

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF  
**CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE (COSC)**  
**To be held on Thursday 17 October 2024 at Poplar Dene, Cart Lane, Chilbolton; 18:30**  
**A G E N D A P A C K**

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Approval of Minutes – [Thursday 12 September 2024](#)
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report [no report at time of publishing]
6. To take questions and/or discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly update reports as follows: -
  - A) Finance – Clerk
    - i. [Finance transactions since last COSC meeting](#)
    - ii. To discuss projects to be included in the 25/26 COSC Budget
  - B) Allotments – T. Gilmour – Nothing to report
  - C) Common – M. Grove to inc.
    - I. [Update on Purlygig Bridge/Bridleway Repairs](#)
    - II. [Update on Sleeper Bridge repair](#)
  - D) Machinery Maintenance [no report at time of publishing]
  - E) Parish Paths – Cllr Griffiths [no report at time of publishing]
  - F) Village Greens [no report at time of publishing]
  - G) War Memorial Playing Fields – N. Horne to inc. [no report at time of publishing]
    - I. Update on Wild Flower areas
    - II. Update on play equipment repairs following annual inspection
    - III. Update on communications with Vita Play re play equipment timbers
  - H) West Down [no report at time of publishing]
  - I) Tree Warden report [no report at time of publishing]
7. To Discuss and decide on Lengthsman tasks for the following month (to include number of hours allocated per task) – All 24/25 funds have now been used. If scheme is renewed by HCC new funds should be received in May 2025.
8. [Correspondence](#)
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 14 November 2024 at Poplar Dene, Village Street.

Mandy Denyer (Clerk)  
Published 08/10/2024

**6A Finance Report:****Receipts since last report:**

Recent Common track repair contributions - £394.08 (all properties have now made their contribution)

19/9/24 – E Noble (Sale of pavilion fridges) - £60 [added to WMPF Capital]

30/9/24 – RPA WD Delinked payment (finally instalment) - £545.66

**Payments since the last report (inc. VAT where appropriate):**

18/9/24 - Hampshire Rural Management Ltd (WD verges/Vegetation Management) - £350.00

27/9/24 - SSE (Pavilion Electric 1/4-5/9/24 – WMPF Running Costs) - £63.23

30/9/24 - Sutcliffe Play (2 new baby swing seats – WMPF Running Costs/Play equipment repairs/renewals) - £588.72

1/9/24 – Grass and Grounds (additional cut and collect – WMPF Running costs) - £219.36

**Ringfenced balances as at 02/10/24:**

<b>Ringfenced Common Funds (held in current account)</b>	
Opening Balance 2024/25	10011.73
Income to date - PRA grants	0.00
Income to date - Other	1282.47
Expenditure to date	-4815.64
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>6478.56</b>

<b>Ringfenced West Down Funds (held in current acc)</b>	
Opening Balance 2024/25	8903.95
Income to date - RPA grants	1091.33
Income to date - Other	0.00
Expenditure to date	-3770.47
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>6224.81</b>

<b>WMPF Capital and Batty accounts</b>	<b>WMPF Cap</b>	<b>Batty</b>	
Opening Balance as at 1.4.24	3683.23	3280.33	
Plus income	283.86	20.33	
Less current acc expenditure to date	0.00		
closing balance as at 02.10.24	<b>3967.09</b>	<b>3300.66</b>	<b>7267.75</b>

2024/25 Precept budget review attached [here](#)

2024/25 Ringfenced budget review attached [here](#)

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## 6C Common report:

Heavy rains of late September have raised ground and river levels again. Water is again flowing past the end of the Purleygig bridge and water is lying in all low sections. ( September Soton total rain 166.7mm .Average 66.9mm <https://www.southamptonweather.co.uk/wxrainsummary.php>)

### Bridleway repairs

#### 1. Meeting with Alison Graham Smith (AGS) 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

This was a disappointing meeting and very little new came out of it.

- A. RE Bridleway repair- Boards will not be given permission, gravel will. This was made clear to HCC by AGS at a meeting or conversation in early August which was not reported back to us. David Drew forwarded a letter from Jonathan Woods ..... which stated HCC position and was circulated to all by MG. AGS said we had to have a contractor.

