes 15.01.2025](#))
4. Matters Arising:
 - A) Track repairs not holding ([41124 22](#)) CPC 6th Jan 2025 minutes - DG agreed that due to the exceptionally 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.
 - B) Natural England (NE) communication - CPC 3rd Feb 2025 Minutes - DG will draft a response to NE justifying what has been done and why (especially for Health & Safety reasons) to the path at the Purleygigg Bridge and that the repair does not damage the SSSI.
5. Chairman's Report:

Prior to the meeting DG circulated the attached report ([030225 18](#)) providing an update on matters. This was presented to the Parish Council on 03rd Feb 2025.
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 COSC Finance report ([02 Finance](#))
 - i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting – Noted by COSC members.
 - B) Allotments –

DG will contact TG to see if he has found a replacement allotment representative. DG will also confirm that TG wishes to be removed as a member of COSC.
 - C) Common – MG report pre-circulated ([Common Report](#))
 - i. Update on Purlygigg Bridge. NH had a request from a MOP to add another tree to the repair to prevent further erosion in the event of further heavy rain. DG will contact Rick Nightingale to arrange this addition.
 - ii. Regarding the muddy area on the Common, DG has contacted Corinne Davis-Cooke, the Ranger at HCC who has agreed that if COSC supply the materials, HCC will provide volunteers to carry out the work. This can be tied in with the work being carried out by HCC volunteers repairing the muddy area off Whiteland's path in spring. MG will complete a record of the decision confirming NE consent is not required. This will be forwarded on to CPC for consent and kept by the Clerk for future reference. COSC deemed that far from derogating the SSSI this work will contribute to maintaining it.

Agreed and signed (Chairman)

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- iii. Regarding the stones which have been spread in front of the Old Cottage following the French drain work, a further letter has been sent to the occupant on 29th January asking for it to be rectified / removed without delay.
- iv. Regarding the tree overhanging Old Cottage garage, MG believes that area is not part of the conservation area and there is no need to report this work to NE. It will be included in the report being completed by MG confirming that NE consent is not required. DG will attend with Rick Nightingale to assess what work is required.
- v. DG reported that conservation volunteers are coming to cut thistles on 4th July. DG is making enquiries with other volunteer groups to see if anyone else is available to help.
- vi. COSV gave permission to DC to remove the West Down Parking sign from the telegraph pole at the top of Joys Lane.

D) Machinery Maintenance

Nothing to report.

E) Parish Paths – Cllr Griffiths

DG will check Brockley Warren footpath.

F) Village Greens

DG reported tankers are no longer reversing up Cart Lane.

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

- i. Regarding grass cutting, NH has contacted HW Tree Surgeons Ltd who quoted £192 (Inc. vat) per cut. The contract with Grass and Grounds who quoted £177.75 (Inc. vat) has now lapsed. COSC agreed to continue on a one year contract with Grass and Grounds.
- ii. NH reported that work is ongoing with the Ash Tree overhanging the pavilion. A quote has been requested from HW Tree Surgeons who would also be prepared to deal with the required permissions.
- iii. NH reported that Ed Treadwell has put a sign up in the butterbur area of CWMPF to help identify the path for walkers approaching from the Common side.
- iv. EN has replaced the broken bird spikes on the swings.
- v. Update on communications with Vita Play re play equipment timbers. NH has now received this timber and Infinity Playgrounds have said they will install it for £150. COSC agreed to this. Infinity playgrounds have also quoted for the replacement zip wire for £606. COSC agreed to pay for these two items of works. They also quoted for the teen table repair, but this will not be taken up for the time being.
- vi. NH has been in discussions with Mark Cavill, a contractor working in Wherwell who has experience in constructing pump tracks. Mark Cavill has also offered some soil. A meeting is planned with several parties interested in the pump track project.
- vii. EN has said she will cut back the tree encroaching on the war memorial.
- viii. COSC agreed to cover the cost of the repair to the basketball hoops if necessary, currently estimated at £460 + vat but that EN and NH will look to obtain a grant from the County Councillor Grant and / or Councillors Community Grant.

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- ix. EN raised a request from a MOP regarding the installation of a closer mesh around the existing net bridge on the new adventure tower so that smaller children can play without the risk of falling through the holes. COSC agreed to EN making enquiries with Caledonia Play to see if this can be done and how much it will cost.
- x. DG noted that the moles have moved back in and has contacted our mole catcher to deal with them.

H) West Down

- i. DG reported that Rick Nightingale has done a good job cutting West Down and all key areas have been done. DG will ask him to do three days next year for a more complete job.
- ii. EN has cut the bank on bottle bank / Coley Lane side and the HCV have done another part of the bank.
- iii. DG is going to ask Ian Daubney to do some of the remaining banks and has also approached some contractors to cut around the fencing. The teasel field has also been cut and teasels left undamaged where possible.
- iv. DG is obtaining quotes to repair the fencing in a line of 100 meters on the concrete road side of West Down.
- v. EN reported that Ed Treadwell has now fixed the ball cock on the water trough.

I) Tree Warden report – pre-circulated tree report ([Jan Tree Report](#))
Dealt with above.

7. Correspondence:

03.02.2025 Email regarding Soil Donation ([03.02.2025](#))

20.01.2025 Email from SSE re Tree Cutting on the Common ([SSE email](#))

8. Questions from Public: None

9. Any Other Business – For information only: None

10. Items for the next agenda: None

11. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 13 March 2025 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8:00