

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF
CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)
To be held on Thursday 13 March 2025 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30
AGENDA PACK

1. Apologies –
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Approval of Minutes – [COSC Minutes 15.02.2025](#)
4. [Matters Arising](#)
 - a) Track repairs not holding CPC 6th Jan 2025 minutes
 - b) NE communication – [Chairman Report to CPC 03.03.2025](#)
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 – ([Finance Report 03 2025](#))
 - i. Finance transactions since last COSC meeting
 - B) Allotments
 - C) [Common](#) – M. Grove to inc.
 - I. Update on Test Way/Purlygig Bridge
 - D) Machinery Maintenance
 - E) Parish Paths – Cllr Griffiths
 - F) Village Greens
 - G) War Memorial Playing Fields – N. Horne to inc.
 - I. Update on Wild Flower areas
 - II. Update on play equipment repairs following annual inspection
 - III. Update on communications with Vita Play re play equipment timbers
 - H) West Down
 - I) Tree Warden report
7. [Correspondence](#)
8. Questions from Public
9. Any Other Business – For information only
10. Items for the next agenda
11. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 10 April at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

4. Matters Arising

- a) 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.
- b) NE communication - CPC 3rd February 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.

Action: DG

[\(Back to Agenda\)](#)

5. Chairman's Report

03/04/2025 REPORT TO CPC FROM COSC CHAIRMAN

THE COMMON

- 1. The tracks leading to the Old Inn and the WMPF need repairs. JH is seeking advice from NE about a more permanent repair. I suspect we will be doing the same as we always do on cost grounds. No quote yet.
- 2. The bridleway leading to the Purleygig Bridge has a big dip in it which fills with water and causes the public to walk round it damaging the ground on either side. Needs to be filled in. Quote from Andy Bond: Machine hire £395; labour £300. We will supply hoggin. I am getting quotes. Approximate cost £240 (4 bags).
- 3. Date for cutting creeping thistles 5th July. HCV coming. Suggest we supplement with Ian Daubney and friend using CPC brush cutters. I have now asked Ian and he has agreed to take part. He charges a very reasonable £15 per hour.

WMPF

- 1. Repairs to path at far end (through butterburr). Agreed with HCC that they will provide labour and we provide materials. Approximate cost £1000 to be done when ground has dried out. I have emailed Corinne of HCC and asked when they can carry out this work.
- 2. Crown reduction to ash tree above container. Quote: £2962. Delayed by birds nesting in tree. It is possible we could make an insurance claim.

WEST DOWN

- 1. Repairs necessary to fence from water trough to kissing gate about 75m up concrete road. Two quotes both just under £2000. Kiwi Fencing £1970 plus VAT. Orchard Services £1973 no VAT.
- 2. Clearing growth from on and under fence surrounding enclosure. This is necessary to preserve fence and avoid high cost of future repair (see cost of a mere 75 m). Lengths Man has been tasked with clearing to the fence along Coley Lane. Not yet done. Will chase. Quote from Rick Nightingale for rest of work: approximately £500. Original quote £440. Rick has subsequently revised this by about £185. It's a big job.
- 3. Machine cutting enclosed area successful. Supplemented by Ian Daubney and friend using brush cutters where machine didn't reach. Suggest three days for machine cutting next year. (2 days this year). Ideally arisings should have been raked up and burnt but insufficient volunteers. EN and HCV also helped clear slope down towards Coley Lane.
- 4. Will ask Moya Grove to organise ragwort pul in July, if necessary.
- 5. Grazier will bring cattle once fence repaired. Grazing part of agreement with NE.

FOOTPATHS

Whitelands path is very muddy as it approaches the WMPF. Had complaints. Much used. It is the alternative route to common from West Down Car Park. Suggest we repair at same time as bridleway on common to save machine hire costs. Will get joint quote. Materials for both paths hoggin and possibly path gravel.

David Griffiths 03/04/2025

Presented to CPC on 03.03.2025

Update on proposed further repair to path at Purleygig Bridge.

Last week I met Rick Nightingale by the bridge and we noted that the current repair is working well in spite of recent heavy rain. A puddle had formed between the tree trunk placed along the river bank and the path. This does not affect the path at all. It does look a bit unsightly and we agreed that it would be a good idea to fill this in using similar material to that which has already been placed behind the tree trunks. We both agreed that, at the moment, placing another tree trunk along the bank is not necessary. However, we should monitor this and review this decision if things change. This decision has not yet been discussed at COSC.

COSC discussed the repair to the path by the bridge and concluded that the repair does not adversely affect the SSSI in any way. The materials used were appropriate. The wood came from nearby ash tree which needed felling as it was affected by ash dieback and it was adjacent to a footpath. The gravel was as recommended by Alison Graham-Smith of NE. In addition the repair removed a significant safety hazard. In these circumstances COSC decided it was not necessary to inform NE before carrying out the repair.

David Griffiths (Chairman of COSC)

[\(Back to Agenda\)](#)

6A) Finance

COSC Finance report – March '25 (April to follow)

Receipts since last report: NONE

£100 Hampshire County Councillor grant for Basketball system repairs (WMPF Running costs) has been awarded (not yet received).

Payments due for payment after approval by Cllrs at 3/3/25 CPC meeting (inc. VAT where appropriate):

ProMow Landscape £2237.00 quote for scrub clearance on WD within the enclosure was approved by Cllrs. Invoice for £1687 received (reduction due to less fuel used than anticipated).

Vesper Conservation (top cuts of WD (£770) and Common (£1123) + VAT) £2271.60.

Business Stream (WD water) £82.50.

Hurstbourne Forge (WMPF running costs – repair to one basketball backboard) £276.00.

