

CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Council Chamber, South Lodge, Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood, on Tuesday 11th October 2011

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs A Hayward

Councillors: * Mrs W Boatman Mrs V Lantree
* T Edwards * G Liley
* Dr N O Eve K Morris
* M. Green * Mrs A Preedy
* Miss P Howell * Mrs L Sutherland
* Mrs M Jarrett * S Watkins
* R Khiroya * Mrs J White
* R Kipps * Mrs J Worrall

*Denotes Member present.

There were two members of the public present.

11/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs V Lantree and Morris

11/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11/38 SECTION 38 APPLICATION - PUBLIC INQUIRY

The Chairman advised Members that the Council had been informed that the Planning Inspector wished to hold a public inquiry on the Councils Section 38 Application and needed a response by 12th October 2011. The Chairman gave a brief review of the planning process thus far and why a retrospective application had been sought. Whilst no written reason was given as to why a Public Inquiry was being called, it was suggested by the Common Land Case Officer that it was due to the volume and content of correspondence received from parishioners and the Council's response to the issues raised. The Chairman advised that the Council were required to make a decision, either to proceed with the Public Inquiry the date being 20th December 2011, to proceed but ask for the Public Inquiry to be rescheduled, or withdraw the application.

The Chairman then opened the floor for discussion.

Members reviewed the conservation grazing scheme and the application process. The issues that parishioners raised directly with the Planning Inspectorate were discussed. It was felt that the credibility of the Council might have come into question in that the

application was retrospective and also that temporary fencing posts had not been removed as planned. Greater clarity was needed in communicating the plans of the Open Spaces Committee and ensuring these were carried out as agreed. Members felt that communication could be improved and one way to achieve this was through greater use of the website. It was agreed that as a Council it was important to engage with the public and listen to their views.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 8.55pm and asked Gregory Hill, Chairman of Friends of Chorleywood Common to make representation.

The meeting was reconvened at 9.06 pm.

The Council agreed that the conservation grazing had been beneficial and was important ecologically for the common but if the Council were to lose the Public Inquiry grazing would have to cease. Members felt that nothing was to be gained by asking for the Public Inquiry to be rescheduled. Members then discussed the option to withdraw the application and remove the cows and all the fencing. The Council felt it would be better served to review the whole grazing scheme and all associated parishioner comments before any further application could be submitted.

The Council
RESOLVED

That the Application under Section 38 of the Commons Act for fencing on Chorleywood Common be withdrawn

That the cattle are removed as soon as was practical and all non boundary fencing should be taken out, with the exception of the corral near the cattle creep.

That in the event of the Rangers not being able to remove the wooden posts a budget of £3,000 would be allocated for a contractor to do the work. The wooden posts stuck in the metals slots would be removed by the contractor.

That the Council review the conservation grazing scheme and makes a new Application under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006.

This was proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Liley

Cllr Liley asked for a recorded vote.

The motion was carried 13 in favour (Cllrs Mrs Boatman, Edwards, Green, Mrs Hayward, Mrs Jarrett, Khiroya, Kipps, Liley, Mrs Preedy, Mrs Sutherland, Watkins, Mrs White, and Mrs Worrall)

One against (Cllr Eve)

One Abstention (Cllr Miss Howell)

The Council made an official statement stating that they were committed to Conservation Grazing on Chorleywood Common and asked that the item be referred back to the Open Spaces Committee to commence with a new application. They also agreed that the Council's decision and its reasoning would be included in the next edition of Chorleywood Matters. The Clerk asked in light of the Council's decision what should be done about the publication of the Common Management Plan, and whilst the item was discussed there was no formal proposal.

11/39 LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Members considered the details within the report. The Chairman advised that the Late Night shopping evening had been going for twelve years and had become a regular fixture in the diary, achieving good community support. The Council believed that it would be beneficial to all concerned for the Business Association to take the event over as they were the ones to directly benefit from the evening and therefore would be in a better position to decide how the event should be organised. The Business Association did not want to have the fun fair or any stalls that would be in direct competition with shop keepers. They were proposing to have a more community based event with entertainment including local schools and choirs. It was agreed that some functions should continue to be carried out by the Parish Council this year, such as the road closure and the temporary event notice to licence the event. The Councillors also agreed that there should be representation from the Council on the night.

The Council
RESOLVED

That the Parish Council hands over the organisation of Late Night Shopping to the Business Association and that 2011 should be used as a hand over with Council involvement on the night.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllrs Mrs White and unanimously agreed.

11/40 REPRESENTATION ON THREE RIVERS HERTS HIGHWAYS JOINT MEMBER PANEL.

The Council
RESOLVED

That Cllrs Mrs Worrall and Mrs Sutherland be nominated as the Parish Council representatives on the Three Rivers Herts Highways Joint Member Panel.

11/41 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting having commenced at 8.00pm closed at 10.02 pm.

These minutes have been checked by the Chairman.

Signed Dated.....10/11/2011.....

These minutes have been agreed at Full Council and signed by the Chairman.

Signed Dated.....