

Chilbolton Parish Council
Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting held on 10th February 2022 at 18:30 at Chilbolton Village Hall.

Present

David Griffiths (DG) – Chairman; Moya Grove (MG), Nick Horne (NH), Emma Noble (EN) Trish Heaton (TH), Glynne Evans (GE)

Apologies

Edward Painter (EP), Terry Gilmour (TG)

Members of the public present

None

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th January 2022 ([THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2022](#)) were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Matters arising are covered under the main headings below.

Finance

A finance report was provided by the Parish Clerk ([Report](#))

DG to confirm with Parish Clerk that 50% of scalplings costs are to be allocated to Running Costs and 50% to WMPF Capital.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Common

Report provided by MG ([Report](#))

Further updates as follows:

Access

DG has sent a description of the proposed parking plan to Alison Graham-Smith (A G-S) at Natural England and also to CPC.

A G-S had suggested the putting putting up signage and agreed the proposed conservation area. Further enquiry to A G-S by DG as to whether our existing signage would comply with the CROW Act and Common regulations. A G-S has consulted with Natural England and also a notice board specialist and has heard back from both. She will review this information before replying to DG and asked us to take no further action until we hear from her.

DG has also provided her with our draft information board. She is expected to comment on that.

Signage

The ladder sign between the track to the three cottages and the Purleygigg bridge has been moved further towards the boundary of the wildlife area.

Wessex River Trust

DG confirmed the grant from the Southern Water FreSH Fund has been approved in full and funding was secured remarkably quickly.

MG confirmed a date of either 19th or 26th March for the public meeting has been proposed by Mike Blackmore from Wessex River Trust.

COSC members raised concerns that the proposed plans may just get washed away by the river flow and / or would need ongoing maintenance. MG to draft a summary of these concerns and will send these to the clerk to CPC. DG who will raise the matter with CPC.

Bank Restoration

MG reported that this work will be taking place on the first two Wednesdays in March. Stuart Roberts at Sparsholt College expects around 25 students to be available to help each day.

An email has been received from Tony Clayton with concerns regarding access during the restoration works. Reply to be drafted by MG. Access will be via the hard standing area close to the Purleygigg bridge whilst work is ongoing.

DG and MG will look into buying chestnut fencing and posts plus any other items required for the restoration work.

Barbed Wire Fencing at the Long Bridge

Concerns have been raised to MG about this by a Wherwell Parish Councillor. Downstream the riparian rights are split between Freelands and EP. It appears that Freelands have carried out tree work on the common side. Tony Ewer acting on behalf of CPC is actively looking into this.

Ash Trees in Far Corner

GE has assessed the ash trees at the SW corner of the common as suffering from ash dieback. A fence has been damaged. DG is pretty confident that he can tackle them with other members of the West Down working party.

Machinery Maintenance

Nothing to report

Parish Paths

Report provided by DG ([Report](#))

TH and EN confirmed a poor job has been carried out on the upper part of the Mark Way. DG to chase HCC.

GE confirmed the Brockley Warren footpath is clear.

Village Greens

War Memorial Playing Fields

Report provided by NH ([Report](#))

The mole hills have been raked flat and NH will check to see if there are still moles present.

EP has confirmed to NH that he will use the tele-handler to relocate the benches. Shallow trenches will need to be dug in their new positions to stabilise them. This exercise might reveal that the table and benches are no longer fit for purpose.

EP will liaise with the development group when the table tennis table is due to be delivered. The table tennis table is probably not coming until March so there is still plenty of time to dig out the base for it and fill it with scalping. NH said that additional volunteers would be welcome to help with the required digging.

Jenny Brain at Test Valley Borough Council has asked NH for more financial information from CPC for the table tennis table grant. NH has provided this including additional information on CPC finances kindly provided by the Parish Clerk. The decision on the grant request, which is just above the £2000 minimum, is expected around 4th March.

Work to the adventure tower is ongoing. To make maximum use of any grants available DG will ask CPC if they have anything they would like to have included in the grant so that this can be tied up in one application. Only one application is admissible in each financial year.

Stocks Green

DG confirmed there will be a tree planting ceremony on Stocks Green on 27th March. The tree has been kindly donated by the Hamiltons of Chilbolton Cottage. Kate Bradley is organising this on behalf of CPC.

West Down

Report provided by GE ([Report](#))

GE confirmed that so far 77 trees have been planted, 74 are waiting to go in and a further 54 are expected. Just over £200 has been spent so far as many of the trees came from charities so there is a substantial amount of the original £2000 still available. GE suggests planting larger trees in the enclosed area. 20 large trees with protection would cost approximately £1800. The disease resistant elms which were planted on west down are doing well so GE suggested more of these.

Some of the trees are more suited to damp ground. GE and MG confirmed that these could be planted on the common subject to the agreement of Natural England.

GE confirmed work carried out by volunteers is ongoing but not all work will be complete before the end of the season. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers are coming 9th and 10th July for a ragwort pull on West Down. They are also coming on 25th September and may help with the bramble cut.

Hampshire Bat Group have contacted GE regarding setting up a number of bat boxes in the area. A donation of £90 is required and this includes the cost of the box, installation and inspecting twice a year. DG to add a line in the Parish magazine about this.

GE will contact Grass and Ground regarding cutting back all brambles in the enclosed area before next winter.

Suggestion received by DG from Maureen Treadwell regarding signposts from West Down carpark to the Common via West Down as opposed to round the concrete road as a more attractive route. However COSC considered that as the path is uneven it may not be suitable for small children or people carrying picnics etc.

GE has confirmed that Andy Bond has agreed to fix the bench nearest the concrete road. Andy told DG that he has the required timber.

GE also confirmed Hampshire Countryside Services is planning to sort out the corner curb stones and area around the crossing on 14th February.

The George Whitefield, who is due to put in the dragons teeth around the bottle bank, has concerns that he is going to hit underground power cables leading up to Ivy Farm. NH advised these are usually buried at least 600mm down (the regulation minimum depth). DG to go back to the contractor.

DG will contact George Whitefield to arrange for the repairing of the tracks on the common leading to The Old Inn and the WMPF when the weather is dry enough.

Correspondence

14/1/22 - H Bradley email (and MD response) and letter from Land Registry re land adj to SW pump house ([7222_4,4a](#))

13/1/22 – Environment Agency preparedness for flooding information ([7222_7](#), [7a](#), [7b](#))

18/1/22 – SSE Compensation letter ([7222_8](#)) - £60 has been credited to SSE account.

19/1/22 – SW Future proofing our water supplies WRSE ([7222_10](#))

20/1/22 – Theft of Catalytic Converter from WD car park ([7222_13](#))

24/1/22 – B Abbatt 2022 tree survey estimate ([7222_14](#), [14a](#), [14b](#))

26/1/22 – Wessex River Trust re River bank restoration on Cow Common ([7222_19](#))

1/2/22 – HCC new date for Parish and Town Council evet (17/3/22) ([7222_28](#), [28a](#))

Any other Business

DG is to raise at CPC meeting that there is only one CPC member on COSC. The TOR require at least two councillors to be present at the meetings of COSC.

Items for the next Agenda

None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th March 2022