

REPORT OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 21st FEBRUARY 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

Also in attendance, Members of the Advisory Committee who are not Members of the Council

* Marilyn Hampton – Friends of the Common
* Gregory Hill – Friends of the Common
* Maria Larkin – Chorleywood Residents Association
* Simone Tyson – Chorleywood Mums

And Cllr M Green

There were seven members of the public present.

11/105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Boatman

11/106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11/107 PLAY AREA FOR CHORLEYWOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone who had attended. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive the very comprehensive report that has been created by the members of the Advisory Committee.

She also advised during a site visit on the Common by Councillors all the proposed areas have been inspected. At this stage it was noted that site 6 on the map near the Cricket Square appeared to be very boggy and was probably the site of a former pond. Due to the amount of surface water and the type of vegetation in the area it would be unsuitable for a play area. Also confirmation had been received from the Police that they had reservations about site 13 near Shepherds Bridge permissive parking area as they felt that the site had a higher risk of vandalism, being near to the village and to the pub where there had been a higher level of anti social behaviour in the past.

Cllr Mrs Hayward asked for confirmation that none of the proposed sites were near badger sets or bat colonies. It was confirmed that this was the case.

Cllr Watkins asked for clarification regarding dog fouling as this appeared to be an issue on both sites. The Clerk advised that the Chorleywood House Estate was covered under the Clean Neighbourhood Act which included the clearing up of dog fouling. However there were at least six professional dog walking companies, using the Chorleywood House Estate, daily and walking up to eight dogs at any one time. As they were not kept on leads it was impossible to clear up after all the dogs, and therefore there was a major issue of dog fouling. On the Common there was no legislation what so ever therefore whilst the Parish Council actively encouraged people to clear up after their dogs there was no legislation in place to make it an offence not to.

The Chairman did advise however that the Council were working with Officers at Three Rivers District Council to see if a different piece of legislation could be used which would be suitable for both sites which not only would make it illegal not to clear up after dogs but could limit the amount of dogs that could be walked by an individual at any one time and would also ensure that where necessary dogs should be kept on a lead.

Questions were asked regarding the insurance implications and whether or not a licence would be required for a play area on the Common, the Clerk confirmed that this would be dependant on what Three Rivers proposed for the site.

Cllr Mrs Worrall stated that as the report had been so comprehensive it was difficult to ask any questions, as everything was detailed within the report.

The Committee therefore
RESOLVED

That the Committee accept the report

Proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hayward and unanimously approved

That the report be forwarded with the aforementioned amendments to the Officers of Three Rivers together with the correspondence received with the Compliments of the Parish Council

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Watkins and unanimously approved.

To disband the Advisory Committee as they had completed their task.

Proposed from the Chair and unanimously approved.

The Chairman formally thanked the members of the Advisory Committee.

11/108 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed *Cllr Mrs Jarrett agreed via email*..... Date

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

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