

## CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30

1. Present: Julian Hudson (JH), Moya Grove (MG), Emma Noble (EN), David Griffiths (DG), Ricke Franke (RF)
2. Members of the public: Carol Eaton (CE) and Richard Youll. (RY)
3. Apologies – Abby Purver (AP), Terry Gilmour (TG)
4. Declaration of Interests – None
5. Approval of Minutes – Thursday 15 June 2023: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
6. Matters Arising –
7. 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 ([20723 1](#)). Nothing to add.
  - B) Allotments – T. Gilmour
    - i. To include update on weeds growing on allotment plots  
Prior to the meeting the Clerk informed that a complaint has been received (in person) regarding weeds growing on some plots that are encroaching onto adjacent plots and that weed seeds are falling onto adjacent plots. TG has/will email tenants to remind them of Clause 4 of the Allotment agreements make provision that 'The Tenant shall use the plot as an Allotment Garden only (that is to say wholly or mainly for the production of vegetables or fruit crops for consumption by the tenant and his/her family) and for no other purpose and to keep it clean and free from weeds and in a good state of cultivation and fertility and in a good condition)'.  
COSC agree with this course of action.  
  
COSC would like to know from TG if the £269.55 mentioned on the finance report relates to all rents paid, or are there more to come?
- C) Common – Prior to the meeting MG circulated the attached report ([20723 2](#)).
  - I. Update on Fishing Rights: Prior to the meeting the Clerk informed that Cllr Ewer has been informed that Strutt and Parker's client solicitors are drafting a deed. Once Strutt and Parker have a copy they will send it to CPC for final review.  
DG reported that we have not yet had a response from the Church Commissioners other than to say their solicitors are considering our letter.
  - II. To discuss and decide on wording for 'alternative car parking' signs: Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulate the agreed signage ([3723 11](#)). This wording had been agreed prior to today's meeting by CPC.

Signed and Agreed ..... (Chairman)  
Page of

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- III. To discuss and make a recommendation to CPC to the resident request to put up a electric fence on the Common: Prior to the meeting the Clerk informed that the owner of the cottage on the Common is being damaged by cows and requested approval to erect an electric fence. (Images of some of the damaged caused ([20723\\_3](#))).

MG established that electric fence can be put along a public footpath as long as there are warning signs in place, but the responsibility would be with CPC as the landowners. MG also suggested salt licks to deter the cows but believes that Natural England will object to this as it will change the composition of the soil. COSC would like to try salt licks in the interim and place these in the car park and see if they make a difference before considering electric fencing. MG to contact Adam Coutts the grazier to obtain some. The intention will be shared with Natural England but will go ahead unless they raise any objections.

- IV. MG reported that a temporary padlock has been put on the gate following the gate being 'bounced' open by a MOP. The posts are not sufficiently robust to avoid the bouncing. DG has contacted Hurstbourne Forge who are going to come out and inspect it.

- V. The decision to close the Common car park during the school holidays was discussed. A majority of COSC members agreed that we would close the gate from 21<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> September. NH raised that the football team will be playing on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings over the school holidays. The Parish Clerk has offered to give the code to the team and the opposition and their supporters, but this would mean the code was available to a very large number of unknown local residents. JH suggested the agreement be changed in future to remove the right to park. NH was of the opinion that this would put them off, particularly in winter. DG raised that in the past he has manned the gate for an agreed time on match days and would be willing to do so again with the hope that other members will help. RF has an A board which he is willing to donate to be left at the top of Joys Lane. COSC agreed on the A board wording as 'No Parking at Common'. DG is going to create a temporary sign for it and Jasper Galloway has offered to follow up with a nicely sign written one when he can.

- VI. EN and RF are going to cut down the willow tree which is blocking the bridleway on 3/8/23 at 10am.

- VII. MG raised the issue of the Public Spaces Protection Order and whether we are going to categorise the playing field as an 'Enclosed Sports Area'. To do so, we will need to enclose it. CPC will need to agree this course of action at their next meeting.

- VIII. MG confirmed that the autumn stream clearance is in hand. The Hampshire Conservation Volunteers are doing the Abbots Stream on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Andy Smith is hoping to get a group together to help with this as well. There will also probably be students from Sparsholt coming, but this is not yet confirmed.

- IX. The new litter bins have been installed and these have been well received.

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- X. EN confirmed that the new horse gate for the Long Bridge has arrived and that she had had a meeting at the site with Corinne Davis-Cooke and Beth Rutterford, both from Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service to discuss the slope into the river, following a complaint by a local horse rider. There are plans to replace the Long Bridge and during those works a more permanent solution will be considered, as heavy machinery will be available. This is likely to be some years off though. In the meantime the new gate could be moved further along from its current position to avoid horses having to go through the gate and immediately turning to drop down into the water. EN to get some opinions from local horse riders, but this seems like a good solution. DG to arrange a meeting with the two Andys to discuss the gate installation.
- XI. MG reported that ITV as part of their segment called 'Spirit of Hampshire' have done a report on the Common and that she was filmed as part of it. Her feeling is that it went well.
- XII. A member of the public present, CE, said that the 'No horse riding' and 'No cycling' signs had been removed. She is going to put new signs on, with glue and lots of screws. DG has given the signs to her.

D) Machinery Maintenance:  
Nil to report

E) Parish Paths:  
The footpath to the back of Station Road has been cleared by Ian Daubney; this was arranged by DG. The Mark Way cut has been sent out to contractors to action. EN and RF to chop down the overhanging tree on the West Down bridleway.

