

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street

PRESENT: Cllrs David Griffiths (Chairman) (DG), Rick Franke (RF) and Julian Hudson (JH),
Non-Cllr members: Moya Grove (MG), Emma Noble (EN), Abby Purver (AP)

1. Apologies: Nick Horne (NH), Terry Gilmore (TG) and Trish Heaton (TH)
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 16 February 2023: 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 reports as follows:

RF confirmed that he had done one week of the chainsaw course at Sparsholt before suffering a back injury. The staff at Sparsholt suggested that the remainder of the course is for those seeking employment in the arboriculture industry rather than for the occasional purposes of the Parish Council and that the first part of the course would probably suffice. RF is happy to start work on any suitable chain sawing work required around the Parish once his back is better.

DG confirmed that certain PPE is required for insurance purposes including appropriate footwear which not all trained Parish chainsaw-users have. RF confirmed he has bought his own visor, trousers and gloves but only has steel toe capped boots. The three people qualified for chainsaw work (DG, RF and Peter Dodsworth) are happy to provide their own PPE.

- A. Finance Report: Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached report ([9323_1](#)).

Nothing to add.

- B. Allotments:

In view of the current financial climate COSC will not raise the allotment fees and will review them again next year.

- C. Common: Prior to the meeting MG reported the following: - 'I don't think there is anything to report except that HCV volunteers did a good job of scrub clearance along the bridleway this month'.

- i. Update on Common Signage:

DG and MG went with George Whitfield to confirm where the new ladder board signs should go.

The information boards are to be delivered next Tuesday.

- ii. Update on Fishing Rights:

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on
Thursday 9 March 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street**

The Church Commissioners have accepted everything which CPC have proposed except the clause stipulating that if they need to take a vehicle across the Common for any purpose they must first seek permission in advance, agree a route and must adhere to that route. This condition was necessitated by CPC because the SSSI does not allow vehicular access. COSC support the stance taken by CPC that permission must be sought on each and every occasion.

Additionally COSC would like it raised with the Church Commissioners that the cattle fence is to keep the cattle in and it does not denote the boundary of the Common. If any boundary gate is locked stiles must be installed to allow access.

Finally MG raised that the fishing notices can say 'Private Fishing', but not 'Private Fishing, No Access'.

- iii. Sue Larcombe has provided a press release relating to the Common and MG has made some amendments. AP confirmed that the grant from the British Horse Society has been approved and they will be providing the adaption kit which will be delivered to HCC and both the gate and adaption kit will then be delivered to either AP or DG. Corinne Davis-Cooke (CD-C), the recently appointed Community Engagement Ranger from HCC, has confirmed that she can arrange a team of volunteers to install the gate. The press release will be amended to reflect this. COSC are happy with the press release and respectfully suggest to CPC that they publish the amended version due course. MG will forward the amended copy to DG.
- iv. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers have done an excellent job cutting back the brash beyond the Purleygigg Bridge and this was in accordance with the the Common Management Plan.
- v. CD-C visited Chilbolton today and was shown round by DG, AP, JH and EN. She has provided a detailed email including ways she can assist [hyperlink here](#). Of particular interest was her comment that she had a team of 80 volunteers at her disposal and they may be suitable to help with jobs such as boundary work and helping with West Down.
- vi. Gravel Area Redesign:

The gate to the Old Cottage and the Playing Fields has been moved.

DG asked if we can fit 5 cars rather than 4 on the left side of the gravel area. JH thinks that this should be possible.

COSC also looked at the suggestions for denoting parent and child and disabled parking. COSC recommends small metal roundel signs, attached to the guard rail.

DG confirmed that George Whitfield has been contacted about replacing the missing dragon's teeth and is prepared to supply and install them.

- vii. JH reported that refuse collectors want to replace the green general waste bins with dog waste bins. COSC request that the green bins remain as these are combined dog waste and general waste, and are very well used when the Common gets busier.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on
Thursday 9 March 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street**

- viii. MG reported that as yet nothing has been heard back from Alison Graham-Smith (Natural England) about clearance of the Abbotts stream
- ix. DG reported that for the tree works required, Mandy Denyer (MD) has provided a spreadsheet of all the issues mentioned on the Bawden Tree Survey with a tick box to confirm action taken. When he is fit and able, RF, along with DG and Glynne Evans will accompany Nick Ives / Rob West to revisit the problem areas and decide what action to take.

