

Chilbolton Parish Council
Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting held on 19th May 2022 at 18:30 at Poplar Dene

Present

Moya Grove (MG), Julian Hudson (JH), Nick Horne (NH), David Griffiths (DG), Emma Noble (EN)

Apologies

Edward Painter (EP), Terry Gilmour (TG), Trish Heaton (TH)

Members of the public present

Jasper Galloway (JW)

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14th April 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Election of Chair

DG was nominated and seconded as chairman. There being no other nominations DG was elected unanimously. DG agreed to continue for another year but indicated that he would probably step down in 2023.

Matters arising

Matters arising are covered under the main headings below.

Finance

A finance report was provided by the Parish Clerk ([19522 2](#)) and noted. *There were no comments thereon.*

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Common

Report provided by MG ([19522 1](#))

MG wanted the below items to be added or amended in her original report:

- 1) Following the meeting with Jonny Rees Davies on 10/5/22, there should also be a report from Nick Lawrence but it has not come yet.
- 2) Dead ash trees in the corner of the Common should be cut only where they are damaging or resting on fencing and then left so that the lower parts and roots help to hold the river bank together. The old wood can be left on the bank to provide a habitat for wildlife. DG to deal with Ash Trees on the fence.

Wessex River Trust (WRT)

Update for WRT proposal: Howard Taylor (HT) at Freelands has asked Mike Blackmore (MB) who is running the WRT project not to start before 15th October due to the fishing season. MB wants to do it in September at the latest and Alison Graham-Smith (AG-S) at Natural England (NE) insists that it needs to be done during a dry period. COSC will recommend to CPC that work commences in September in line with WRT and NE's wishes.

A revised plan has been agreed with WRT that the ford is not going to follow the line of the bridge. It is going to take the *existing* path.

During the CPC meeting of 9/5/22 councillors suggested little plants would stabilise the shingle and be more aesthetically pleasing and requested MG contact WRT about this. MG has been in contact with Neil Smith at WRT who said the stones would knit together themselves and any plants would probably die. COSC agree with the recommendation not to plant small plants on the single bank.

Azolla

The invasive Azolla fern has been inspected by MG but has not obviously spread. The Azolla weevil supplier has been contacted but the response has not yet been received.

Cow Common Signage

Cattle Grazing signage: This has now been put up. The cattle are due to arrive imminently.

Ladder boards: As requested MG has asked the Mandy Denyer (MD) to request three quotes for the three proposed versions from Andrew Hampson the sign maker ([19522_6](#)) but to date no quote has been received. Since then there have been further discussions. MG proposed a new sign ([19522_10](#)). COSC agreed 'Leads Please' should be changed to 'Dogs on Leads' and the symbols at the bottom should be bunched together without gaps. COSC will make a recommendation to CPC that the boards are re-worded and obtain a quote for that.

Information Boards: AG-S and HCC consider the proposed wording ([19522_8](#)) to be too long, unwelcoming and containing too many rules. MG has since liaised with Kate Bradley (KB) and has made the sign briefer and included key words in bold.

DG would like to see mentioned reference to grazing rights and it having been a Cow Common since time immemorial. DG will discuss with KB who will take their ideas for new wording to CPC for consideration.

Gravel Area Redesign

Proposed gravel area redesign provided by JH ([19522_12a](#)) ([19522_12](#))

COSC would like to express its gratitude to JH for work carried out on the redesign.

The plan included parking for 7 cars, 4 of which would be disabled. COSC recommended that only 2 need to be *for the* disabled.

It was agreed that the bin which blocks the equestrian access should be moved.

NH suggested that TVBC be consulted as the main consideration is the manoeuvrability in the area for refuse trucks. It was noted that a different small van does New Inn Cottage's refuse. NH to liaise with TVBC regarding the plans.

NH questioned why both gates to the cottages needed to be moved. COSC agreed that in fact only the gate to the *Old Inn/ Old Inn Cottage and Test Haven* needs to be moved. The gate to the *Old Cottage and WMPF* should stay where it is.

Alison G-S has asked to see the plans before we carry out the work.

Dogs

Tony Ewer (TE) asked for an article to be included in the Parish Magazine about dogs on the Common. MG wrote an article which TE and MD approved. It should appear in the June magazine ([19522 5c](#)).

Warden Scheme

AG-S proposed a warden scheme for the Common and Daisy Kennard (DK), Assistant Countryside Officer at TVBC has approached DG to discuss this. DG will liaise with DK and arrange a date to meet on the Common.

Machinery Maintenance

Nothing to report

Parish Paths

Nothing to report

Village Greens

Nothing to report

War Memorial Playing Field

Update on WMPF Development Group

COSC agreed that new football contract be renewed under the same terms as previously used.

NH confirmed that Grass and Grounds have been provided with a replacement key to the playing field.

NH is to liaise with Ed Treadwell to look at the locks on the gates.

A safety inspection report has been provided by RoSPA Play Safety in respect of the play equipment ([19522 10](#)). The main concern is the mound, about which COSC was already aware. The zip wire needs looking at further to confirm there are no issues. NH and EN to look at this.

Table Tennis Table (TTT)

JG raised concerns that local youths might congregate round the TTT and cause a nuisance. He proposed a better location as being further towards the back of CWMPF near the teen hut. This way it would be closer to the other play things and would not be seen from his bedroom window.

NH indicated that the location was agreed in July 2020 at a CPC meeting. Factors taken into account was safety (ie chasing the ball) and it being a readily accessible spot. The size of the lorry needing to drop it off had to be taken into account. The delivery company have said they cannot drive onto grass as the TTT alone weighs over a tonne.

DG asked if it could be moved further into the field. NH said that it could be, but the below points would need to be addressed:

- 1) The matter would need to be reviewed by CPC as the whole plan for the field would need to be reconsidered.
- 2) Consideration would need to be given regarding how to get it from delivery at the gate to the proposed new location bearing in mind its weight and potential fragility. JG suggested a dolly but feasibility of this would need to be investigated

DG proposed that we should have a second look at this and see if JG's requests could be accommodated. If the plans were altered we would need to resubmit them to CPC. DG and NH to action.

West Down

DG confirmed that George Whitefield had erected posts indicating the route of the bridleway and DG would be painting *the tops of* these.

Lengths Man Work

Bawden 2022 tree survey reports

The tree survey report has been received ([Allotments report](#), [appendix A](#), [appendix B](#), [Common report](#), [appendix A](#), [appendix B](#), [Village Pond and Stocks Green report](#), [Stocks Green appendix A](#), [Stocks Green appendix B](#), [Village Pond appendix A](#), [Village Pond appendix B](#), [West Down Report](#), [WD appendix A](#), [WD appendix B](#), [Coronation Green appendix A](#), [CWMPF Report](#), [appendix A](#), [appendix B](#))

Glynne Evans (GE) has provided some initial thoughts, importantly that we need to make a distinction between arboricultural risk vs health and safety risks. DG will liaise with Glynne and carry out inspections with him and report back to COSC and CPC.

Safeguarding / DBS checks for Educational Access

Correspondence

([19522_3](#))

Questions from Public

None other than those mentioned under Table Tennis Table above

Any other Business

MG submitted to CPC an annual report on behalf of COSC ([9522 26a](#))

Items for the next Agenda

None

Date of the next meeting

Scheduled date is Thursday 9 June 2022 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.