

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chilbolton Open Space Committee

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 13th October at 18:30 at Poplar Dene

Present

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

Apologies

Trish Heaton (TH). Terry Gilmour (TG) and Rick Franke (RF)

Members of the public present

None

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th August ([Thursday 11th August 2022](#)) were discussed and agreed with one amendment. Under the heading 'War Memorial Playing Fields' NH would like the line '*Regarding the boundary issues, NH has only had a chance to look at this today*' amended to '*Regarding the boundary issues, NH has circulated the requested draft document*'

Matters arising

COSC would like to take the opportunity to welcome and thank Abby Purver as a new member.

Other matters are dealt with below.

Finance

A finance report and COSC budget was provided by the Parish Clerk, Mandy Denyer (MD) ([131022_1](#), [131022_2](#)) DG proposed that we leave this until the November meeting to digest properly. DG to discuss with MD. Members wishing to add any points should submit these to DG.

Allotments

Report provided by TG ([131022_3](#)) TG continues to liaise with Southern Water regarding the new water supply.

Chilbolton Cow Common

Report provided by MG ([131022_6](#))

Fishing rights are now being overseen by the chair of CPC

Regarding the extension to the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) DG will contact MD to agree to an extension to the HLS as it stands as it is a complicated matter.

Other matters discussed further under the headings below:

Update on Wessex River Trust (WRT) proposal ([131022_7](#))

WRT will be on the Common on 31/10/22 to install the berms on the Purleygigg stretch of the river in the first week. They will return for a second week from 7/11/22 when contractors will be doing the gravel bank and continuing with berms and during a 3rd week from 14/11/22 they will aim to finish off the berms, although this last week may not be required.

NH is happy that WRT and their volunteers can use the pavilion facilities. If there are any others using the pavilion WRT is happy to work around them. WRT can also lock equipment in the pavilion if necessary.

MG asked if we would like to keep the current oak boards which will be taken up during the works. COSC agreed that we should.

MG confirmed that there is no need to close the gate to the Common during the works as the dates now fall outside of half term.

MG noted that the cattle will be collected in the second week of November.

MG confirmed that Matt Irving and Andy Blinkow are now overseeing the project and that there will be a lot of volunteers from the village and Sparsholt College helping. Volunteers will need to fill in a form which is detailed in a Parish Magazine article drafted by MG ([132022_8](#))

WRT would like to install an information board. COSC looked at the options suggested in the email from Amy Ellis at WRT ([71122_2](#)) and decided on an A1 sized board with two legs in oak.

Closure of the Common parking area

DG has looked at the Gate Closure Policy (gg) and has comments he wishes to make. He will send out his suggestions and further comments will be welcomed from COSC members.

Common Gravel area proposal from resident

COSC welcomed the comments of John Rowles ([9822_2](#)) and has taken them into consideration where possible when making decisions to do with the gravel resign.

Fencing issues

No further issues. Jeff Hounslow has fixed the broken fencing and installed deer fence.

Management jobs and autumn work

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.

The ash trees along the far fence need attention as a matter of urgency, although this was not part of the management plan. DG said that he will be able to complete this work with Peter Dodsworth. Where fencing has been damaged this will need to be repaired by a contractor.

DG suggested we approach the lengths man to cut the encroaching scrub to the right after the Purleygigg bridge as an additional paid-for job.

DG mentioned that there is also significant tree work around the village following the Bawden tree survey which still needed actioning. NH suggested the use of the contractors who did the trees along Coley Lane at the bottom of West Down as they were efficient and reasonably priced last time.

MG confirmed we don't need an autumn cut on the Common. MG has contacted some contractors to take over the cutting work from Grass and Grounds and is meeting one tomorrow and will also take them up to West Down to quote.

Cow Common Code

JH has offered to amend and circulate the Cow Common Code ([9822_5](#))

Update on Common signage

Nil to add

Machinery Maintenance

Nil to report

Parish Paths

Report provided by DG. The path behind and leading to Ivy Farm has been cleared. Thanks are due to Richard Milliken. Otherwise nil to report.

Village Greens

NH suggested we rename the new Jubilee tree on Stocks Green the 'Queen Elizabeth' tree. DG to approach Jenny Hamilton to get her opinion.

NH would like to have the signs for the fete at Dummer removed from Stocks Green. NH to action.

Chilbolton War Memorial Playing Fields (CWMPF)

Report provided by NH ([9822_9](#))

The football team which previously used the playing fields will now be based in Wherwell. NH to approach another local football team who are looking for grounds.

NH to approach RF to chop the tree above the pavilion roof and also to deal with rust.

NH has looked at issues with the seat and the zip line brake. He will be liaising with Vitaplay / Ed Treadwell.

DG to chop the wildflower meadow with the Beast next week.

A meeting has been arranged next week with NH and EN and the last potential contractor to quote for the new adventure tower. Once that quote is in, the Development Group will be able to get together to discuss and decide on recommendations to present to COSC.

NH is in discussion with Spalding regarding repairs to the basketball hoop and also the flaky paint. It is believed that the damage has been caused by someone swinging on it. NH has a trail cam and will look into the legalities of using CCTV to survey the basketball court.

Regarding the CWMPF Boundary there are no notes in CPC minutes to indicate the letter was discussed ([9822 8](#)). COSC were of the view that every effort should be made to keep this village asset in its original entirety. This matter will go back to CPC with a recommendation to that effect.

West Down

Report provided by DG.

DG confirmed that there was a good turn out to the first Tuesday working party. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers had at least 6 people with brush attending and did an excellent job. There may be an option of using them on the Common. MG to investigate.

Lengths Man Work

Clearing the Abbot Stream is yet to be done. DG to take this up with MD.

Correspondence

Nothing further to add

Questions from Public

None

Any Other Business

Regarding the potential new horse gate at the Long Bridge, AP has quotes. AP is going to send the quotes to DG. AP and EN to apply for the grant.

EN to look into the grant application for the hedging to go along the back of the pavilion as it borders the Common and do the online course as suggested by MG.

NH has seen that he has been tasked with actions in CPC minutes. As COSC is not part of CPC, matters should go back to COSC to be considered and distributed. DG explained he had told CPC that NH had agreed at a meeting of COSC to make another effort to get volunteers to patrol the common and would be calling it an Ambassador Scheme. To say CPC had tasked him was therefore not accurate.

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.

Items for the next agenda

None

Date of the next meeting

Scheduled date is Thursday 10 November 2022 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.