

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2010

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman:	* Mrs M Jarrett
Councillors	* Mrs W Boatman
	* T Edwards
	N Eve
	* Mrs A Hayward (ex officio)
	R Kipps (ex officio)
	* G Liley
	* Mrs A Preedy
	* S Watkins
	* M Green

*Denotes members present

There were two members of the public present.

RECOMMENDATIONS -NONE

10/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Kipps and Cllr Eve.

10/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were two declarations of interest:

Cllr Mrs Hayward Agenda Item 9 – Report of the Parish Ranger (Christchurch Cemetery)
Cllr Watkins Agenda Item 9 – Report of the Parish Ranger (Common – Clements Road).

10/19 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2010 be approved as a true and correct record.

10/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

10/07 Annual Allotment Competition prizes: The Chairman advised the Committee that she had attended the Horticultural show the previous Saturday and had handed out the 2010 Allotment Competition prizes.

10/21 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2010/11

The Clerk advised the Committee that although Item 214 Grass Cutting/Grazing was showing an overspend of £4,465.55, this would be reversed by a £6,000 grant due in from National England. Additionally, as the grazing had been agreed, the legacy has now been applied for.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

ALLOTMENTS

10/22 OCCUPATION & WAITING LISTS

The creation of new plots was noted and the question asked whether there was scope for further plots beyond this. The Committee was advised that there was some scope but that these would wait for the current new plots to start being cultivated before further ones were added. Discussion also took place on the possibility of the Stag Lane field which had been proposed for an allotment site but no further information on this was available at the meeting.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the allotments and the current waiting lists.

10/23 ALLOTMENT ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Waiting Lists

The Committee
RESOLVED

That those on the present waiting list are taken in order but that in future anyone added to the list will be informed that residents will take priority over non-residents. Charges to remain the same for residents and non-residents.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jarrett , seconded by Cllr Watkins and carried unanimously.

Key Deposits

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the current allotment key deposit be changed to a non returnable key charge.
It was also suggested that the key charge be reviewed to ensure that it adequately covers the cost of provision of the keys and padlocks

Vandalism at Dog Kennel lane

The Committee was advised of the vandalism that had taken place at Dog Kennel Lane but agreed that due to the location and open nature of this allotment site there was little that could be done to secure the site.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

10/24 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

Christchurch Cemetery

Access for the building works at Christchurch which are due to start in October was discussed by the Committee. As access from the main road is not being allowed by the Highways Agency the alternative under discussion is access via the Christchurch parking area which raises a number of issues of concern to the school and the Council. The Clerk advised that formal proposals would be put to the Council when meetings had taken place with the Developers, Christchurch School and the Clerk. The Committee was also advised that negotiations had been opened regarding the developers assisting with the task of the laying down of the memorial stones following the results of the memorial stone stress testing exercise.

Common

The Committee

RESOLVED

That bunding be established to replace the logs in the area of Clements Road where persistent parking was taking place as the Council has a right to defend it's land from the encroachment of vehicles.

The Committee was reminded that if anyone sees a vehicle carrying out an illegal activity on the Common to let the Parish Office know the registration details so that steps can be taken.

Grovewood Management

The Clerk advised the committee that a letter would be sent out advising residents of the essential works to the trees at Grovewood making it clear that the works were taking place for Health and Safety reasons and the letter was not part of a consultation process.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the Ranger's report.

10/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMON USERS GROUP

There were no matters arising from the Common Users Group meeting held immediately prior to this meeting.

10/26 8th NATIONAL SEMINAR ON COMMON LAND AND TOWN AND VILLAGE GREENS

Commons Councils

The background to idea of Commons Councils was outlined by the Chairman. It was felt that good links exist between the Council and the users of the Common with a good management plan and practices in place. It was felt however that the Council could embrace best practices out of the Commons Council proposals without going down the route of establishing a Commons Council. A number of suggestions were made regarding other people that could be included in the Common Users Group including:

Horseriders

Christchurch School

Representative of the property owners

Registration of land as Village Greens

The Committee considered the idea of registering Grovewood as a Village Green which would allow the establishment of bye-laws , give some protection to the area and open up the potential of funding.

