

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 December 2022
at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

PRESENT:

1. Apologies – Rick Frank (RF), Abby Purver (AP), Julian Hudson (JH), Nick Horne (NH), Trish Heaton (TH)
2. Declaration of Interests – None
3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 10 November 2022 – *These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting*
4. Matters Arising –
5. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows: -
 - A) Finance – Clerk provided that attached report ([81222 2](#))
Nothing further to add.
 - B) Allotments – T. Gilmour
Nothing further to add.
 - C) Common – MG provided the attached report ([81222 1](#))
 - i) Update on Wessex River Trust works
Thanks passed to Moya Grove (MG) for her efforts in organizing and seeing through the river works.
 - ii) ~~Update on Common Gravel area proposal from resident~~
This item was dealt with previously
 - iii) ~~Update on Fencing Issues~~
This item was dealt with previously
 - iv) Update on Common signage
Nothing further to add
 - v) Update on Fishing Rights
COSC are happy with the fishing rights proposal. We are waiting to hear back from the Church Commissioners.

MG provided some further updates since preparing the above report:

The Environmental Stewardship scheme has been extended to 2028

MG has had a conversation with Adam Coutts (grazier) who was very pleased with the condition of the cows and he seems keen to graze the cows again next year.

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There have been seven Educational Access visits this year, the clerk has been given the evidence forms.

Tom Skipsey is the Freeland's river keeper and has been tasked by WRT to chop the tops off the posts inserted by WRT. COSC agreed not to invite him to a COSC Meeting until we have heard back from the Church Commissioners regarding access rights to the Common. It was pointed out that as a member of the public Tom could attend without an invitation.

In addition to the scrub clearance mentioned in the report, there has also been a request to lower the bramble next to the Playing Field (near the cattle grid) so that views of the Common are once again visible from the Playing Field.

The Common Management Plan is still pending.

The Abbots Stream has still not been cleared. The Lengths man has been in hospital having had an operation but has confirmed that it is due to be done imminently.

George Whitfield has been asked to install the new ladder boards and has agreed to do so.

CPC has approved gate closure policy document.

A letter has been received from Trudy Harrison MP on behalf of Caroline Nokes MP which supports the work being carried out in the gravel area redesign.

EN reported that the horse gate grant is still pending.

D) Machinery Maintenance
Nil to report.

E) Parish Paths – Cllr Griffiths
Nil to report

F) Village Greens
Jenny Hamilton has been approached regarding changing the name of the new Jubilee Tree on Stocks Green to Queen Elizabeth II tree. She was willing to change the name. A decision has been adjourned until more members are present.

G) War Memorial Playing Fields – to inc. update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal update following CPC meeting to be held on 5/12/22.
NH provided the attached report ([81222 3](#)).

DG reported that CPC impressed by thoroughness of the work carried out by the Development Group.

CPC have agreed that Caledonian should be selected as the supplier of choice and that the proposal could go ahead with the with the following caveat:

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- a. A letter of comfort should be sought from Jenny Brain of Test Valley Borough Council saying that she can see no reason why we should not get the grant requested. David Drew has already sent her an email and will chase her up again tomorrow to speak to her.
- b. The quote ran out on the 25th September. CPC would like to confirm with Caledonian that they won't increase the contract price.

EN confirmed that the application for the Community Asset Fund (CAF) grant must be made by 23rd January.

Lack of use of table tennis table was discussed by CPC. CPC has suggested a box be placed beside the table with bats and balls in it. PCP is willing to accept the loss of a small number of bats and balls to see if that encourages use. COSC's view is that there is no need to put them down there now, but this should be considered in the spring.

The suggestion of CCTV overlooking the Basketball pitch was discussed by COSC along with the Lewisham Borough Council link provided by NH. As this seemed to mainly relate to roads, it was decided that a request be made to the Parish Clerk to contact the Hampshire Association of Local Councillors to get their view as to the legal position.

DG said that CPC would like a few more details as to the proposed cycle bumps. EN confirmed that these would be located under the trees next to the container and would be made using the soil from the slide mound.

DG has been in touch with George Whitfield and he is happy to remove the slide mound.

H) West Down

DG reported that we have been able to have a fire again but are down on the number of volunteers and more are required.

Rob West at Vespa didn't cut the grass in the triangle picnic area outside the enclosure. DG has emailed him to ask him to consider doing this area as well as carrying out an early spring cut to the area inside the enclosure (which is being cut over winter by the volunteers) as this would help significantly to reduce regrowth.

EN reported that the Community Hedge Fund grant has been accepted by CPRE but we are waiting to hear how and when the funds will be delivered.

6. To discuss and decide on tasks for the Lengthsman to be carried out in January 2023 (inc. time to complete task/s)

This was discussed and the Abbotts stream is the priority. After that the bramble hedge referred to above by the Playing Field and the hedge by the sleeper bridge also need cutting back. DG to approach Rob West and also the lengths man to see if they can do the chainsaw work on the trees at the back of the Common which have fallen on the fence.

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7. Green Canopy Project

Kate Bradley has stood down from CPC but will continue to work on the Green Canopy. Glynn Evans has suggested planting some resistant ash trees. DG will be meeting with Kate Bradley to discuss the options. Another suggestion was ash trees to replace those that had fallen along the boundary of the Common. Approval for this from Natural England.

8. Correspondence –

20/11/22 - Resident email re WMPF and praise re Common ([51222_8](#))

27/11/22 -TE email to Strutt and Parker re Fishing rights ([51222_13](#))

28/11/22 - Environment Agency chairman lecture on Restoring confidence in the quality of English rivers ([51222_19](#))

9. Questions from Public –

10. Any Other Business – For information only –

None

11. Items for the next agenda –

TBA

12. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 12 January 2023 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

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