

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2012

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

There were ten members of the public present.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. APPRENTICE SCHEME

Members of the Committee considered the proposal to be an excellent idea. The cost of the apprenticeship could be covered within current budgets

The Committee

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the Council enter into an agreement with the local agricultural college to take on an Apprentice Ranger for a period of two years.

That if possible the apprenticeship be offered to a local resident.

This was proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Edwards and unanimously approved.

11/81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

11/82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest:

11/83 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That subject to the changes made at Full Council, the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee held on 8th November 2011 be approved as a true and correct record.

11/84 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

11/85 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2010/11

Cllr Eve asked for details of what item 25, 'Income Other' was for. The Chairman advised that it was income received that did not fit into any other category. This had included in the past the bequest and filming on the common.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the statement.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

11/86 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

The Parish Ranger advised that he had received communication from members of Friends of the Common volunteers who had voiced a reluctance to put in the memorial benches on the Common. He advised that this work would be carried out by the Parish Rangers.

Members talked about the ponds, and thanked the Rangers for the comprehensive report and also an informative walk on the Common earlier in the day.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report

11/87 POND MANAGEMENT

The Parish Ranger advised that the request to change the pond management regime on the Common had originated from representatives from Natural England who had visited the Common in December. He advised that the report highlighted change in how the ponds should be managed. He stated that as the Common had seven ponds, all at about the same ecological stage, it would be better to change the current processes and let the ponds slowly take their natural cycle. When they became silted up they would be cleared out to create a new pond. This would make the most of the available habitat.

Church pond had been highlighted as the pond with the least environmental benefit, which would most benefit from this regime. Grant funding had been applied for from the Chiltern Conservation Board to carry out this work in this financial year – weather permitting. If the Parish Council were successful in attaining Higher Level Stewardship it would lead to further grant funding to maintain the ponds in this way.

The Parish Ranger confirmed that there would always be ponds with open water on the Common and that the cycle could take many years to complete. Members felt that it would be important to ensure that the reasoning behind the change in regime be made known, to ensure that members of the public were aware of what the Council were doing and why.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To adopt the new maintenance regime for the ponds.
To advise the public accordingly

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Sutherland , seconded by Cllr Mrs Hayward and carried eight in favour with one abstention.

11/88 PLAY AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chairman wished to express thanks to the Advisory Committee for the immense amount of work they had carried out. The report was very a very concise and fair report. Members of the committee had attended a walk on the common to look at the sites.

The Chairman passed the meeting over to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, who advised that to allow proper time for discussion he and the other members of the committee felt that an extra ordinary meeting of the Open Spaces Committee should be called. He suggested 21st February 2012.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That this item be adjourned and reconvened at an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Open Spaces Committee on 21st February 2012.

11/89 REQUEST FROM VEOLIA WATER FOR A BOREHOLE TO BE PLACED ON THE COMMON

The meeting was suspended at 8.10pm to receive a presentation from Robert Sage, Asset Specialist from Veolia Water.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.14pm

Mr Sage advised the Committee that they wished to commence work in March. They presented a draft licence for the Council's approval.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the committee agree in principal subject to having the licence agreed by the Council's legal representative and suitable financial terms agreed.
That the finding be reported to the March meeting.

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

11/90 ENTRANCE TO THE PADDOCKS

It was agreed that the official maps had conflicting information. As any decision taken now may have an impact in future, it was important to be sure of the Council's legal position.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the matter be run past the Council's legal representative to be quite sure of the Council's legal responsibilities.

This was proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed.

11/91 BUTTERFLY SURVEY

The Chairman wished formally to thank Bill Cattle who continued to carry out this annual survey of the Common and Chorleywood House Grounds. Members asked where the butterfly corridors were situated on the common. The Chairman advised that she would write to thank Mr Cattle and also would ask this question and report back to a future meeting.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report

To send copies to the Herts Biological Records Office and to TRDC.