The Committee

RESOLVED

Not to progress the registration of Grovewood as a Village Green at this point in time.

10/27 TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT MANGEMENT PLAN FOR CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

The committee received the draft Management Plan for Chorleywood Common. This had gone to members of the Common User Group at the meeting immediately prior to this meeting. Comments on the Plan were requested by the end of October 2010 which would then be collated for the Open Spaces Committee meeting on the 9th November 2010. Following this the Council will put together the second draft for wider circulation which would be available at Chorleywood Library for a two week period over the Christmas period. A sub committee will review feedback from this consultation exercise with a view to putting the final plan to the Full Council Meeting in March 2011 for launch in the new financial year.

LAWN CEMETERY

10/28 OCCUPATION

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the occupation of the Lawn Cemetery.

10/29 CEMETERY ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Flowers

The Committee

RESOLVED

To extend the Lawn Cemetery Rule No 8 regarding the removal of real flowers when they have died to include artificial flowers when they are past their best. A notice advising of this would be displayed in the Cemetery.

Access request

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the access request could not be met but that consideration would be given to putting a pedestrian gate in the Hedge along the front of the Cemetery at a later date. Estimates for this would be sought and presented to the next Open Spaces Committee.

Request for additional Rack of Vases in Section D

The Committee

RESOLVED

That a trial would be undertaken of a small rack containing vases being placed near to the compost bin and water tap in Section D, which would remove the additional distance needing to be covered by visitors to graves in Section D and E.

10/30 LAWN CEMETERY FLOWER BEDS NEW SECTION

The Committee considered the report put to the meeting regarding the replanting of the flowers beds in the new section of the cemetery. The Parish Ranger Andrew Goddard advised that in his opinion the Cherry trees ought to be removed given that they are poor specimens and any work to prune them would not improve their appearance.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That Design A be progressed.

This was proposed by Cllr Watkins, Seconded by Cllr Liley and carried unanimously.

The Committee was advised that the work would be done in the Spring.

10/31 LAWN CEMETERY FENCING

The Committee considered the two quite different solutions to the fencing to prevent dogs getting into the Cemetery.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To accept the quote from Contractor A
This was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hayward with all in favour.

PARISH PATHS

10/32 The Committee noted that Parish Path signage for 2009-10 was now complete and that work is underway on the 2010-11 signage for which the grant of £1000 had already been received.

GENERAL

10/33 FIVE YEAR PLAN

A number of areas identified by the previous Council were put forward for consideration by the new Council.

The Committee
RESOLVED
The following timescales for the items proposed:
Common and Grovewood Bye Laws – 2011/12
Hollybush Hall – Field Study Centre – 2012 /13
Signage or Interpretation Boards – 2011/12

Public Rights of Way and Walks Booklet – 2012/13 (although it was agreed that work towards this could commence now).

10/34 CLAMPING

A number of solutions were presented to the Committee for consideration to address the forthcoming legislation which may ban clamping on private land. District Cllr Martin Trevett was invited to expand on the suggestion to utilise the parking attendant already in the area as part of the TRDC parking scheme operated by Three Rivers District Council. Although it would not be possible to introduce this immediately and Three Rivers District Council would look to recover the set up costs from the Parish Council, any income generated from the parking tickets issued would then come back to the Parish Council.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the use of TRDC Parking Attendants be investigated further by the Clerk who would also check that this would not be in breach of any Common Land Law and would bring a detailed report to the next meeting. Cllr Trevett was thanked for his input.

10/35 PERMISSION TO USE THE COMMON FOR ORGANISED WALKS

The Committee
RESOLVED

To agree to the request from Sure Start to offer guided walks on the Common for families in the area.

The Committee was advised that a separate diary for activities on the Common had been set up in the Office.

10/36 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed Date

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Open Spaces meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed..... Date.....