

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

To be held on Thursday 13 October 2022 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

A G E N D A P A C K

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Approval of Minutes – [Thursday 11 August 2022](#)
4. Matters Arising
5. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows: -
 - A) [Finance](#) report ([131022 1](#)) – to inc. discussion on 2023/24 COSC budget ([131022 2](#))
 - B) [Allotments](#) – T. Gilmour to inc. update on mains water supply ([131022 3](#))
 - C) [Common report](#) – M. Grove to inc. ([131022 6](#))
 - i) [Update on Wessex River Trust proposal](#) ([131022 7](#)), [Meeting with Matt Irvine](#) ([9822 3](#)), discussion and decision on [Interpretation Boards](#) ([71122 2](#)), [Parish Magazine article](#) ([131022 8](#))
 - ii) [Gate closure policy](#) – to make minor amendments ([5922 47](#))
 - iii) [To discuss Common Gravel area proposal from resident](#) (presented at CPC meeting held on 17/8/22 ([9822 2](#)))
 - iv) [Fencing issues](#)
 - v) [Management jobs people and dates for autumn work](#) ([131022 9](#))
 - vi) [Update on Common signage](#)
 - D) Machinery Maintenance
 - E) [Parish Paths](#) – Cllr Griffiths
 - F) Village Greens
 - G) War Memorial Playing Fields – N. Horne to inc. [NB: these reports are from September and no updates have been supplied at the time of publishing]
 - i) [Update on WMPF Development Group](#) ([9822 9](#))
 - ii) [To discuss and decide on basketball system repair and CCTV](#) proposal ([8922 1](#))
 - iii) [WMPF Boundary](#) ([9822 8](#))
 - H) [West Down](#) – to inc. Update on improvements to Permissive Bridleway
6. To discuss and decide on tasks for the Lengthsman to be carried out in November (inc. time to complete task/s)
7. [To discuss and decide on DRAFT Cow Common Code that could be used on Social Media](#) ([9822 5](#))
8. [Correspondence](#) ([9822 6](#))
9. Questions from Public
10. Any Other Business – For information only
11. Items for the next agenda
12. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 10 November 2022 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

Mandy Denyer (Clerk)

5A - COSC October '22 Finance report –

OVERVIEW SUMMARY	HSBC No.2 / Batty acc	HSBC Deposit/WMPF Capital acc	Ringfenced accounts			Other (i.e. precept funded)	VAT	TOTAL
			WMPF Capital (held in current account)	Common	West Down			
Opening Balance as at 1/4/22	5099.97	3747.59	0.00	19165.59	10029.01			38042.16
COSC related Receipts total to date	1.63	1.51	2612.50	0.00	873.17	425.82		3914.63
COSC related Expenditure to date	-1898.00		-3251.87	-4411.95	-1893.31	-3930.59	-2303.22	-17688.94
Closing Balance as at 01/09/22	3203.60	3749.10	-639.37	14753.64	9008.87	-3504.77	-2303.22	24267.85
Notification of receipts from 3/8/22 inc. in above figures								
Green Canopy tree sponsorships						85.00		85.00
TVBC s106 and Commuity Asset Fund for TTT			2612.50					2612.50
								0.00
Notification of payments from 3/8/22 (inc. in above figures):-								
N Horne (reimbursement TTT Balls)			5.50					5.50
J Rowles (Reimbursement - Common track gravel)				707.20			141.11	848.31
SSE(Pavilion Electric)						30.66	1.53	32.19
Bendcrete Leisure Ltd (TTT/WMPF Capital)			2375.00				475.00	2850.00
Sparsholt College (Chainsaw training)				386.10	386.10	514.80		1287.00
N Horne (reimbursement for machinery hooks for container)				10.93	10.93	14.59		36.45
T Gilmour (reimbursement re Southern Water/Allotments)						71.63	14.33	85.96
I Daubney (common/Greens/FPs)				45.00		845.00		890.00
A Denyer (Common/signage)				27.50				27.50
G Whitefield (Common and WD)				400.00	155.00			555.00
Greenspace Designs Ltd (25% deposite for Common info Boards)				1241.25			248.25	1489.50
E Treadwell reimbursement 1x WMPF gate and 2x Common gate repairs			9.75	19.50			5.85	35.10

COSC related Community Projects Allocations/reconciliation -	Budgeted	Expenditure	Receipt	Balance
WMPF improvements to Play Area	10000.00			10000.00
West Down Tree Planting (balance to be used for acquisition & planting of bigger trees in the autumn/Green Canopy)	2000.00	-244.72	685.00	2440.28
Further enhancements to WMPF	5000.00			5000.00
Common gravel area redesign	5000.00	-940.00		4060.00
	22000.00	-1184.72	685.00	21500.28

[Receipts spreadsheet](#)

[Payments spreadsheet](#)

Common Information Boards and Gravel Area redesign – Cllrs have agreed, in principal, that any unused budget for the Common gravel area redesign will be put towards the cost of the Common Long term improvements (i.e. ladder boards and information boards). Common Gravel redesign budgeted £5000 [DG estimates that the redesign would not cost more than £1000]. Common long term improvements (signage) budget in 2021/22 was £5000. £1968 was used for the ladder boards in 2021/22. Budget carried forward to 2022/23 therefore £3032.00. To date in 2022/23 the signage has cost £1405.25 (£164 for testing of re-doing ladder boards and £1241.25 for the 25% deposit for the information boards). The remaining cost for the re-doing of ladder boards, if the maximum of 12 ladders need, will be = £2814. The remainder of the 2x information boards = £3723.75. Therefore could be over budget by £4911.00.

