

**REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 18th MARCH 2011**

**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

\*Denotes members present

Also present were Cllr Mrs P Howell and Cllr Mrs J Worrall and District Cllr Mrs B Green. In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Mrs M Jarrett, Vice Chairman Cllr N Eve took the chair. There were eight members of the public present.

**RECOMMENDATIONS -NONE**

**10/73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Mrs M Jarrett and Cllr S Watkins.

**10/74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were the following declarations of interest:  
Cllr T Edwards - Agenda Item 9 Parking Area opposite War Memorial Hall  
Cllr G Liley – Cricket Club

**10/75 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The following changes to the minutes were noted  
10/57 Parish Paths should read  
The Committee **was** advised that work on the parish path signage would run into the next year.  
10/70 Exclusion of Press and Public should read  
That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded for **an** urgent item they are instructed to withdraw.  
With these changes  
The Committee  
**RESOLVED**  
That the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be approved as a true and correct record.

**10/76 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

10/59 The Committee was advised that the work on the Lime Tree on the Common had been completed satisfactorily.

10/60 Veolia Water had been advised to apply for a Section 38 Permission from DEFRA.

**10/77 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2010/11**

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the statement.

**COMMON & GROVEWOOD**

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 8.08 to take representation from Alexis Noble on the topic of Dog Fouling on Chorleywood Common and reconvened at 8.11pm under standing orders when Item 9 was moved to this point on the agenda.

**10/78 DOG FOULING ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON**

Councillors questioned how bad the problem of dog walkers not clearing up after their dogs had become with the views expressed that it was worse around the school, golf club and permissive parking areas where it was felt that dogs were let out of cars without concern for the mess they leave. The chairman of the meeting reminded the committee of what the Council does do to help alleviate the problem with the free provision of dog bags and dog bins that were emptied regularly. Concern was expressed at the proposal by the member of the public to put out flyers and the possible danger to the individual by unsympathetic dog owners. It was suggested that the legality of the proposal to put flyers under windscreen wipers be understood.

The Committee  
RESOLVED

1. To write to local organisations and schools emphasising the problem
2. Enquire into the legality of the proposed leafleting
3. Look at putting notices on the Common and on the Parish Council Website
4. Bring the results back to the next Open Spaces Committee

This was proposed by Cllr G Liley, seconded by Cllr T Edwards and carried unanimously.

**10/79 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER**

The Committee noted the good report as usual from the Parish Ranger. The article on the Lime Tree that had appeared in the Watford Observer was badly timed by the paper as the work had already been completed by the time the article was put in the paper. A date for the Cattle coming onto the Common was stated to be dependant on how the grass grows over the forthcoming few weeks. Notices to affected residents and signage in the areas would be issued nearer the time of introduction. The Committee was advised that a small amount of additional money had been forthcoming from Herts County Council for the Parish Footpath signs which would allow the Council to purchase all those identified for the 2010/11 year.

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the report

**10/80 COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

The Committee considered the text of the report that had been updated with specific reference to a letter from the Cricket Club regarding the consideration of their comments on the plan.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the informative paragraph that appears on the Website stating that there had been an open meeting with the main user groups at which the plan update had been discussed be removed from the Website.

This was proposed by Cllr N Eve, Seconded by Cllr Mrs A Hayward and carried unanimously.

With respect to the specific comments made on the plan update in a letter from the Cricket Club

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the additional sentence suggested by the Cricket Club to Part 1 Para 2 Second Sentence of the plan update “In this respect the Parish Council respects the needs of both clubs to attain the levels of excellence expected by their governing bodies and associations” be included with the addition of “subject to the constraints of common law”.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs W Boatman, Seconded by Cllr Mrs A Hayward and carried unanimously.

Attention was drawn to the section in the plan update relating to community involvement and the suggestion that the Council did not want to give the impression that volunteers had to be members of Friends of the Common in order to volunteer and the wording would be changed to reflect the help of all Volunteers.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To approve the text of the Management Plan update.

This was proposed by Cllr R Kipps, Seconded by Cllr G Liley and carried unanimously.

Discussion then took place on how the plan update would be published, the preference being for something produced professionally and costs would be obtained for this. The update would also be put on the Website when available.

#### **10/81 SIGNAGE SURVEY ON CHORLEYWOOD**

The Committee

RESOLVED

1. To photograph and map what signage is on the Common
2. Review what is required
3. Look at implementation

Cllr Edwards would undertake this with the help of Parish Ranger Chris Watts and the Volunteer that had come forward to help with this.

#### **10/82 PARKING AREA OPPOSITE WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

The Committee was advised that this topic had come up before and had always had to be refused. It was suggested that when halls are booked the hirers are made aware of and encouraged to use alternative permissive parking areas and suggest car sharing. It was pointed out that the halls are not hired on the basis that parking is available. Discussion also took place on the timing of the half hour that the permissive parking areas were closed with suggestions that this be altered to discourage more commuters. The Committee was advised that considerable research had been undertaken previously to arrive at the current timing of the closure and the impact of a change to this on the Golfers, walkers and on the hirers of the Hall was pointed out. It was noted that the Planning Committee were aware of the problems caused by the indiscriminate parking at busy times on the road and were actively seeking a

meeting with Herts County Council and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of both the Planning and Open Spaces Committees.

The Committee  
RESOLVED

To look at the alteration of the no parking period following further research.

A further point to warn hirers of the Hall of the limited parking was considered but deemed impractical with voting one for, six against and one abstention.

**ALLOTMENTS**

**10/83 OCCUPATION & WAITING LISTS**

The Committee  
RESOLVED

To note the occupation of the allotments and the current waiting lists.

**LAWN CEMETERY**

**10/84 OCCUPATION**

The Committee  
RESOLVED

To note the occupation of the Lawn Cemetery.

**10/85 ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

The Committee  
RESOLVED

To note the Allotments and Cemetery Administrators report.

**PARISH PATHS**

**10/86** The Committee noted that work continues on the 2010-11 Parish path signage with some additional funding from Herts County Council that will enable all required signs for this year to be completed.

**GENERAL**

**10/87 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Committee  
RESOLVED

To note the Health and Safety report.

**10/88 CLOSURE**

The meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 9.55 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.....