

Chilbolton Open Space Committee
Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th November at 18:30 at Poplar Dene

Present - Emma Noble (EN), Abby Purver (AP), Rick Franke (RF), Mandy Denyer (MD), Julian Hudson (JH), David Griffiths (DG)

Apologies - Nick Horne (NH), Moya Grove (MG), Terry Gilmour (TG), Trish Heaton (TH)

Members of the public present - None

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th October ([Thursday 13th October 2022](#)) were discussed and agreed with some amendments:

From NH:

It should read "*Queen Elizabeth II Tree*" under Village Greens section.

Under Any Other Business, in relation to the line "*NH is progressing with the scheme. He has put the 'ambassador scheme' to TVBC (Jenny Brain). Her view is that our scheme needs to be considered in light of other schemes around the borough and that they will see what they can do to help. She can offer training, insurance etc*" NH would like to add: "*I have contacted and chased TVBC (Jennie Brain) about using the offer made previously to the CPC of ideas to help cope with issues they had raised about behaviour on Cow Common. I still await a response about whether their experience and resources can be harnessed to develop the Ambassador/Warden initiatives to set something up to help the village.*" And also to replace "*her view*" with "*the proposal*".

Under Correspondence NH adds "*I raised concerns over legal caveats included in communications addressed to the CPC in relation to fishing rights. In the circumstances I proposed to COSC that it noted those concerns and proposed that the CPC should take appropriate legal advice on their responses.*"

From MG:

Where the minutes state "*MG confirmed we don't need an autumn cut on the Common*" MG would like this amended to "*MG said we do not necessarily need a cut on the common.*"

Under Wessex River Trust Proposal MG would like it added that she will "*convey decision on info board for WRT to Amy Ellis and ask who her suppliers are.*"

MG would like an amendment from "*MG produced a report in January 2021 ([131022_9](#)) but none of the suggested work has yet been carried out. MG will update this report*" to "*MG produced a boundary Management plan in Jan 2021. Work has been carried out on the west boundary. In the light of the sudden request from NE to produce a comprehensive plan MG will do this when she can.*"

Matters arising - These will be dealt with under the headings below.

Finance

A COSC budget was provided by MD. Following discussions at the meeting, MD provided an updated [Draft 2023/2024 Precept Budget](#), a [Draft 2023/2024 Ringfenced Budget](#) and a [Budget Report](#) summarising discussions.

No issues were raised regarding the monthly budget. ([101122_6](#))

MD has incorporated NH's email comments into budget. MD will chase up football team payments although we are not sure if the football team is currently playing.

DG recommended £200 for replacement of dragon's teeth on Common and £30 for West Down. This was agreed.

Allotments

Report provided by TG ([101122_1](#))

COSC accept TG's recommendation that the figure is prohibitive given our limited income this year.

MD said that some years ago it was agreed that allotment fees would go up year on year to be more in line with other allotments. COSC will need to look into whether it is appropriate given the condition of the allotments. Any increases will need to be decided before April.

Chilbolton Cow Common

Report provided by MG ([101122_7](#)) and an updated report [Updated November Common](#) report.

The cattle removal will be delayed on the vet's advice by one week.

Educational Visits

DG recommends that we commit to the Environmental Stewardship / Educational Access Payments to 2028 and we will pay the contribution back if it becomes necessary due to a lack of visits. This was agreed.

Common Signage

DG and MD have collected the new ladder boards. George Whitefield has been asked to replace them.

Fishing Rights

DG confirmed Tony Ewer is dealing with this issue. Church Commissioners own the fishing rights and let them to Freelands. Freelands want CPC to agree to them having the right to drive across the Common to restock the river with fish. DG has confirmed we cannot allow this due to our agreement with Natural England. COSC will not recommend any course of action which would give Freelands the right to drive across the Common. They would need to request in writing on each occasion they wish to do this and each request will be considered on its merits.

Cow Common Code

Amended code produced by JH ([101122_2](#)). This has been approved by CPC.

Gate Closure Policy

COSC are happy to be the responsible for making the decision on gate closing.

RPA Common 2023 Extension

MG has completed the form relating to the RPA Common 2023 Extension ([71122_29](#)) and sent it to MD.

Equestrian Access Gate on the Common

AP and EN have sent off the paperwork for the new gate at the Long Bridge to the British Horse Society for a grant based on some quotes obtained. A reply should be received within a month.

Machinery Maintenance - Nil to report

Parish Paths - Grindstone green footpath has been cleared. COSC would like to thank to Simon McMenemy for this work.

Village Greens

CPC decided at the meeting on Monday that they wanted to keep the name 'Stocks Green' for historical reasons rather than renaming it in memory of Queen Elizabeth II. DG to contact Jenny Hamilton to see if she would be willing to rename the Queen Elizabeth II tree.

Chilbolton War Memorial Playing Fields (CWMPF)

Report provided by by NH ([101122_9](#))

Following a complaint from a villager, it was agreed that no further action would be taken to repair the slide mound as it will soon be removed.

There does not seem to have been much take up of the hired table tennis bats and balls according to Nicky.

EN provided attendees at the meeting with a breakdown of costs from the companies invited to quote for the proposed

Adventure Tower. COSC agreed with the recommendations of the CWMPF Development Group that Caledonian's Three Tower option would be the best to fulfil the original brief. It was agreed that this recommendation would be passed for approval by CPC at their next meeting so that we can then apply for the TVBC Community Asset Fund grant before the deadline on 23rd January 2023. EN will provide DG with a full report on the proposed Adventure Tower before the CPC meeting.

The boundary issue on CWMPF was discussed. Tony Ewer will speak with the neighbouring land owner to use GPS pegging to identify the proper boundary. CPC will fund up to £300 for this.

West Down

After a strong start with the volunteers, work has now come to a halt for several weeks due to the poor weather.

Lengths Man Work - The work on clearing the Abbots Stream is still outstanding.

Green Canopy Project

The request of Cllr Bradley was discussed ([101122_8](#)). DG invited COSC members to consider types of trees and areas around the village where it may be appropriate to plant them, and to report back to him.

Correspondence - Nothing further to add.

Questions from Public - None

Any Other Business

NH raised via email the issue of the siting of trees on WMPF. COSC should be consulted before any decision is taken.

RF has hit a brick wall with Sparsholt. They won't be completing the chainsaw course for the foreseeable future. MD has been looking into alternative courses and looking to obtain a refund from Sparsholt. MD will be looking to get 2 people (including RF) on an alternative chainsaw course, possibly AP's husband.

DG is confident that the branch over the container can be dealt with by volunteers. He will have a look at the branch over the pavilion.

Items for the next agenda - Nil

Date of the next meeting - Scheduled date is Thursday 8th December 2022 at 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.