WMPF Table Tennis Table – A total of £2612.50 has been received for the TTT. The net cost of the TTT, bats and balls was £2463.67. The difference is due to the estimated installation costs. Thanks to E Painter, this was done FOC. Therefore the £148.83 can be put towards further development of the WMPF.

2023/24 budget

As per CPC Financial Regulations - Item No.3.1 - Each committee (if any) shall review its forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments. Having regard to the forecast, it shall thereafter formulate and submit proposals for the following financial year to the council not later than the end of November each year including any proposals for revising the forecast. And Item No. 4.3 - Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

To assist with discussions the COSC precept and other accounts and ringfenced accounts budget review as at 04/10/22 are attached below.

As a starting point for discussions on the 2023/24 COSC budget the attached DRAFT budgets (i.e. precept and other accounts and ringfenced accounts), unless otherwise stated, uses the amounts set for the 2022/23 budget and assumes all outstanding income and expenditure have been received/spent. The Opening balances used are those estimated in the budget reviews. (NB: 2023/24 WMPF Capital income and expenditure have not been inserted nor cost of a COSC admin officer).

BUDGET REVIEWS – [Precept and other accounts](#) [Ringfenced Accounts](#)

DRAFT 2023/24 BUDGET - [Precept and other accounts](#) [Ringfenced Accounts](#)

[Explanation for WMPF Capital minus balance](#)

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5B - Allotment Report from T Gilmour

Following the Committee's agreement to investigate the possible supply of main's water to the allotments, I met Southern Water's (SW) surveyor on site and have since received an estimate for the work. However, the work proposed in the estimate is not correct and I have asked SW to revise it. I will report back on the likely costs as soon as I have a corrected estimate.

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5C – Common report from M Grove –

There was no September meeting so some items from the Sept report have been decided already. They have been left in and amended where possible. CPC decisions may be reported at the meeting. Oct items have been added. There are many attachments. I have had covid and was out of it for a good 2 weeks and am still recovering, so apologies for any omissions/ lack of clarity.

Update on Wessex River Trust proposal

i) Meeting with Matt Irvine 30.8.22 (report of meeting - 9822_3)
Emma, Tony, Abby and I met Matt Irvine of WRT on Tuesday 30th August. He has taken over the running of the river restoration project on the Purleygig stream from Mike Blakemore and Neil Swift. It was a very positive meeting.

Action – Do we want to **retain the oak boards** removed from the river bank?

Gate closure decision – safety /access issues.

4.10.22 The site work is now to be overseen by Andy Blinkow. He is well in touch with issues and sensitivities on the site.

ii) WRT work – updated report to CPC (131022_7): -

WRT River restoration interim report 28 September 2022 **to CPC and amended to COSC**

I checked the dates for the project with Matt Irvine this morning and he expects the contractors on site on **7th October delayed from original date of 24th**. This is half term week. They will be working for a week on re-grading the slope to the river above the Purleygig bridge.

I understand that Andy Blinkow whom we haven't met will be overseeing the work during the first few days as Matt Irvine is on paternity leave until 26th. We hope that Mike Blackmore will also be involved as he knows the site, its constraints and the sensitivities well. I will check that he has all the info about storage location for materials and plant from Matt.

The work on the berms starts on the 31st, a week later. Volunteers are required for this.

I have been in touch with Amy Ellis who has the educational role with WR, she has recruited some WRT volunteers for the building of the berms for the above project.

I have put an article into the October Parish Mag asking if anyone is interested in “ Building a Berm”. Test Valley School in Stockbridge have expressed an interest. This would be in the context of the Land Based Studies course. Caroline Lowing, the new Head Teacher, is interested and keen to hear more.

WRT Amy Ellis has taken this on but has not made contact yet.

Cllr David Hall is a governor there and a member of Chilbolton Parish Council and will liaise with Test Valley School but the initial approach is to be handled by WRT Amy Ellis. She told me that any volunteers had to sign up with WRT so it seemed sensible for her to approach the school on behalf of WRT. The school knows me as I did some talks to geographers in January about the management of the common. At a recent governors meeting David introduced the topic of volunteering so they are aware and there was interest. We opened up a link with them on liaison on managing the countryside early this year.

I had also put feelers out to Sparsholt College as Stuart Robertson and Jenny Hamilton's students have contributed to work on the common, Stuart's for many years.

I have not heard back from them yet but they may be waiting for details and dates.

We have arranged for storage of the hazel faggots on the playing field, nearer to where they are to be used and out of the way of any vehicles. Matt will ensure that they are delivered to the left of the cattle grid gate. He will need a key and will contact David or myself when the delivery date is fixed.

In my opinion it might be necessary to close the Common gate while work is in progress for the first week but it is HALF TERM.

Amy has proposed information boards details in separate attachment

Moya Grove 28 Sept 2022/ **5th October**

iii). Article in Parish Magazine for November ([131022 8](#)): -

Build a Berm!