DG wrote to Messrs Frost and Harvey ( see September report) with the decision of AGS to absolutely refuse permission for any of their suggestions.

- B. RE ELMs -The outcomes have been reported already (12.9.24) but are repeated here:

*MG reported that a meeting took place earlier today with herself, EN, DG, Tony Ewer and Alison Graham-Smith (AG-S) of Natural England (NE) in attendance. It was confirmed that Environmental Land Management is the name of the new government scheme. Under this banner, there is the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Countryside Stewardship. The latter is not yet up and running and this is the one that the Common and West Down will most likely fall under. It allows for educational access, but only for under 18s. ( not sure that's correct - MG) Because the Common is a common and West Down is not, two arrangements will need to be put in place because each come under different headings. The Common will probably fit into the Species Rich Grassland (GS6) category which would entitle us to £646 per hectare per year. As there is at least 17 hectares this would amount to more than £11,492. The Commoners will need to agree to any plans put forward for the Common in order to qualify for funding. AG-S has said she will send us paperwork and information. MG will contact JH to see what actions he has taken so far as he was unable to make the meeting. Note: JH not contactable.*

- C. Re management plans - management plans were not discussed.

#### 2. Meeting With Nicholas Didds of Enviro-Aqua 30th September 2024:

I contacted Nicholas Didds (ND) of Enviro-Aqua who did the gravel bank restoration above the Purleygig bridge for WRT. He is accustomed to working on SSSI's and liaising with NE EA and HCC. A site meeting was arranged. MG, Tony Ewer ( in the absence on holiday of David Griffiths) Emma Noble, Trisha Heaton met with ND.

Outcomes after discussion.

- A. ND will send a two preliminary quotes within the next 3 weeks
- Boardwalk which some favoured as a solution.
  - Gravel footway bordered by hazel spillings and/or logs with Geobag boundaries. The upstream bank to be secured with hazel (like the area of banks downstream) and filled with gravel into which marginal plants will put.
- (I have some issues with the look of Geobags unless they are fully covered with gravel. MG)
- The work to be done when the area is dry. ie next year. 2025
- B. CPC/COSC to put the plan to Natural England (NE). This can take 28 days minimum.
- c. The tree trunk stepping stones are a danger and should be removed- by whom ????

- D. Temporary solution – take down the dying ash nearby and use the trunks on either side of the now flooded path. Fill between with appropriate gravel. It was agreed this should be done. Moya to approach Rick Nightingale to see if he can help.

Amendments added after report submitted:

#### **Autumn cut**

MG met with Rob West of Vesper conservation Ecology 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and agreed which areas should be cut. The ones with the tallest growth and the areas near the cattle fence along the main river, all depending on the state of the ground. A lightweight cutter with a flail to be used so as not to compact the ground.

#### **Sleeper Bridge**

Repairs have been successfully carried out by Huttons.

#### **Ditches**

Sparsholt are planning to bring students on October 14<sup>th</sup> to help clear the Abbots Stream as last year. As the family response was so poor (one family – thank you) I do not intend to try to raise a village posse this time.

#### **Cattle**

No info from Adam Coutts on when Cows to leave – assume early November if not too wet. 25 beasts all looking glossy and happy.

#### **Visits**

Sparsholt Andover to visit Oct 4<sup>th</sup> all day. MG to host. Pavilion and playing field parking needed from 09.30

Sparsholt College stream clearance as above.

Moya Grove 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

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#### **8 Correspondence:**

8/9/24 - Wherwell Resident proposal for repair to Test Way-Purlygig Bridge ([71024\\_4](#)) – [See Common report](#)

11/9/24 - WRT re Problems with the restoration on Chilbolton Common ([71024\\_5](#))

18/9/24 - SW response re West Down barrier ([71024\\_8](#)) – Payment yet to be received

24/9/24 - HCC email to DD re Chilbolton Cow Common Purlygig bridge ([71024\\_9](#))

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