11/92 INVERTEBRATE, GRASSLAND AND FLORA SURVEY ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

The Clerk advised that she had received communication from the Chiltern Conservation Board and the Friends of the Common Committee who have both agreed to part fund the surveys.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To accept the two quotations for the invertebrate survey and the grassland survey to be carried out on the Common.

To thank both the Chiltern Conservation Board and Friends of the Common and to take up the offer of funding.

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

11/93 REPORT OF THE GRAZING WORKING PARTY

The project was discussed in detail, as outlined in the report. Friends of the Common had expressed concerns regarding the use of barbed wire and electric fencing.

The Clerk confirmed that there would be no use of barbed wire or electric fencing unless the cattle needed to be secured due to a break in the fence line.

Concern was expressed regarding the cost of the temporary fencing. The Clerk confirmed that she had received one quotation, but was not prepared to release this information until she had received all the quotations and could put a cost analysis to the Committee.

The Chairman of the Working Party confirmed that they now wished to consult with all interested parties. It was agreed that the meetings would have an agenda and would be minuted and these minutes would be available for inspection.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

That the Working Party be given permission to consult with all interested parties.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sutherland

The proposal was carried seven in favour with two abstentions

Cllr Eve requested a recorded vote.

Cllrs Mrs Boatman, Edwards, Mrs Jarrett, Mrs Preedy, Mrs Sutherland, Watkins, Mrs Worrall all voted in favour and Cllrs Eve and Mrs Hayward abstained.

ALLOTMENTS

11/94 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the allotments.

11/95 WAITING LISTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

LAWN CEMETERY

11/96 INTERMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the Report.

11/97 ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

PARISH PATHS

11/98 The Committee noted the current position on the Parish path signage.

GENERAL

11/99 APPRENTICE SCHEME

See Recommendation 1.

11/100 FEES AND CHARGES

Members considered the details within the report and considered the cost implications of raising the fees to bring them more in line with the Council's costs.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the allotment fees be raised by 10%
That an additional water charge be added of £5.00 per half plot and £10.00 per full plot.
That a carefully worded letter be issued with the renewal letter advising why the fees have had to be increased.

That the Licence fees for use of the Common for exercise classes be agreed at £10.50 per hour.

That the Ice Cream Concession be offered as either a five day or weekend rate or seven day licence.

That the Interment charges be increased in line with the table in the report and the non parishioner rate be double that of the parishioner.

That the parishioner rates include anyone who had left the parish within the last five years.

These resolutions were proposed en bloc by Cllr Mrs Worrall, and seconded by Cllr Mrs Boatman and unanimously approved.

11/101 REVISED BUDGET AND BUDGET FOR 2012/13

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Revised Budget and 2012/13 Budget be approved.

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

11/102 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report

11/103 PROJECT UPDATES

Dog Fouling: Officers from TRDC were putting together a report for consideration by their members, the result of which will be forwarded to the Parish Council for consideration.

Benches on the Common: Friends of the Common Volunteers had stated that they were unable to put the new benches on the Common. The Parish Ranger agreed that they would carry this work as part of their winter programme.

Signage: Cllr Edwards advised that he was putting together the relevant information, and had sourced a new type of material, which looked like wood but was in fact recycled plastic. He was investigating costs etc for a future meeting.

Management Plan: The Clerk advised that this still had not gone for publication. Now that the pond management had changed she felt that the plan should be updated prior to publication.

Cllr Eve asked why it had not gone to the printer; he was advised there had been an issue with one of the maps, as it was incorrect and as the Council did not own the copyright on the maps it had not been possible to amend it.

After discussion

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the pond text be changed

That the pond map be taken out.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Boatman and carried eight in Favour and one against.

Cllr Eve asked for a recorded vote which was as follows

Cllrs Mrs Boatman, Edwards, Mrs Hayward, Mrs Jarrett, Mrs Preedy, Mrs Sutherland, Watkins, Mrs Worrall all voted in favour, Cllr Eve voted against.

11/104 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 10.52 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.....