River restoration by the Wessex Rivers Trust is taking place 24th October (half term) to mid- November this year. The plan has been agreed with Chilbolton Parish Council, COSC and the village at a public presentation and is very exciting. Our river has become wide and slow and does not give the wild life its best chance. So, the old boards where we picnic by the Purleygig bridge are to go and a gentle shingle slope put in to the river. Downstream of the Purleygig bridge (the little one near Chilbolton) will be constructed 8 berms. These natural structures are made of hazel they will “re wiggle” the river making it bend more. The river itself will do the rest. Fast and slow reaches will develop naturally and the fish and fauna will have a variety of places to live. It will be a much more varied habitat than the box shaped cross-profile affords now. Posters are already in place telling you all about this.

Building the berms is fun and easy. From 31st Oct for two weeks the Wessex Rivers Trust people will be there with all the materials and you can help the river back to health. You will need to sign up as volunteers with Amy Ellis of Wessex Rivers Trust. Children are welcome, under your care of course, and anyone with an hour to spare (or three!) will be very welcome. Wellies waders and thermos, and a willingness to help should make a very nice atmosphere. At least do come and see what is happening. This also fits in with children’s studies of water, rivers and the hydrological cycle at all stages in their school life.

Task:

Tasks will mostly consist of moving bundles of hazel faggots across a nature reserve and pinning them in the channel to create meanders in an over-wide river. The work will be physical, walking over rough ground and in the river, but volunteers can work at their own pace and take breaks as needed.

Dates:

Monday 31st October – Friday 4th November

Monday 7th - Friday 11th November

Times: 9.30am – 2.30pm most days

Please note: to volunteer on this project you must register with Wessex Rivers Trust before the day of the task To register as a Wessex Rivers Trust volunteer please visit <https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/volunteer.html> For more information about this project or for more details about the volunteering please contact amy@wessexrt.org.uk

Wessex River Trust will also hold a Coffee Morning on site on Monday 31st October, 9.30 – 11am for anyone wanting to learn more about the project.

Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee

iv) WRT to fund Information/interpretation boards, WRT propose A1 or A2 lectern style in oak. See attachment [71122_2](#)

Paper Size	Inches	Centimeters
A1	23-3/8 x 33-1/8 in	59.4 x 84.1 cm
A2	16-1/2 x 23-3/8 in	42.0 x 59.4 cm

Action – decide on best one.

Fencing issues and stock

I contacted Adam Coutts (grazier) when Geoff Hounslow (water bailiff, Watch estate) phoned to say he had seen a cow on their land. Adam inspected the fence between Watch estate and the south boundary of the common on Saturday to discover that willow trees on the Watch estate side had fallen across the fence lowering it. So, cows had obviously been wandering in and out for some time. Adam propped it up as best he could. All 27 cows were present on the common when he inspected (about 6 pm Saturday) . Geoff Hounslow has this in hand (it is their deer fence).

Action - we need to check all the fences now.

Adam also reported that he will be getting the cattle TB tested in early November or late October prior to moving them off. I requested that he gather from the Chilbolton side and he said he would do his best. **This now coincides with the Purleygig contractors work starting Nov 7th**

Report of cow trapped (Wed 31.8.22) I advised Adam and he already knew and had sent Mitch Robinson to deal with it. He had seen it on Facebook

Management plan

- i) NE have asked for a detailed management plan.
Action MG will do this by updating the boundary management plan we considered last year and integrating it with the original plan [below \(131022_9\)](#).
- ii) **Action - to schedule work** on the boundary We need dates personnel and equipment decisions There is a lot of scrub and fallen tree work to schedule. Will need chain saws and "beast". **Can we organise this now please dates, people, equipment.**
- iii) **Action - to decide on Autumn cut** "Grass and grounds" have raised difficulties but the "fields" receive agri-environment payments from Defra, and the purpose of the cuts is to maintain the fields in "Good Agricultural & Environmental Condition" (GAEC) as required by the Defra agreements. So why wouldn't topping them not be considered as "agricultural use"?!
If they are still not able to do the work the following were suggested by my contact in HIWWT. Other suggestions?

- Vesper Conservation and Ecology <https://www.vesperconservationecology.co.uk/> 07881 027732
- Red Kite Conservation Services Ltd <http://redkiteconservation.co.uk/> info@redkiteconservation.co.uk
- Jack Davidson at Greenjack Countryside jack@greenjackcountryside.co.uk

Common Boundary Management plan: -

Draft Schedule for work on the Common margins 2021-2024 – see map

Aim:- 1 To prevent further encroachment of the margins by sloe and bramble

2 To allow the autumn cut to get in under the trees.

3. to restore the line of the bridleway.

At the meeting with NE representative Alison Graham-Smith, Moya Grove and David Neudegg it was agreed that COSC should make a plan for 2-3 years work to drive back encroaching scrub from the margins of the Common.

NB tree work has to be completed before the end of February

Phase One – 2021 late winter- Margin along Main River

Priority One

Remove low boughs from selected trees to left of Long Bridge and to right of Northern spring as discussed to allow access to autumn cut unhindered by low boughs.

Priority Two

Remove willow branches where removed last autumn to prevent rooting.

Priority Three

Take back SOME tangled bramble from around the bushes to prevent further encroachment.

David G to allocate work to either the Tuesday conservation group or to the Lengthsman and organise disposal.

To be completed by end February 2021

Phase Two – Oct -Feb winter 2021-22 Margin along bridleway from Long Bridge to the Purleygig stream – see map. To restore the original line of the path.

