

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL  
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 January 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street

PRESENT: Cllrs David Griffiths (Chairman) (DG), Julian Hudson (JH), Moya Grove (MG),  
One member of public

1. Apologies: Nick Horne, Trish Heaton, Emma Noble, Abby Purver
2. Declarations Of Interest: NONE
3. Approval of minutes of meeting held on Thursday 8 December '22: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. Matters Arising: dealt with under subject headings below
5. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows:
  - A. Finance – Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached report ([12123\\_3](#)).  
COSC is pleased that GW has been awarded some payment for his work on our behalf
  - B. Allotments – Nothing to report
  - C. Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([12123\\_2](#)).  
Educational Visits: three have been booked in January and May: Sparsholt; Cricklade/ Sparsholt; MD has been in touch with Wherwell School at Tony Ewer’s request to further their involvement.

Discussion of gravel area works: work already carried out to reduce area where cars are parked with the aim of reducing risk of access to the Old Inn etc. being obstructed by parked vehicles; remaining works, relocation of gate to Old Cottage; barrier rail to rear of parking on south side; fitting of restraining post to new gate over cattle grid. Weather permitting, works to be done next week . Also revised ladder boards to be replaced.

Many dragons teeth do need redoing. Collecting of the old ones that are damaged and installation of new ones This should be done soon. ACTION: DG and GW

The Abbot’s Stream has been cleared from the river to the sleeper bridge.

Lengths man will not do job next year. Complained work is very tough. Has used up the 14 hours but out of goodwill will go back and complete job ( bit on other side of bridge to where stream enters common) once health recovers. HCC not happy with unpaid work so will probably not be done. HCC suggested we use JCB or similar. NE has banned use of machines in past.

Mechanical clearance – permission should be sought from Alison GS (Natural England). ACTION: MG to draft letter to AGS. Important as Abbots Stream is a key floodwater defence

Common Management Plan: NH comments received and incorporated as necessary. MG to send clarifications and comments to NH.

Environmental Stewardship: NE grant of £3651/annum for the next 5 years each year. Runs to end 2027, and thereafter will be 10% of the current level.

Agreed and Signed ..... (Chairman)  
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Bridge application at Freelands:

Noted that NE wants a full CEMP survey. COSC view that, provided applicant complies with the CEMP and TVBC are satisfied there are sufficient measures in place to ensure the work will not adversely impact the SSSI of Chilbolton Common no need to raise any objection.

Jenny Wedick – scheduler for Hants Conservation Volunteers has requested tasks. We suggest – thistle cut on the Common and ragwort pull on West Down (or deal with sycamores if insufficient ragwort).

HCV Scrub clearance in February. Blackthorn lopping – restore line of footpath.

Big ash which has fallen across fence should be cleared urgently.

Thistles in June – 24/25 June

Ragwort pull pencilled in for 8/9 July

Rob West (Vespa Ecology) local & qualified. Need to get him over to look at various issues including work to trees.

WRT – formal congratulations letter sought by CPC. COSC have already thanked them for being helpful and good to work with; considered that this is sufficient for now. Professional and welcoming.

MG suggestion: Feedback after Summer 2023 after we see how new gravel bank is used

- 1) Update on Common signage – final version corrected by MD; they are currently in production
- 2) Update on Fishing Rights – No response yet from Church Commissioners as yet to TE's letter

D. Machinery maintenance – no comments

E. Parish Paths –

Test Way as it passes parallel to WMPF is blocked by a fallen tree, adjacent to the Common. DG Understanding is that it is the landowner's responsibility – but it's also by a footpath whose responsibility is Hants CC. Fortunately local resident (John Rowles) will get it cleared as he wishes to make use of the timber.

Complaint received about barbed wire on Whitelands footpath – not considered by COSC as "likely to cause danger". Guidance says that the top strand should not be barbed wire ideally. MD has written to enforcement at TVBC as this is their responsibility.

F. Village Greens – nothing to report

G. War Memorial Playing Fields (WMPF) –

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Accounting – capital vs maintenance accounts - approx £650 discrepancy due to this for a few years. As such accounts will not be reopened (decision of CPC) recommend CPC consider ex gratia payment so WMPF funds are not disadvantaged.

Complaint about holes possibly left by goalposts – will be investigated by DG

- 1) Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal update – Existing Slide comes out - New tower goes in same position –

Report from EN – confirmation from Caledonian that the price will be honoured for a little longer. MD has asked Caledonian to keep quote until end of March. Problem that some items originally indicated as part of the quote are in fact paid for extras. Difference is about £2630.

- 2) Discussion on installation of CCTV – Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached advice from HALC ([12123 1](#)) including the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice - A Guide for Councillors ([12123 1a](#)) - NH confirms formal CCTV not required – was thinking more like a motion sensor camera. Suggested that this issue is parked until NH return. Statutory requirements in terms of data collection and handling are significant and public safety and safeguarding are essential considerations in this regard.

H. West Down – Disappointing situation – no progress due to poor weather and Xmas break. Significant amount of materiel cut but cannot currently be burned as too wet.

6. To discuss making local legislation to protect the Common (re correspondence received from The Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP) – Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached email ([9123 3](#)) and letter to CN from DEFRA ([9123 3a](#)) –

MG – we don't want to institute byelaws as we cannot enforce them.

DG - We are doubtful, subject to further consideration, whether an unenforceable byelaw would really achieve anything.

It might underline the importance of what we are trying to achieve.

Behaviour needs to be sufficiently antisocial to merit prosecution.

**MD should minute that this is for further consideration as only three members of COSC present.**

7. To discuss and decide on Chainsaw Safety equipment – should CPC provide or ask users to provide own and sign a disclaimer of some sort? – needs to be discussed with RF. We currently provide a helmet. Other safety equipment such as trousers, boots, gloves are down to the individual at present. Most of the people who currently do work have or will get their own kit. Ought to insist that anyone working on behalf of CPC must use the appropriate PPE. Chainsaw work requires two people minimum in a work team. Will be given further consideration in future meetings. Not comfortable with signing a waiver.

8. Green Canopy Project – needs liaison with KB – ACTION DG. Fairly urgent as work needs to be carried out by end of March.

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9. Correspondence –

6/12/22- TE email to Strutt and Parker with updated draft agreement re fishing rights ([9123\\_2](#))

7/12/22 - C Noakes email to TE re making local legislation to protect Common ([9123\\_3](#)) –[see item 6 above](#)

8/12/22 - Insurance enquiry re ESTIMATE of additional premium re installation of adventure tower ([9123\\_6](#))

13/12/22 - HALC advice re installation of CCTV at WMPF ([9123\\_8](#)) – [see item 5G2 above](#)

13/12/22 - RPA agreement opportunities ([9123\\_10](#)) – This was discussed.

10. Questions from public – member of public questions – note above re: Gravel area remaining works; precise play tower location and colouration

11. Any Other Business – for information only – NONE

Items for next agenda –

Chainsaws and safety equipment

Byelaws relating to ASB on Common

Further consideration of CCTV at basketball facility

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 9 February 2023: 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

Monthly reports to be circulated by 12:00 Wednesday 1 February '23.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at

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