F) Village Greens:  
To discuss and propose a Stocks Green cutting policy (CPC to approve): Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the attached correspondence ([3723 8](#)). 14 Bee orchids were identified by Jenny Hamilton and these were mowed before they could set seed. MG suggested that from May to the end of July we do not cut Stocks Green. It has been suggested by Jenny Hamilton that the edges be mowed so that it looks maintained. This was agreed by COSC.

TH reported that the backs of the phone boxes have not yet been painted and there is some glass missing. DG is going to contact Simon Roberts who was doing this work.

TH raised the issue of a potentially rotten / dying tree up Station Road. DG to raise with Geoff Cockram.

G) War Memorial Playing Fields – Prior to the meeting NH circulated the attached report ([20723 4](#))

I. Update on WMPF Development Group and Adventure Tower proposal update:  
TH confirmed the arrival of the new Adventure Tower from around 18<sup>th</sup> September. Therefore the slide and soil need to be removed by 31<sup>st</sup> August. DG to contact Andy to arrange to get it moved. TH reported that NH has been liaising with a villager called Blue to arrange the cycle track / pump track and this will use up the left over soil. A ROSPA inspection will be required as soon as possible after installation, TH to email MD to get this in the diary. The Development Group is going to put a note in

Signed and Agreed ..... (Chairman)  
Page of

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2023 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30 the September parish magazine to announce the imminent arrival of the new tower and a 'coming soon' sign will be put on the site. MG recommended putting a note on the webmaster email about it too – the Development group will action. NH has spoken to TE and the Development Group will project manage the work.

NH reported that following the ROSPA recommendations he has carried out or has plans to carry out the following:

- a. He has put bird wire on the swings and cleaned them.
- b. The goals have been repaired by Ed Treadwell.
- c. The zip wire repairs are ongoing with the help of Ed Treadwell.
- d. The shackles on basket swing have been bought and will be changed.

NH will then complete a write up to show what action was taken to evidence that it is now in a safe state.

### II. To discuss and decide upon action to take re the damaged basketball systems:

Spalding have claimed that the damage is vandalism so there are two options:

- a. Get replacement back boards from Spalding
- b. Get metal back boards from elsewhere, but this might mean they don't fit with the existing Spalding fittings

NH to look into it and get the costings for the two options.

### III. To discuss and decide on CCTV proposal: Prior to the meeting the suggested CCTV camera and signage

was circulated ( <https://shop.naturespy.org/products/browning-recon-force-elite-hp5>

Suggested signage - "[CCTV in Operation" Sign 420mm x 297mm - Screwfix](#) or "[CCTV In Operation" Sign 210mm x 148mm - Screwfix](#)."

Advice from HALC was also circulated ([9123 8](#))

COSC agreed that signs would be a good idea. NH to action.

The wire netting boundary fence has been pushed down by animals. DG to arrange with Ian Daubney to get it repaired.

### H) West Down:

A member of the public, Carol, raised the issue of Dobb's Field on West Down. As the Common has the cows grazing and the Playing Fields are restricted to lead use, she would like to let her dogs run loose on Dobb's Field but can't because it's too overgrown. She would like it cut earlier. MG confirmed that we moved from cutting it from July to October due to orchids. MG suggested cutting it in late August as a compromise. DG to consult with Glynne Evans. Carol also asked about replacing the gate to Dobb's Field which was sawn down at the base some time ago. MG suggested contacting Southern Water to see if they will do it. DG to look into this and arrange a repair.

EN reported that she had walked West Down with AP to establish the new sites of the bridleway marker posts, but the sand markers are difficult to spot now, so the exercise may need to be repeated.

DG to arrange the replacement of the damaged dragons tooth by the bottle bank.

### 6. To discuss ways to make Virgin Media and BT Junction boxes around the village more aesthetically pleasing: Prior to the meeting NH proposal was circulated ([21623 1](#)).

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JH suggested his wife may have some ideas. RF suggested the history of Chilbolton. DG suggested fishing. NH raised that a brief needs to be set and TH suggested we should vet the pictures before going ahead. MG raised there are Virgin Media and BT boxes. We should start with the BT ones as they allow painting, and if that works, we could approach Virgin Media. JH will progress this.

### 7. Correspondence:

8/6/23 - HCC email re Purlygig Bridge ([3723\\_6](#))

12/6/23 - ITV request re Common ([3723\\_9](#)) – 26/3/23 response to ITV ([3723\\_9a](#))

12-13/6/23 - Cutting of Stocks Green ([3723\\_8](#)) – on agenda for discussion and proposal to CPC

13/6/23 - Resident email to TVBC re Common bins ([3723\\_7](#)). TVBC to replace Black and Gold bins with smaller lidded wheelie bins that can be emptied using the small refuse van.

15/6/23 - Common moth recording request ([3723\\_15](#))

20/6/23 – Common Residents letter to CPC requesting closure of Common gate June, July and August weekends ([3723\\_16 letter](#), [16a photos](#))

23-26/6/23 – TE email to DEFRA re Bye-laws and DEFRA response ([3723\\_17](#))

5/7/23 - TVBC Public Spaces Protection Orders ([4923\\_2](#))

### 8. Questions from Public:

See above, under West Down.

### 9. Any Other Business – For information only:

NH raised the issue of user agreements for the pavilion. Initially, they weren't primarily about cleaning (although it was mentioned), the key issue was liability and protecting the council. NH is of the opinion that everyone should sign one. DG was concerned that the agreement is so long it might put schools off. NH suggested a tailored one specially for schools. NH to draft a minimalist agreement for school use.

NH raised that he had been tasked something by CPC. The right procedure is to refer to COSC, not to individual members of COSC.

### 10. Items for the next agenda:

11. Date of the next meeting – Scheduled date is Thursday 10 August 2023 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 08:15pm

Signed and Agreed ..... (Chairman)  
Page of