Priority One

Cut back small sloe sucker growth from area to the left and right of the dragon tree.

Priority Two

Remove selected whole sloe bushes as discussed to drive the footpath back to its original line nearer the fence. (as indicated by the marker humps which are now engulfed by the bushes).

Priority Three

Drive back the bramble from the area in the dip to the left of the seat (see map) by approx. 1 metre. No more.

Depending on progress and the availability of people Phase Two could be started earlier.

Phase Three – to be discussed – or Oct – Feb 2022-3 depending on progress

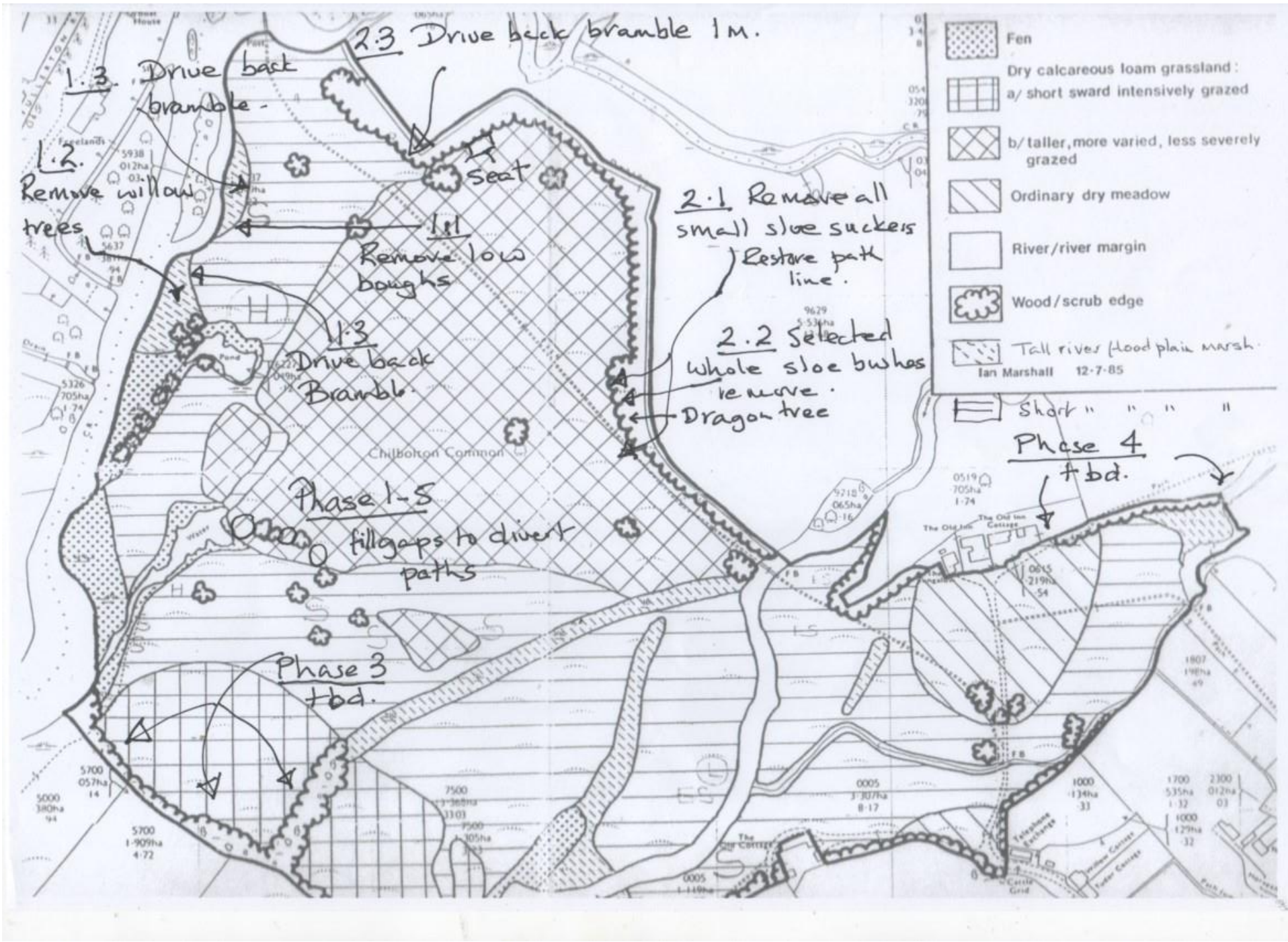
The south margin and the scrub bordering the dry leader see map below

Phase Four - to be discussed Oct – Jan 2023-24 The boundary with Edward Painter's land between the Abbots stream and the Cottages

Phase 1-5 Bushes to east of southern spring and brash

Noted (AGS_NE) that there are more paths in this area being driven than needed – keep brash to close gaps. Also keep brash along fences in case of need to restore area stripped of plants for bank restoration .

MG and DG January 11 2021



Update on Common signage

Ladder Boards - the ladders have been removed from the ladder boards signs, planed and been sent for re-engraving.

Information Boards - Greenspace Ltd have been paid the 25% deposit for the production of the information boards.

Extension to HLS - Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement extension: expression of interest (EOI) ([5922 57](#))

We have been offered (1.9.22) a 5-year extension on the HLS agreement. I am following this up with Mandy and I have asked Glynne for advice on whether we meet the criteria for this and will report at the meeting.

