

CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

To be received by Council
16th April 2013

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 12th MARCH 2013

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: Cllr M Green and S Watkins.

There were two members of the public present.

The start of the meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to address the Council. He wished to:

1. Record his grateful thanks to the Clerk and War Memorial Hall for rescuing the Friends of Chorleywood Common meeting
2. Congratulate the Rangers and others involved in the clearing of Christchurch Pond
3. Acknowledge the work done by the Rangers that had resulted in the discovery of WW2 tank storage terraces
4. Advise that Countryside Management Services (CMS) were organising a guided walk in Chorleywood on the 20th April with the title Chalk and Coral in Chorleywood

The meeting was then started as per the Agenda

12/104 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

12/105 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12/106 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of Open Spaces Committee held on the 15th January 2013 be approved as true and correct record.

12/107 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

12/108 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2012/13

It was noted that the number of burials did not necessarily equal the number of memorial plaques ordered as there could often be a delay between the burial and the placing of a memorial plaque.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

12/109 OPEN SPACES OFFICER'S REPORT

Ponds

The Parish Ranger outlined the options for topping up the water in Christchurch Pond where the work had taken place, advising that the best option was to allow it to fill naturally. It was also noted that the current depth was in fact the same as some of the other ponds on the Common.

Christchurch Cemetery

The Committee

RESOLVED

That following advice on the legal position and responsibilities of Parish Councils in respect of closed Churchyards, that the Council has no involvement in burials at Christchurch.

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

Cemetery

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council becomes a corporate member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) at a cost of £90 for the 2013/14 year (membership runs from the 1st April of each year)

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

Allotments

Members were advised that the request for replacing the fencing at Dog Kennel Lane Allotments had come from the allotment holders to reduce pilfering. A quote for the fence of £960 plus VAT had been received which included a gate and two squeezes and was for labour only, re-using fencing materials from the grazing project. The fencing would be on the inside of the allotments which was permitted to stop encroachment but would also serve as a deterrent for the cattle if they were re-introduced on the Common at a future date. It was noted that the two other allotment sites were gated and secured.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the quote for the fence be accepted with notices to be displayed when the work was being done to explain why.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jarrett, seconded by Cllr Mrs Preedy and carried unanimously.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the tenancy agreement be amended to include the instruction that fruit trees should be on miniature stock

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

ALLOTMENTS

12/110 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the allotments.

12/111 WAITING LISTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the numbers on the waiting lists

LAWN CEMETERY

12/112 INTERMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the Report.

12/113 GRAVE SHORING

It was stated that the Council need to ensure that both staff and public are safe with respect to the digging of graves. It was noted that there were large areas of the Common that had been gravel pits with areas of deep gravel remaining and it was possible that other areas of the Cemetery would include such ground composition. It was felt that the life expectancy of such equipment would be a reasonable number of years obviously dependant on usage.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That Company A be approached to come out to site to demonstrate the different options to allow the Rangers to make an informed decision on the most suitable based on the ground conditions and their methods of working (i.e. Mechanical digging not hand digging) with the chosen option being presented back to the next meeting for approval.

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

COMMON AND GROVEWOOD

12/114 BEATING OF THE BOUNDS

It was stated that the beating of the Bounds was a necessary exercise and although the date was a bank holiday weekend which would affect attendance, there was no choice as the date was Rogation Sunday. It was noted that in the past this exercise had highlighted a number of encroachments. It was noted that members of staff would need to attend.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the Beating of the Bounds be carried out on Rogation Sunday 5th May 2013, meeting at Christ Church at 2pm

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

12/115 PARKING AT THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL PERMISSIVE PARKING AREA

Members discussed the idea for alternative parking arrangements at the War Memorial Permissive Parking area put forward by the Golf Club to try to resolve some of the issues with parking in this area. It was noted that whilst the Council could charge for parking, money in the ticket machines made them vulnerable to vandalism. Members were advised that the tickets issued by such machines could be sponsored. It was felt that two machines would be required for the War Memorial Hall area and consideration be given to a similar scheme for the Shepherds Bridge Permissive Parking area. It was noted that there were other companies that could offer a similar service and details of an alternative used by a local shopping centre would be forwarded to the Clerk.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk spends some time to investigate options to take the matter forward and come back with a proposal.

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

12/116 ICE CREAM CONCESSION

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the tender of £600 to sell Ice Creams on Chorleywood Common at weekends only be taken up

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

Members were also advised that an approach had been made by a local company to have a stall selling ice creams on Village Day. It was agreed that both would be allowed but that the concession holder and the potential stall holder be advised of the other party at the event.

GENERAL

12/117 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Nothing to report

12/118 FOUR YEAR VISION

Water Harvesting: Cllr Edwards, Rangers and Allotments Officer would walk the Dog Kennel Lane allotments to assess the practicality of water harvesting options at this site.

Signs and Lecterns on the Common: Members were advised that this was moving forward with both Cllr Edwards and the Clerk recently being trained.

Investigation of a leisure trail: Members raised the need for a number of areas allowing different age groups to be considered which had come out of the survey conducted by Three Rivers District Council. It was noted that the Chilterns Conservation Board were running a Natural play area course in September.

12/119 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed Agreed by Telephone Cllr Edwards & Senior Admin Officer Date ...8/4/12.....

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

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