D. Machinery Maintenance:

Nothing to report

E. Parish Paths:

DG reminded CD-C that HCC had undertaken to manage the Mark Way and there has been difficulties in the past getting them to cut it.

CD-C identified a tangle of barbed wire on Whitelands Path fence whilst on her accompanied walk. She will contact the land owners and ask them to address this.

MG reported that there is White Helleborine on the Mark Way and as this is mentioned in the Biodiversity Action Plan they should not be cut when in season. AP will contact CD-C regarding the White Helleborines and the Mark Way cut.

F. Village Greens:

DG reported that quotes have been obtained for replacing the dragons teeth in front of Poplar Dene going down to Abbotts Orchard (£437.24) and also dragons teeth at the bottom of the West Down bank opposite the bottle bank (£418.34). COSC recommends this work be carried out.

G. War Memorial Playing Fields (WMPF):

i. Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal:

Currently we are waiting for a decision to be made on the Community Asset Fund grant which should be decided towards the end of March.

ii. Discussion on installation of CCTV (Advice from HALC [12123_1, 1a](#)):

COSC agreed in principal with the installation of CCTV but considered that there were a number of difficulties. To be discussed with NH at the next meeting.

iii. Discussion on the WMPF boundary:

CPC have agreed that DG and Geoff Cockram should attend and mark out more clearly the new boundary following the mapping carried out by the Mapping Company. Currently there are flags in the undergrowth denoting the boundary.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on
Thursday 9 March 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street**

- iv. Regarding the damage to the basketball hoops, COSC thought it was worth considering a metal back board to avoid a recurrence of the vandalism which has taken place. EN will raise with NH.
- v. DG will look at the tree that has fallen on the zip wire and deal with it if he can.

H. West Down:

DG reported that a lot of progress has been made on West Down over the winter. CD-C advised that work could carry on until the end of March. After this time, DG suggested that volunteers could go round the perimeter fence and check posts / clear vegetation from fencing. CD-C was happy as long as we weren't seen to be doing work during bird nesting season.

DG reported that HCC might support the implementation of the signposting on West Down showing the Test Way and Mark Way. AP and DG to walk West Down to finalise the position of the posts and look at costings.

6. Green Canopy project:

DG reported that he has taken delivery of 10 mature trees. An extra one was ordered to get free delivery. All were varieties recommended by Glynne Evans. DG has been liaising with Glynne Evans about where best to plant them. A suggestion was one either side of the bonfire site on CWMPF. MG pointed out that the butterbur (rhubarb) currently abundant there has significant roots which might inhibit growth of the trees. West Down is where most will be planted. DG confirmed that this is in hand and George Whitfield will plant them. There is £500 left which will go towards planting and support costs.

- 7. To discuss ways to make Virgin Media and BT junction boxes around the village more aesthetically pleasing: The attached proposal was circulated prior to the meeting ([21623 1](#)).

COSC discussed this suggestion. COSC were divided with some members considering it was rather 'urban' and might encourage graffiti activity. COSC feel that overall it is worth investigation. MD to be requested to write to Virgin Media to see if they are happy. BT already have a policy on painting their junction boxes.

8. Correspondence:

8/2/23 - email to SSE re pavilion electric contract ([6323 3](#)). 9/2/23 SSE renewal confirmation email ([6323 3a](#))

13/2/23 - HCC response re Barbed wire adjacent to Footpaths (Whitelands Path) ([6323 6](#)) – Forwarded to COSC

17/2/23 - Lengthsman Scheme 2023/24 agreement ([6323 10](#)) – signed and returned 22/2/23

9. Questions from Public:

Nil

10. Any other business: none

COSC discussed the Solar Farm application in Wherwell as it may be visible from West Down. Concerns were raised about the potential impact on views from West Down if successful.

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on
Thursday 9 March 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street**

EN reported that the grant from CPRE for the hedge on WMPF has been approved and the hedging has been ordered but delivery has been delayed. CPRE are keen to visit on the day they are planted to take photographs.

11. Items for next agenda:

None

12. Date of the next scheduled meeting – Thursday 13 April 2023; 18:30 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8:25pm