Second time of request – we need someone to take on the admin for West Down now Glynne is no longer involved, I cannot do this as well.

Fishing rights issues are being overseen by Chair of CPC. DG to report from CPC meeting

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5Cii – Common Gate Closure Policy – COSC to make minor amendments to the CPC agreed, in principal, policy –

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL (CPC) POLICY FOR THE CLOSING OF CHILBOLTON COW COMMON (COMMON) GRAVEL AREA TO VEHICLES

Background

The River Test is a SSSI and Chilbolton Cow Common is a SSSI. As owners the Parish Council has an obligation to protect this environment within its statutory powers and in accordance with the Stewardship agreement with the Rural Payments Agency that is overseen by Natural England.

The Registered Commons Act 2006 and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 give statutory rights for people to access the Common on foot with dogs that are under control.

The Test Way is a Public Right of Way for horse riders, cyclists and walkers and crosses the Common and the owners of houses on the Common have a legal right of access to their properties for all types of vehicle, particularly emergency vehicles.

CPC has to respect all these legal obligations within its statutory powers whilst seeking to limit the fire risk, damage, litter and serious overcrowding mainly during holiday weekends in Summer.

CPC have recently installed a metal gate that will make closing the gravel area to vehicles much easier whilst enabling access to authorised vehicles by using a lock with a code.

Objectives of Policy

Whilst conforming to the statutory obligations set out above CPC will seek to:-

- Protect and enhance the SSSI and the River Test in accordance with the Stewardship agreement.
- Permit access to persons on foot with dogs on leads.
- Prevent parked vehicles obstructing vehicular access to dwellings situated on the Common.
- Provide access to persons with disabilities and infants, equestrians and those with fishing rights.
- Keep the gravel area open but after closure to reopen as soon as possible.

How will the decision to close the gate be made: -

CPC delegate the responsibility of the gate operation to the Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee (COSC).

In the event of an anticipated threat to the Common or for safety reasons COSC may make a decision to close the gate in terms of the policy and advise CPC councillors and CPC clerk by email of the dates and times of closure. Closures will be included in the monthly COSC report.

Policy for normal closures by COSC.

Factor	Why	Notice to be given
Common maintenance (inc. but not limited to, tree works)	To allow clear access for contractors and/or volunteers	Ideally one weeks' notice, to be displayed on gravel area notice board
Rounding up or releasing of cattle	To allow an area of hard standing for the cattle lorry to park, without parked vehicles being in the way	Ideally one weeks' notice, to be displayed on gravel area notice board
River works (inc. but not limited to, work on river bank, river bed, tree trimming and felling, re- stocking with fish, grass cutting and fence repair.	To allow clear access for contractors and/or volunteers	Ideally one weeks' notice, to be displayed on gravel area notice board
Travellers in the area	To prevent access to the Common for travellers to set up camp	CPC may not get much notice and therefore the gate may need to be shut immediately
Urgent/Emergency situations	To prevent further vehicle access to the gravel area and allow emergency vehicles clear access	There is no notice of when an emergency situation will arise and the gate will be closed immediately.

The following factors and any other matter will require a CPC decision by email. If there is no majority the Chairman can use his casting vote, otherwise no action will be taken.

Factor	Why	Notice to be given
Extreme Weather Alerts (Heat and Wildfire risk)	To reduce the number of vehicles using the gravel area and thereby reducing overcrowding.	As much notice as possible, but may be closed immediately
Anti-social behaviour	To reduce associated nuisance such as excessive drinking, noise, litter.	The gravel area will be closed at night and notice to be displayed on gravel area notice board.
Holiday weekends, Public Holidays and school holidays.	Added pressure is to be expected on the river and SSSI and closure will help to protect the Common and river.	CPC will consider if the gate should be closed on set dates throughout the year so that advance notice can be given.

Actions when gate is closed

Where it is possible to give advance notice of any closure a notice will be displayed on the gravel area notice board.

CPC will ask the Village Webmaster to circulate any notifications to Chilbolton and Wherwell residents and endeavour to use social media to either give advance or immediate warning of any closure.

A barrier and notice will be positioned at the top of Joys Lane. This notice will state that the Common is closed to vehicles and that there is nowhere to turn on Joys Lane.

The combination for the gate lock will be made available to all councillors, to the common residents and to the fire, ambulance and waste collection services. Residents may release the code to delivery services in strict confidence. The code will be changed regularly by COSC.

Closures by COSC will be reported to CPC councillors and the clerk by email and closures requiring a CPC decision by email will be reported at the next CPC meeting including copies of the emails.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and may be amended by a majority vote at a meeting of the Parish Council.

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5Ciii - To discuss Common Gravel area proposal from resident (presented at CPC meeting held on 17/8/22 (9822 2)

J Rowles proposal for Gravel area: -

1. To leave the car parking area open at all times, except in set circumstances.
2. To arrange a professional contractor/agent to manage the parking area.
3. Issue passes for disabled specifically for the Common having been vetted by CPC, in addition to the blue badge scheme.
4. In Joys Lane, install 10mph speed limit and install a flashing sign that shows the vehicles speed to the driver.
5. Put traffic calming bumps in Joys Lane.
6. To invite BT and the Abbots Mitre into any discussions about professional management of the parking area, as they may be able to benefit from such a scheme. The Abbots Mitre have issues with parking and BT has one space available to them on Joys Lane.
7. Use the Chalk Pit (Allotments) for car parking.

