

**REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 3rd JULY 2012**

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: T Edwards

Councillors

- * Mrs W Boatman
- * Mrs M Jarrett
- * R Khiroya (ex officio)
- * Mrs V Lantree
- * G Liley
- * Mrs A Preedy
- * Mrs L Sutherland (ex officio)
- * Mrs J Worrall

*Denotes members present

Also present: Cllrs N Eve, M Green, Mrs A Hayward.

There were three members of the public present.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs Jarrett chaired the meeting.

12/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Edwards.

12/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest:

12/24 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of Open Spaces Committee held on the 22nd May 2012 be approved as a true and correct record.

12/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Three questions were raised with respect to the Grazing:

- i) Was the Grazing Working Party to continue or be disbanded
- ii) As September was the proposed date for grazing when would the slotties and fencing be installed
- iii) Further work on the costings of Grazing could be directed at the Working Party rather than the Clerk in future.

After confirmation that the members of the Working Party present – Cllr Mrs Worrall, Mrs Jarrett, and Watkins were prepared to continue

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Grazing Working Party continues to exist.

A meeting was booked for the day following the Committee with the Fencing contractor. It was suggested that the day before the fencing was to be installed red spray paint would be used to mark the fencing line and all Members would be invited to site to confirm the line of the fencing as per plan. It was also agreed that clear signs would be erected advising the public of the work, notices would be put on the website and those interested would be emailed. The Committee was advised that three quotes for the fencing were being sought, only one fabrication company was involved which was used by all three contractors. When the quotes were received the Committee would need to consider both price and reliability and also consider damage and the speed to repair. The electric fencing held by the Parish from previous grazing could be used in an emergency. In answer to concerns raised regarding the removal of the posts from the slotties that had been experienced the previous year, Members were advised that tests with alternative posts had been taking place and even with the recent rain experienced, it had been possible to remove the posts. Cllr Worrall advised that the offer for the Working Party to pick up the costings work stood if the Clerk wished to take this up.

12/26 FINANCIAL COMPARISON YEAR END STATEMENT 2012/13

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the statement.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

12/27 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

Christchurch pond silt analysis - Discussion took place on the progress of the analysis of the silt. Members were advised that prices were being sought for the cost of removal of the silt based on a 'guesstimate' of the tonnage involved and that the Chiltern Conservation Board would pay half the restoration cost for the removal of the waste. The Higher Level Stewardship, if awarded, would pay for the other half. Moving the drain and the run off into the woodland would be done in house.

French drain next to Cricket Club Pavilion – a request was made for bigger gravel/pebbles to be used next time as the volume of water was actually moving the gravel with it, reducing the efficacy of the drain. The Committee agreed to give permission for the Cricket Club to carry out the work.

Stress Testing of Gravestones – Members were advised that the stress testing had taken place between the issue of the report and the meeting and a letter sent to Christchurch detailing those failing the test and giving four weeks for the Church to contact families. A meeting would then be held between the Parish Office and the Church Office to discuss how to lay down the stones.

Higher Level Stewardship – Members were advised that the outcome of this would be advised sometime between the date of the meeting and October.

Roses in the Cemetery – The Clerk drew Member's attention to the situation with the standard roses in the Cemetery and reminded members that when the subject had been raised after the first few had been lost the decision was deferred until more had been lost which was now the case. A number of options were discussed of replacing with more roses in either the same places or shifted slightly from their current positions or replacing with a different species of plant. Part of the problem is that the wind whips across the Cemetery. It was also suggested that this could be a project for the Apprentice. It was agreed that the Ranger would bring proposals back to a future meeting.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

12/28 LITTER ON THE COMMON

Members were advised of the volumes of litter that were being picked up on the Common by the Rangers on a regular basis particularly after a fine weekend. It was frustrating for the Cricket Club who also picked up large amounts of litter, the Golf Club were experiencing the same problem and it was noted that members of the public also pick litter. It was suggested that an item be put on the Website thanking those members of the public that do pick up litter and reminding those that use the Common to take their litter home. It was also suggested that there could be signs in the Permissive Parking areas and possibly a litter picking exercise planned with residents/ children. Members were advised that under the dog control order litterers could be prosecuted.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

12/29 RENEWAL OF CHRISTCHURCH LICENCE TO USE THE COMMON FOR AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the licence was renewed for two years for Christchurch school to use the Common for activities as part of the school curriculum (for which there could be no financial consideration)

This was proposed by Cllr Liley, seconded by Cllr Mrs Lantree and carried unanimously.

12/30 PROPOSED BORE HOLE ON THE COMMON

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the Clerk go back to Veolia and ask for £1000 per year.

This was proposed by Cllr Khiroya, seconded by Cllr Liley and carried unanimously.

12/31 PARKING CONTROL WAR MEMORIAL HALL AND SHEPHERDS BRIDGE PERMISSIVE PARKING AREAS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To accept the rewording of the contract, noting that it was a rolling contract and the flexibility if the order needed to be suspended temporarily for an event or situation. It was agreed that the contract would start after the school summer holidays in the first week in September. Notices would be put on the Website, Twitter and a press release would be prepared to say what was being done.

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

12/32 PERMISSION TO HOLD A SPONSORED BIKE RIDE ON THE COMMON

The Committee
RESOLVED
To give permission for a sponsored bike ride to be held on the Common with the usual notices regarding cycling on the Common usually prohibited being displayed.

This was proposed from the chair by Cllr Mrs Jarrett and carried unanimously.

12/33 CHALK GRASSLAND DAY

It was suggested that pictures of the orchids be put on the website. Members were advised that if they wanted a wild flower walk then one of the Rangers would undertake this. Members were also reminded of the Friends of Chorleywood Common Flower Walk on the 22nd July 2012.

The committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

ALLOTMENTS

12/34 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the allotments.

12/35 WAITING LISTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

12/36 FENCING AND TREES AT THE ALLOTMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
to go with the quote from Company B for the fencing works at Copmans Wick Allotments at a total price of £1272.

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

LAWN CEMETERY

12/37 INTERMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the Report.

12/38 ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Rent Increases -Members felt that 12 months notice of allotment rental increases was unworkable

Swillett Allotment site entrance – an estimate of £40 per tonne of ‘Type 2’ aggregate was advised with the view that an estimated 3-4 tonnes would be required.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To undertake the work required.

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

Hedges on track leading to Swillett Allotment Site – It was noted that the Herts County Council Rights of Way Officer would be alerted to the problem of the overhanging hedges as the track is a public footpath.

PARISH PATHS

12/39 PARISH PATHS GRANT FUNDING

Members noted that the grant application for a small number of replacement signs for 2012/13 had been confirmed by Herts County Council..

GENERAL

12/40 FOUR YEAR VISION

It was noted that the Four year vision need to be updated following Full Council. Members were meanwhile advised that the proposed date for the Butterfly Training was the 16th July.

12/41 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

12/42 DOG CONTROL ORDER

The proposed Dog Control Order was added to the agenda and discussed. Clarification was given on the role of officers who were not enforcement officers but that PCSO's would be able to enforce the order. However the role is to inform and educate people with the fine of £65 being the last resort. With respect to the enforcement of the order members were advised that there were no cost implications to the Parish Council.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That consent be given to Three Rivers District Council for the consultation to take place regarding the Dog Control Order being introduced on Chorleywood House land and Chorleywood Common.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Mrs Jarrett and carried unanimously.

12/43 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 9.44 pm.

Signed*approved via email Cllr Mrs M Jarrett*..... Date30th August 2012.....

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

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