

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)
DRAFT minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 June 2023
at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

Present: Julian Hudson (JH), Moya Grove (MG), Emma Noble (EN), David Griffiths (DG), Rick Franke (RF)

1. Apologies: Nick Horne (NH), Terry Gilmour (TG), Trish Heaton (TH)
2. Election of Chair of Committee: RF proposed and JH seconded the election of DG as Chair. All members agreed.
3. Declaration of Interests – None
4. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 11 May 2023: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. Matters Arising:
6. 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 ([8623 2](#))
Nothing further to add
 - B) Allotments – T. Gilmour
Nothing further to add
 - C) Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([8623 3](#))
 - I. Update on Fishing Rights ([5623 5](#))
MG considers that 'each and every occasion' should be put on the fishing rights agreement with regard to access across the Common. DG confirmed that this has been included.
 - II. To discuss Common track and pot holes ([6823 1](#))
JH confirmed that the cost of resurfacing the whole area professionally may be prohibitive. DG will contact a contractor he recently used and try to get a quote.
 - III. Educational access
MG confirmed that Mark Way school and Rookwood school have parties coming in July.
 - IV. A notification was put in the Parish Magazine giving the date of 8th July for a ragwort pull on West Down. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers (HCV) will be attending. Sheila

Evans will be contacted to see if the ragwort needs doing on West Down and if not, it will most likely relocate to the Common to deal with ragwort / thistles.

- V. DG confirmed that a thistle cut has also been arranged on the Common on the 24th June at 10am with volunteers coordinated by Corinne Davis-Cooke (CD-C) the Community Engagement Ranger. DG will attend with the strimmers with the mulching attachment.
- VI. CPC requested discussion regarding the old notice boards. COSC's view is that they remain as they are as we cannot think of any other use for them.
- VII. MG raised again the idea of information leaflets to be distributed or put on cars during busy periods. COSC were not in favour of the idea.
- VIII. DG brought up the parking issue. JH mentioned Tony Ewer's suggestion of clamping, but DG does not believe that this has been legal since 2012. It is possible to hire companies to issue fines and this may be something to be contemplated in future, but not at the moment. Using a parking management company implies the area is a car park, which it is not.
- IX. Regarding the TV program being proposed by Meridian TV, MG is willing to be briefly filmed / available. She included that she would like the positive support of CPC.
- X. Sue Curtis complained that cows might be able to get their heads stuck in the new smaller black and gold litter bins installed on the Common. She has been advised to raise her concerns with TVBC. DG has requested a 3rd bin and TVBC have agreed to empty them on demand.
- XI. MG has contacted Mike Blackmore at Wessex River Trust who has said he will arrange to have the tops chopped off the fence posts around the new berms. He will also look at the gravel bank area. WRT have confirmed that they will install the new information boards about the work later in the summer.

D) Machinery Maintenance – Nothing to report

E) Parish Paths

DG had a call from Sheila Evans to say that the path behind Station Road is very nettly. DG has left a message with Ian Daubney to strim the path.

DG reported that the lower part of the Mark Way needs strimming and the overhanging trees need cutting back for horse access. RF and DG will look into this to establish how much work is required.

DG has received a report from Nick Ives, the tree expert. Several thousand pounds worth of work on West Down and the Playing Field needs doing. DG will circulate the tree report, but it is difficult to identify which tree is being referred to without referring back to the original Bowden report. The next step is to digest the recommendations and identifying what needs to be done, what work village volunteers can do, what is a priority and what can wait. This work is ongoing.

MG requested that a fence be put round the old oak tree at the back of the Station Road footpath to redirect walkers away from risk areas. This would reduce the need to chop branches off.

JH identified a recent Facebook post by a local horse rider about the state of the bridleway over the Common. DG, RF and EN will clear the tree blocking the river. The new gate is in progress (EN to chase) and EN will email CD-C to see if anything can be done about the drop down into the river at the long bridge. EN will reply to the Facebook post.

F) Village Greens

DG reported that there had been a complaint about the cutting of the long grass on Stocks Green as there were some Bee Orchids growing on it. DG to investigate who cut it.