Remove the various signage scattered around the Common parking area and replace with one new decent sign.

Extract from 17/8/22 Extraordinary CPC meeting: -

F Barrie – With regards to the Joys Lane highway proposals, as the former Chair of CPC, she had discussed highways matters (such as that that J Rowles is proposing). HCC highways have nil funding in their budget to do anything in the village. Any physical changes to Joys Lane would have to be done by HCC Highways, including any new highways signage. So anything proposed for Joys Lane is not going to be agreed by HCC Highways.

DG recapped on the proposal put to CPC at this meeting by J Rowles.

Item 2 (to use a profession parking management scheme) would incur costs, it would not be done for free.

Item 3 (to issue disable parking permits) – during the break, a member of the public suggested that the area be for disabled parking only. This can be considered by COSC, but DG pointed out that consideration will also have made to those families with younger children.

Item 4 (speed indicator signage) – COSC and CPC have considered this previously, however these are very expensive.

Item 5 (traffic calming bumps) – this was addressed by F Barrie. HCC Highways would have to agree and they don't.

Item 6 (invite BT and Abbots Mitre into discussions about using a professional parking management scheme. COSC can consider this.

Item 7 (use Allotments as parking area) – is an interesting idea, but beyond the remit of this evenings meeting. But COSC can consider this.

Item 8 (parking signage) – When the signs were put up 2 years ago they looked nice and bright, but of course they have faded and are now looking tatty. We can and will consider, as pointed out by P Hatter, using better more professional looking signage.

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5E – Footpath and Bridleways report from Cllr Griffiths –

Bridleway across the Common:

Dragons teeth have been placed to prevent vehicles parking and obstructing the bridleway gate adjacent to the cattle grid. These have proved successful.

A sign has been ordered to attach to the Joys Lane side of the gate to ask the public to not to obstruct access via the gate. When the new gate was closed motor cycles were parked in front of the gate preventing access by horse riders.

Some cutting back of trees growing across the bridleway as it passes alongside the Long Bridge has taken place. There remains a large, low hanging branch to be cut away. This will require two persons plus a chain saw.

FP 16 The TV Farm Path:

This has been cleared by the Lengths Man and is now in good order.

As far as I am aware all other rights of way are unobstructed. However, I have not walked The Mark Way recently but will do so soon.

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Gi – WMPF report from N Horne –

CWMPF REPORT TO COSC FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Playing Field

Wherwell Royals FC are training each Wednesday in preparation for the forthcoming season.

Grass & Grounds have been asked to resume cutting this week in preparation for the football season.

As discussed at our last meeting, the CPC chair has advised the adjacent landowner that the southwest gate to the Coronation Tree path is the CWMPF boundary. The agreed COSC response and recommendation has been circulated and is to be confirmed at the meeting.

One of the basketball hoops has become detached - the bracket holding it has been broken. The concern is that this resulted from more than normal use but contact has been made with the suppliers to make a warranty claim for this and the coating to one of the posts that is peeling off. COSC is to discuss this.

There is concern that the timber shakes on the play equipment are worsening and COSC has already been alerted to the need for this to be monitored and for consideration to be given to the appropriate action that should be taken.

Pavilion

The football club undertook a full clean of the pavilion, including the showers, as part of their pre-season preparations.

Ed Treadwell and I needed to prime the pump to get it working recently. The advice given to the football users to run the pump each time the pavilion is used should be given to all those who use the pavilion.

Rick Frankie is looking at treating the roof panels that are showing signs of rust, and cutting back the tree branches which overhang it.

Container

Ed Treadwell and I installed the units kindly donated by Moya and the open shelving unit kindly donated by Emma.

Attention has been drawn to the large overhanging branch which, were it to fall, would undoubtedly destabilise the lighting installations inside. It is hoped that a volunteer, qualified in the use of chainsaws and their use on trees will take appropriate action.

Development Group

Take up on hiring bats and balls from the shop has been slow so an additional notice directing people to the village shop to do that has been fixed to the table.

The series of meetings with companies who have expressed interest in providing and installing an adventure tower to replace the slide mound is underway. We will use these to obtain detailed quotes which meet the ideal criteria we have devised. We have asked for designs for both two and three tower options which we can put to the Parish Council for a decision, hopefully by November. This timing will depend upon the companies' response times as the play equipment sector is enjoying a boom in business.

Gii – WMPF Basketball system repair and CCTV proposal – BASKETBALL COURT UPDATE - repair and CCTV Proposal

NICK HORNE

Tue 23/08/2022 13:17

As I will not be at the next COSC meeting please will you consider this email and minute the result.

Last Thursday I was alerted by the football club that one of the hoops had been found on the ground and they had placed it in the pavilion. I have had a look at it and found that the pin that secures the ring onto the backboard has pulled through the slam bracket that is attached to the backboard. The bracket is shaped to allow the pin to move but not pull through but the three of the four metal lugs have been broken off/deformed – you may be able to see that from the image – and the pin pulled through.

Bearing in mind the two brackets have been there since first installed I am inclined to see this as a design weakness and, in addition to the flaking of the coating on the metal posts, have submitted a warranty claim to Spalding.

