

**Chilbolton Parish Council**  
**Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 14th April 2022 at Poplar Dene, Chilbolton**

**Present**

David Griffiths (DG) – Chairman; Moya Grove (MG), Trish Heaton (TH), Nick Horne (NH), Julian Hudson (JH), Emma Noble (EN)

**Apologies**

Terry Gilmour (TG), Edward Painter (EP)

DG welcomed JH to COSC and to his first meeting.

DG advised that Glynne Evans had decided to stand down from COSC. The Committee thanked Glynne for his many years of hard work for COSC and, in particular, his work on West Down - both managing the site and his conservation work - and as the Tree Warden. Glynne's experience and commitment will be greatly missed by the Committee and the village.

**Members of the public present**

None

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd March 2022 ([Minutes](#)) 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](#)) and noted. NH agreed to check with Chilbolton Clerk where the ring-fenced funding (£2k) for CWMPF from the Pre-School was recorded in the accounts.

In response to a query about the seemingly high cost of a tyre for Sparsholt's wheelbarrow (recorded as £72.68 + VAT), MG advised that this was for 2 puncture proof wheels.

**Allotments**

Chilbolton Clerk had advised that all plots were now taken.

**Common**

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

Further updates as follows:

### Bank Restoration by Sparsholt.

MG would see if the attendance by Sparsholt students was eligible for the Educational Access grant.

DG agreed to fix copies of the permit waiver using the staple gun.

### WRT proposal for river bank and channel restoration.

CPC notes of the public meeting held on 26th March had been circulated. MG highlighted some other points to be noted, and included in the final proposal:

- the sloping gravel area should be referred to as a 'gravel bank' and not a 'beach'
- the line of the ford on the Wherwell side was deep and access was steep
- Freelands Estate Manager had commented that the river at the southern end needs 'churning' as it is silting up
- the ownership of the trees on the north side of the Purleygig Stream needed to be identified as the trees need attention

### Freelands' proposal for main stream restoration.

The precise boundaries of the Common are set out on the Land Registry map which DG showed to those present. The Parish boundaries and the cattle fencing do not coincide with the extent of the Common. Fishing rights are a separate matter.

COSC queried why barbed wire had been stretched across the river and attached to the bank on the Chilbolton Parish side of the river. Furthermore, the Committee was upset to learn that a swan had become entangled in the wire and had died. DG advised that the Chairman of CPC was dealing with the matter. COSC recommended that CPC refer the matter to the Environment Agency and Natural England. At the very least, the wire needs to be removed from the Chilbolton Parish river bank and from within the Parish boundary.

NH wondered whether the Canals and River Trust might have some interest in the matter and would make an approach .

COSC endorsed the view of MG that the Freelands' proposals were in the overall interest of the river, noting that 2 berms are on the Chilbolton side of the river.

### Common Management Plan.

MG acknowledged that the Common Management Plan needed further work. She was arranging a meeting with the Test and Itchen Association and Wild Trout Trust who had an interest in the river bank. Their views could be incorporated in the Plan. DG and CPC Chairman had said they would be happy to attend the meeting. There are ash trees at the SW corner of the common that need felling need felling.

### Signage.

DG had spoken to Alison Graham-Smith of Natural England about the signage and the gravel area. Her views were awaited; COSC would then make a recommendation to CPC.

DG would raise with CPC the matter of dogs on leads within the ground nesting areas.

Cattle grazing sign. The 'warning' notice for dog owners about cattle grazing on the Common had been approved by CPC. Nevertheless, some COSC members believed that point of the notice should be that dogs can cause injury to the cattle and dogs should therefore be on a lead.

#### Gate onto the Common.

CPC had approved the installation of a gate onto the Common. NH advised that LTL had not heard from CPC; DG agreed to ask CPC to let LTL know the outcome of their proposal.

It was noted that, when installed, the gate should have one hinge pointing upwards and the other downwards to avoid unauthorised removal.

The gate would need some form of securing it in the open position.

Fencing on Common near Long Bridge. NH commented, in response to the CPC draft minutes, that it was the fencing/posts placed on the river island upstream of the main river that was the fencing in question. Half of this island, the right hand side, lies within the Chilbolton Parish boundary and forms part of the SSSI. NH agreed to write to Chilbolton Clerk to ask for clarification.

#### **Machinery Maintenance**

It had been necessary to buy a new chainsaw because of the error in refuelling; the purchase had now been made.

#### **Parish Paths**

[Report](#) provided by DG.

The matter of whether the southern part of the Mark Way had been properly cleared remained. DG agreed to take forward.

#### **Village Greens**

COSC voiced its warm thanks to Mr and Mrs Hamilton for the tree now planted on Stocks Green.

#### **War Memorial Playing Fields**

[Report](#) provided by NH.

The mole catcher was returning to deal with the latest outbreak on the playing field.

The repaired basket-ball backboards would be installed and scalping laid for the table tennis table the following week. Delivery of the table was now likely in May; the outcome of the bid to TVBC CAF was awaited. The Development Group was reviewing proposals for the adventure tower.

CPC Chairman had met with the landowner to discuss the boundary of the playing field with the adjacent land. Whilst the landowner had been in discussion with a Council member in

the past about the boundary, the legal document shows the boundary to be beyond the rabbit fence. Chairman CPC is continuing to take this matter forward with our solicitor and the landowner.

### **West Down**

As noted above, Glynne Evans would no longer be taking the lead in the management of West Down. Glynne had led a transformation of the Down which was now admired by villagers and visitors from the local area. His common sense and expert advice had been instrumental in making the area a site that added much to the village environment. Glynne was considering whether he would be able to continue as Tree Warden. It is understood that he will be happy to continue to assist with queries on the ELM system and advise on other matters when asked.

It was noted, with thanks, that the tree planting had been completed.

DG would consider who might be asked to lead the future management of West Down.

DG had obtained a quote from ATF (fencing), Romsey, for 12 posts to mark the bridleway across the Down. George Whitfield would do the installation work. EN commented that she might be able to negotiate a discount for the posts.

NH had confirmed that the electricity cables were on the other side of the road to that where the new dragons teeth would be placed. He would make contact with George.

### **Review of COSC and CWMPF Development Group TORs**

TORs for [COSC](#) and the [DG](#) were provided.

It was agreed that COSC and CPC would benefit from a second member of CPC to be a member of COSC. This proposal is recommended to CPC for consideration.

The members of the DG had not reviewed their TORs - they would report back at the next meeting.

### **Lengthsman's work**

The Chilbolton clerk had provided a [list](#) of work.

No work was proposed for the remaining funds.

### **Correspondence**

All [correspondence](#) noted.

### **Any other Business**

None

### **Items for the next Agenda**

None

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 12th May 2022 at Poplar Dene