

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 5th JULY 2011

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

- Chairman:** * Mrs M Jarrett
- Councillors** * Mrs W Boatman
* T Edwards
* N Eve
* Mrs A Hayward (ex officio)
* Mrs A Preedy
* Mrs L Sutherland (ex officio)
* S Watkins
* Mrs J Worrall

*Denotes members present

Also present were Cllr R Khiroya and Cllr R Kipps.
There were thirteen members of the public present.

RECOMMENDATIONS -NONE

11/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

11/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest:

11/23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee held on 24th May 2011, updated to reflect amendments made at Full Council on the 28th June 2011 be approved as a true and correct record.

11/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

11/25 PLAY AREA ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

At this point in the meeting the Chairman advised that there were several members of the public that wished to address the meeting under **Agenda Item 7 Play area on Chorleywood Common**. The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to address the Committee. Two members of the public addressed the Council regarding the provision of a play area on the Common and the meeting was reconvened at 8.11pm.

The Committee discussed the idea of a working party to progress the idea of a Play area on the common and the make-up of such a working party with the suggestion that it should comprise of the people

giving the money, the people who own the land and the Residents. Two options for setting up play areas was debated, the more formal play area through TRDC funding and the idea of more natural play areas using natural materials which was unlikely to require DEFRA permission and therefore this element could be taken forward with the Parish Rangers being involved to identify suitable areas.

Cllr Mrs Hayward, seconded by Cllr Mrs Worrall proposed that a Advisory Committee be set up comprising of a representative from Chorleywood Mums, a representative from the residents groups, two Councillors, the Senior Parish Ranger, and a representative from Friends of Chorleywood Common to look at play on Chorleywood Common for both formal play areas and natural play areas. The Advisory Committee would have to report back to the Open Spaces Committee at each meeting.

Cllr Eve proposed an amendment:- that all possible sites for formal play areas are investigated in Chorleywood (not just the Common), this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Jarrett.

The committee unanimously approved the amendment and therefore

The Committee

RESOLVED

That an Advisory Committee be set up comprising of the following

One member from Chorleywood Mums

One member from Chorleywood Residents Association

Two Member's from Friends of the Common

Two Councillors and the Senior Parish Ranger

That the group be tasked to look at all possible sites in Chorleywood for both formal and informal play equipment.

That they report their findings to the Open Spaces Committee

11/26 REQUEST FOR WORKS ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

A request had been received from Christchurch School to look at the area of the Common on the Cricket outfield used for a football pitch. It was confirmed that the area to be levelled was not a great area and had been originally deferred due to the previously proposed relocation of the cricket pitch which was no longer being progressed. The Parish Ranger confirmed that the work could be done in house for minimal cost. The cricket club was asked to water the ground after the work had been completed. There was an initial concern that the Cricket Club may not have a hose with a long enough reach for the area however as there is a stand pipe by the Lych gate, the Church would be asked permission to use this.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk instructs the Rangers to make the necessary arrangements to undertake the work.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Boatman and carried unanimously

11/27 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2010/11

It was noted that the majority of the allotment rentals had now been collected and the trade concessions were confirmed as mainly being the Ice Cream Franchise although there had been others in the past.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the statement.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

11/28 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

The Committee noted the report from the Parish Ranger together with the addendum paper for the control of rabbits on the common. Discussion took place on the methods of pest control being advised that ferretting, whilst a normal method in these circumstances could not be used due to the badger sets in this area and alternatives were discussed. The Committee was advised of the fact that the particularly distressing disease myxomatosis was spreading in the wild rabbit population

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk instruct the Ranger, in writing, to control the rabbit population in Larks Meadow by shooting.

This was proposed by Cllr Eve, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sutherland and carried unanimously.

Following discussion on duck weed on the ponds the committee was advised that this was an urgent problem which would be tackled later in the summer when the newts have hatched.

Discussion on the grazing covered the possibility in the future of smaller and potentially more docile cattle grazing on the Common and the Committee was offered the opportunity to go and visit the cattle at a farm outside Chesham and a date would be set for such a visit. It was also noted that this grazier also grazes cattle on other commons in the area.

Accidental damage to the cricket field was noted and the opinion of the committee was that the grass had not been killed but with water should come back. The Council noted that a letter of apology had been received. The matter had been raised at a recent meeting of the Cricket Club and the Council had received assurances that this would not happen again.

11/29 MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMON USER GROUP

The issue of dog fouling had been discussed and the Committee was advised of the suggestion from one of the Parish Officers, Mrs Horwood, to put together a dog fouling pack and ask children to design a poster which members were happy to go forward with. The Clerk would also be approaching TRDC to ask for notices and dog bins to be put in Chorleywood House grounds to help with the problems. In the meantime the standard dog fouling notices annotated to advise of the free dog bags available at both the Parish Office and the Library would be put up near the dog bins.

11/30 BOUNDARY OF CHERRY TREE DELL

The Committee was advised that written agreement was in place that once planning permission had been received, no work would be done until the boundary change had been registered with Land Registry.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To agree the change in boundary as proposed.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hayward, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Preedy and carried unanimously.

11/31 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2011 – 12

It was agreed that the maps detailing the work would be copied to members and would be put on the website. The question of whether the seed harvest would take place this year was raised but it was felt that there was unlikely to be sufficient this year but that if conditions were suitable it would be done.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the work Programme as described be adopted and published on the Parish Council website.

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

11/32 PARKING CONTROL ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

It was agreed that the changes to the entrance and exits of the War Memorial Hall parking area could be undertaken in August subject to anything that the Golf Club have on, when nothing is on in the Hall. Advance notices would be put in place, the Golf Club would be advised in advance and it was suggested that a notice could be added to booking forms advising of the change.

The new scheme for parking control under discussion was felt to be a less invasive scheme than the current, doesn't cost as much and the responsibility for dealing with enforcement, litigation would rest with the parking company. The idea of having a barrier instead on the two parking areas with the Rangers raising and lowering at the appropriate times of day was discounted as impractical, as was the idea of parking permits as the Council cannot be partial on common land

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the new comprehensive scheme as defined be adopted.

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

11/33 PUBLICATION OF THE COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members were advised that advice had been received that the permissive parking areas should be referred to as encroachment areas and that the terms bridleway could be referred to as permissive horse track. Clarification of the quotes for the publication of the management plan was given, for company B the price was for 500 not 1000. Numbers required were debated with general agreement that 500 should suffice. The committee discussed if the council could charge for the plan and it was agreed that this would be in order. Discussion took place on the background watermark, the cover, colours used and the size of fonts on the ponds map. It was agreed that the Editorial Committee would review the document and resolve the issues discussed.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That company B is asked to print 500 digital copies of the final document.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hayward and carried unanimously.

ALLOTMENTS

11/34 OCCUPATION & WAITING LISTS

The Committee
RESOLVED

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

LAWN CEMETERY

11/35 INTERMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED

To note the interments that had taken place at the Lawn Cemetery.

11/36 ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

The Committee congratulated the Administrators on the increase in the allotment plots. The suggestion of a walkabout of the Allotments and the Cemetery was well received and it was agreed that a visit during the day would be better than the evening. A couple of dates would be emailed for consideration and the visits would be open to all Councillors.

The Committee
RESOLVED

To note the Allotments and Cemetery Administrator's report.

PARISH PATHS

11/37 2010-11 Signage

The Committee noted the current position on the Parish path signage.

GENERAL

11/38 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Nothing reported.

11/39 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 10.05 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.....