My further thought – because there is no damage to the paint on the ring or orange paint on the ground below the backboard – that the hoop came away when someone was pulling/hanging on it. The adjusting handle at that end is also bent, but still functional – see image.

Whether or not a warranty claim is accepted a new bracket can be purchased and I can fit it. That is my question to COSC.

In addition I would like COSC to consider whether they would be in favour of the purchase of a trailcam to monitor use of the basketball court, together with bold notices that warn users that CCTV is in operation: <https://shop.naturespy.org/products/browning-recon-force-elite-hp5>

From: **NICK HORNE**

Date: Thu, 11 Aug 2022 at 11:36

Subject: THE CWMPF BOUNDARY

I apologise that it has taken me this time to provide you with the proposed COSC note to the CPC which I was asked to draft and circulate at the last COSC meeting. This is beyond the 7-day deadline for the submission of items to be presented for tonight's meeting and so I am hopeful that we can deal with it as an email exercise, or at the September COSC if necessary.

Thank you, Nick

"At our meeting on 21 July COSC discussed correspondence relating to the boundary of the CWMPF [INSERT HYPERLINKS] which it had not been consulted on.

The CWMPF was sold to the Parish Council in 1946 by the Testcombe Estate "for the purpose of being used as a Public Playing Field". It was stated as "containing in the whole 5.25 acres or thereabouts and being part of Number Eighteen on the Ordnance Survey Map". A plan was attached to the Conveyance to indicate, with shading, the land conveyed. Under the Conveyance, the Council covenanted with the Vendor "that they will erect and for ever after maintain a good and sufficient post and wire or other fence on the South West boundary....between the points marked A,B,C & D on the said plan"

A copy of the plan is [attached](#), and it will be noted that the fence line in question is to delineate the boundary between the Testcombe Estate and the CWMPF.

COSC considers the CWMPF to be a highly valued community asset and the correct marking of the true boundary is of great importance. The current fencing has been placed to protect the play areas, rather than to mark the boundary and previous investigations have revealed the neglected fencing which once formed the true boundary, or something close to it, with Testcombe Estate.

The key concerns of COSC from reading the correspondence with the owners of land adjoining the South West boundary are:

There is no reference to the plan which formed part of the Conveyance, and which therefore appears to be the definitive document;

There is no scale on any of the diagrams or plans accompanying the correspondence and therefore the measurements taken cannot be accurately related to them;

Helen Bradley has provided a copy of the land registry record for the CWMPF, but it does not feature in the correspondence;

The letter to Mr D Saunders from the Parish Clerk could be considered as a waiver of the Parish Council's legal rights of ownership;

Given the importance of the topic, no decisions should have been taken or communicated on the boundary without first taking professional legal and surveying advice and involvement, and consulting COSC on the outcome.

COSC therefore advises that the Parish Council should take appropriate professional advice to establish the legal boundaries, as a matter of urgency. It should immediately advise M Saunders that the position stated in its letter of the 7 June 20022 is under review and its contents are withdrawn pending clarification. Once the true boundary line is established the Parish Council should respect its Covenant under the Conveyance and install a post and wire, or other, fence along the legally established South West Boundary of the CWMPPF.

D Griffiths

Chair, COSC"

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5H – West Down report from Cllr Griffiths -

Work has commenced cutting back brambles in the enclosed area of West Down. On Sunday 25 October Hampshire Conservation Volunteers plus Glynne and Sheila Evans) did a great job cutting brambles and got us off the a good start. The first meet of the West Down Volunteers took place on Tuesday 4th October. There was a good turn out and good progress was made. Next Tuesday it is proposed to rake up and burn what has been cut (weather permitting).

There are no cattle on West Down at the moment.

Grass & Grounds have not carried out the September cut of the areas outside the enclosure as they had contracted to do. Apparently their sub-contractor had let them down. We are trying to find a replacement contractor. I have asked Edward Painter if he knows anyone. So far he has not suggested one. We need to find someone as soon as possible. The various paths are clear as they are well used but they are quite narrow.

No dragons teeth have been installed opposite the recycling centre. George has declined to do it and the Lengths Man, who expressed an interest, has not responded to my texts and telephone messages. I infer he is not interested. We will have to look elsewhere.

NE want an up-dated Management Plan for West Down. Glynne Evans is prepared to help with this. Frankly, I do not think it will be much different from the existing one.

The trees on West Down mentioned in the Tree Survey have been inspected by myself, Glynne Evans and Rick Franke. Glynne has prepared a report with which Rick and I agree. Some work will need to be carried out by a professional but much can be done by myself and Rick once he has completed his training course, which keeps on being postponed.

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7 - DRAFT Cow Common Code that could be used on Social Media

The CPC Clerk has produced the below DRAFT using information gathered from the MG article in the Parish Magazine re [Dogs on the Common](#) , the latest version of the [Cow Common Rules leaflet](#) that she has (NB: this version is incorrect as it says that there is a BBQ area on WD) and other information available. CPC Cllrs will be discussing the use of Social Media at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 5/9/22.



THE CHILBOLTON COW COMMON CODE

The Common is home to an exceptionally rich chalk stream valley floor with rare, unaltered river margins. It contains up to 265 species of plant including Southern Marsh Orchids and Yellow Flag Iris. The delicate chalk stream habitat supports an impressive array of wildlife including: Kingfishers, Little Egrets, Willow Warblers, Reed Warblers, Southern Hawker Dragonflies, Marbled White Butterflies, Brown Trout, Sticklebacks, Leeches and Caddis Fly Larvae.