The dragons teeth have now been installed in front of Poplar Dene and to the adjacent properties and the ditch has been cleared. There is a big root in the ditch which prevented it being done thoroughly.

G) War Memorial Playing Fields – N. Horne to inc. ([Hyperlink to Nick's report](#))

- I. Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal update
EN confirmed that the grant has now been approved and Caledonian, the contractor, have been contacted. EN asked if we could now arrange the removal of the slide mound slide and soil to the area where the bike track is to be. DG advised that George Whitfield is having an operation but we should be able to get this done in good time.
- II. Regarding the pavilion roof repairs and the quote we had last year for c£400, it was established that ideally the tree branches need to be removed first in autumn. Once done, RF is willing to do the repairs. DG considers that the tree removal may need to be done professionally because of the size.
- III. EN raised the issue of the poor state the pavilion is sometimes left in and NH's suggestion of a formal agreement. MG did not consider that this was necessary for educational access visits, because she always checks the pavilion after use. COSC also believes that there is one already in place as part of the football team's contract. COSC agreed that for all other users an agreement could be drafted or possibly a schedule of how it should be left after use.
- IV. EN discussed the work done to try to map the bike pump track area and the difficulties JH had had with the software in marrying up the measurements taken. JH has established it would be prohibitively expensive (over £4,000) to have a professional topographical survey. JH said it may be necessary to re-take the measurements, but from only 3 fixed points. EN can assist.

- V. There were no objections raised to Wherwell Royals using the field for their football practice. COSC to recommend to CPC.
- VI. In his report NH raised the issue of the water and pipework problems in the pavilion. EN advised Ed Treadwell may be able to look at this and will raise with him. This will need to be looked at before the Wherwell Royals start their season.
- VII. EN requested that a copy of the boundary survey be provided to COSC / NH for future reference. DG confirmed that he is arranging with Geoff Cockram to look into putting a proper boundary in.
- VIII. Regarding the use of CCTV to cover the basketball court, COSC confirmed that they agree in principle, but would like to discuss further with NH as the practicalities need confirming.
- IX. The new Terms of Reference for the Development group have been amended and a copy given to DG ([hyperlink](#)) to confirm with CPC.
- X. Following the ROSPA report on the playground equipment EN raised the issue of the zip wire, that there must be at least 350mm clearance under load and currently there is not. COSC considered that it would be acceptable to remove the plate on the zip wire and see if we can shorten the chain in some way ourselves before seeking professional advice.

Another issue from the ROSPA report was that there is a rotten timber on the tangle log climbing frame. NH plans to go back to VitaPlay and try to get it amended under the warranty. COSC has no issues with this plan.

H) West Down

DG reported that it became clear that the Green Canopy trees would need water, and he and Andy Bond have watered them with a bowser. Andy has watered them again since. 8 are fine, but the 2 oak trees have no leaves. They still appear to be alive though.

As above, tree work is being considered. DG has cut down one of the overhanging branches.

DG reported that sign posting for the overflow parking on West Down is inadequate. Sue Larcombe has arranged for some new signs.

Regarding the new bridleway signage on West Down, the location of the posts still needs to be established and someone else may be required to action it if George Whitfield is still recuperating.

- 7. To discuss ways to make Virgin Media and BT junction boxes around the village more aesthetically pleasing – NH proposal [21623_1](#) and [BT information](#).

Virgin Media still haven't responded. NH or JH to chase them. There are diverse views. Once we have confirmation that it is permitted we will consider the next steps.

8. Correspondence

4/5/23 - RPA re changing from BPS to Delinked payments for WD ([15523 13](#)) – COSC notified (to check eligibility)

9/5/23 – A thank you re Common ([15523 19](#))

15/5/23 - Hampshire Countryside Awards 2023 from the Test Valley ([5623 4](#))

15/5/23 - Fishing rights update ([5623 5](#))

7/3/23 - 19/5/23 - Emails from and to TVBC re bins on Common ([5623 6](#))

9. Questions from Public -

10. Any Other Business – For information only

11. Items for the next agenda –

12. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 20th July 2023 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 20:10.