Ringfenced balances as at 4.3.25:

Ringfenced Common Funds (held in current account)	
Opening Balance 2024/25	10011.73
Income to date - PRA grants	4947.50
Income to date - Other	2282.47
Expenditure to date	-10090.60
Closing Balance	7151.10

Remaining Common Budget:

remaining budgeted expenditure -£ 1770.79

Estimated Closing balance at FY end £ 5380.31

Ringfenced West Down Funds (held in current acc)	
Opening Balance 2024/25	8903.95
Income to date - RPA grants	4969.43
Income to date - Other	250.37
Expenditure to date	-6562.10
Closing Balance	7561.65

Remaining West Down Budget:

Remaining budgeted Expenditure	<u>-£ 1082.21</u>
Estimated closing balance at FY end	<u>£ 6479.44</u>

WMPF Capital and Batty accounts	WMPF Cap	Batty	
Opening Balance as at 1.4.24	3683.23	3280.33	
Plus income - Interest	23.86	20.33	
Plus income - Sale of slide (within Metro savings acc)	200.00		
Balance held on Metro Saving account	3907.09	3300.66	7207.75
Transactions within Current account: -			
Plus income -Sale of fridges & S106 funds	1831.90		
Plus income - re allocation of internal audit costs	220.00		
Less current acc expenditure to date	0.00		
Balance as at 4.3.25	5958.99	3300.66	9259.65

Remaining WMPF Capital budget:

Income – Bank interest	£ 43.14
Expenditure	<u>-£ 200.00</u>
Estimated closing balance at FY end	<u>£ 5802.13</u>

Remaining Batty Account budget:

Income – Bank interest	£ 26.67
Expenditure	<u>£ 0.00</u>
Estimated closing balance at FY end	<u>£3327.33</u>

[\(Back to Agenda\)](#)

6C) Common Report

Common report for April 2025 meeting

The meeting for March was cancelled - Little to say on the Common that month.

Report for March

River

River levels area lower. March Rainfall in S England was 20% below the 1991- 2020 average (Met. Office). April is likely to continue fine and dry.

Bridleway repairs

1 The temporary repair to the Bridleway at the Purleygig bridge is holding

2 The path to the Purleygig is being damaged and widened as people try to avoid the puddles. Cllr Griffiths has a quote from Andy Bond as reported in Feb *Progress DG*?

Maintenance

David has been in touch with TARCA *progress DG?* All hedge and tree maintenance has stopped in line with the directive from Defra re nesting birds.

Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship

Report from David Hall re the meeting with

A meeting was held at Reynard on 18th February with the Clerk The COSC chair Cllr David Hall and MG to coordinate progress on the Rural Payments agency application.

Cllr Hall undertook to write to NE to ask them to support our application for HIGHER TIER This has yet to be done (email 1/4/25) . Here is Cllr Halls report on this matter to the parish council (*first para. relates to current arrangements.*)

Rural Payments Agency Agreements 2025/6

Gill has now submitted our application for the annual Higher Level Stewardship Agreement (HLSA) for Chilbolton Cow Common through the Rural Payments Agency portal. This was well in advance of the deadline (15/5/2025). Annual payments for the Common under the HLSA currently stand at £4772.50.

As invitations for the new Higher Tier Stewardship Agreements (HTSA) will not be issued until the summer, we have initiated a separate process to request that the Common is included. David Hall, Moya Grove, David Griffiths and Gill Bulpitt met in March and agreed to lobby the RPA via Natural England in advance of these invitations being issued. Moya has shared a list of key contacts to begin this process.

West Down already qualifies for a Higher Tier Stewardship Agreement running to 2026. We have a copy of the latest agreement. The latest payment of £3878 was received in December.

The support provided from James Waddington at Savills under a free consultancy scheme funded by DEFRA as part of EU transition arrangements, has now ceased. There is little benefit to CPC of continuing at our own cost.

Cow Common current situation update (from Feb in Italics)

Currently a combined Higher Level/Entry Level Stewardship Agreement running to 2028. NB Neither James nor I have a copy of the latest agreement (Gill – can you help?).

- *Annual amount £4772.50 (from original 2009 agreement). Latest documentation needs to be checked and these figures updated.*
- *Annual claim to be submitted by 15/5/2025*
- *We propose to apply for Higher Tier Stewardship Agreement but the process is driven by DEFRA/Rural Payments Agency and it is unclear whether this can be done before the expiry of the current agreement in 2028.*
- *Both CPC and James will seek to clarify our options and bring pressure to bear to expedite this if we can before the annual claim submission in May.*
- *Savills can support the application process for HTS – chargeable to PC after expiry of the subsidised support in February.*

- COSC to seek a view from Natural England (Alison Graham-Smith update – shre is unlikely to be the person to approach. Correct names were passed to Cllr Hall by MG.)

West Down

Already a Higher Tier Stewardship Agreement running to 2026. I have a copy of the latest agreement.

- Annual amount £3878. Latest payment should have been received in December.
- Annual claim to be submitted by 15/5/2025
- We need access to the RPA Portal to manage claims (Gill/David)

[Back to Agenda](#)

6) Tree Report (no report received for pre-circulation)

[\(Back to agenda\)](#)

7) Correspondence

19.02.2025 Email received from resident re Little Drove Rd tipping ([COSC 130325 1](#))

10.03.2025 Email from resident about damage to Copse ([COSC 130425 2](#))

12.03.2025 Email from resident about track not holding ([COSC 130425 3](#))

28.03.2025 Email grant offer TVBC West Down stock fencing ([COSC 130425 4](#))

[\(Back to agenda\)](#)