It belongs to Chilbolton Parish Council and is designated both a national Site of Special Scientific Interest overseen by Natural England, and an Access area for people on foot under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000).

Please park thoughtfully – Parking on the Common bridleway is very limited and there is no legal right to do so. Please give priority to the disabled and families with very small children in busy periods and take care not to block the drives of the Cow Common residents. Access to these properties is required 24/7, and it is important to remember to leave enough space for any emergency services that may need to attend.

Alternative parking is available on West Down (please follow the signage from the top of Joys Lane). West Down has a large car park. It is a beautiful area for walking, bird watching and picnicking. The walk from West Down to the Cow Common is approx. 15 minutes and apart from a single road crossing, is entirely along a stretch of the Test Way National Footpath. There is a more accessible route along the West Down driveway and is signposted.

Please take special care to avoid walking on the wildlife conservation areas – Notice/Ladder Boards have been erected around the conservation area to mark the area where the Parish Council are trying to protect the flora and fauna from damage. Natural England has highlighted to the Parish Council that this area is particularly fragile.

Please keep dogs under control and taken home any 'souvenirs' - from March 1st to July 31st dogs must be on leads (of no more than 2m) as it is an offence to disturb nesting birds.

Paddling upstream from the Purleygig Bridge is allowed. Inflatables in any part of the river are not.

Please avoid damaging the river banks - The Common is a SSSI because not only the very large number of flora but also because of the natural banks to the Purleygig stream

Please take your rubbish home – bottles, plastic cartons and other litter can kill wildlife and grazing cattle.

Please ensure that all pedestrian gates remain closed

Under no circumstances should you have any fires or barbecues – these can damage the flora. And in extreme dry periods the risk of wildfires increases.

There is no camping or overnight parking allowed on the Cow Common

Try to visit the Cow Common at 'off peak' times rather than school or bank holidays

If you see anyone abusing the Cow Common, please politely remind them to abide by the 'Cow Common Code'

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8 – Correspondence –

3/8/22 - HCC Email re barbed wire near Long Bridge ([5922 24](#))

4/8/22 – British Horse Society re gates on common ([5922 25](#)) 7/8/22 - DG notes of meeting ([5922 25c](#) and photo [5922 25d](#)). Discussed at the CPC meeting held on 17/8/22. Agreed solutions to be actioned (RF has repositioned the new cattle grid gate).

10/8/22 - MT observation of Clamber Stack play equipment ([5922 27](#)). Forwarded to COSC for consideration

10/8/22 - New encampments notification ([5922 29](#))

10/8/22 - Parking on Common 10/8/22 at 5pm ([5922 30](#)) additional emails ([5922 30a](#))

11/8/22 - T and I INNS Project Developing an Interactive Map of Volunteer Forces in the T and I ([5922 31](#)). 15/8/22 response sent ([5922 31a](#))

13/8/22 - Two comments received re closure of common gravel area to vehicles ([5922 32](#)) and DG photograph of van and car parked on Joys Lane in front of closed Common gate ([5922 33](#))

15/8/22 - Resident Observations and thoughts in regard the Cow Common for extraordinary meeting 17 August '22 ([5922 35](#))

15/8/22 - Volunteer for Common wardening ([5922 34](#)). Forwarded to DG

27/7/22 - Strutt and Parker re CCE Winchester Fishing rights on Common ([5922 40](#)) inc. draft response for MG and DG comments

26/8/22 - RPA - New Defra booklet about farming policy and payments ([5922 51](#)). Forwarded to COSC to check.

Note From GE - One snippet that might be of interest to PC is ...

*"In 2023, we plan to make an early version of **Local Nature Recovery** available to a limited number of people. We will then **roll out the scheme across England by the end of 2024**. Farmers will be able to enter into individual agreements to suit them. **We will publish the full list of options and payment rates in 2022**. "*

31/8/22 - Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement extension: expression of interest (EOI) ([5922 57](#)) – Forwarded to COSC

1/9/22 – RPA Applying for the Sustainable Farming Incentive ([5922 58](#)) – Forwarded to COSC

6/9/22 - letter sent to Strutt and Parker re Fishing Rights ([5922 40](#))

6/9/22 - Grass and Grounds re top cuts of Common and WD ([31022 2](#)) - Further info ([31022 2a](#)) 13/9/22 A Graham-Smith (NE) response ([31022 2b](#))

5/9/22 - Letter sent to TVBC re Freelands Planning applications ([5922_61](#)) - 7/9/22 TVBC acknowledgement ([31022_5](#)) - TVBC response, TE response to DD and DD email to J Owen ([31022_5a](#)) - 2nd letter sent to TVBC ([31022_5b](#)). 26/9/22 TVBC response to 2nd letter and complaints leaflet ([31022_5c](#) and [5d](#))

11/9/22 - TE emails re vehicles on Common and Freelands response ([31022_10](#))

12/9/22 - Freelands letter to CPC and WPC ([31022_11](#))

24/9/22 – Strutt and Parker response and TE response to Freeland 22.9.22 email ([31022_20](#))

1/10/22 – Resident email re Freeland email 31022_20 ([31022_27](#))

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