

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

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * T Edwards

Councillors * Mrs W Boatman
* Mrs M Jarrett
* R Khiroya (ex officio)
F Mahon-Daly
* Mrs A Preedy
* Mrs L Sutherland (ex officio)
* S Watkins
* Mrs J Worrall

* Denotes members present

Also in attendance Cllr Miss P Howell
There were four members of the public present.

13/51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was one apology for absence from Cllr F Mahon-Daly.

13/52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

13/53 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2013 which had been discussed at Full Council with no changes made, be approved as a true and correct record.

13/54 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The meeting was suspended to allow two members of the public to speak on the subjects of the parking issues at the War Memorial Hall permissive parking area and signage on the Common and then reconvened.

13/32 Parking issues at the War Memorial Hall permissive parking area. The Clerk advised that the idea of parking meters had not been rejected but was a financial issue for the Council as funding for the machines needed to be found. A member suggested that one or two Councillors be appointed to work with the Golf Club and sought information on the costs involved, details would be forwarded by the Clerk.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the Council start a dialogue with the Golf Club and appoint two councillors. Councillors nominated were Cllrs S Watkins and Mrs J Worrall with Cllr R Khiroya as a reserve.

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

13/46 Steward of the Common – The Clerk advised that an advert had not yet been put together for a new Steward of the Common.

13/55 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2013/14

The Clerk advised that the Ranger had led 23 educational visits on the Common which under the Stewardship would potentially bring in £2300. This money would be ring-fenced for use on the Common as part of the agreement.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

13/56 OPEN SPACES OFFICER'S REPORT

Chorleywood Common: It was noted that debris from the recent storms had been cleared and used to create wildlife habitats, to have left it for use by children would have been hazardous.

It was also noted that the Cricket Club were looking to replace their pavilion which is near three ponds and therefore Natural England would need to be advised as the Great Crested Newts would need to be taken into consideration in any plans. Members requested that a definitive statement be obtained from Natural England of what is allowed and when with respect to the newts. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek such a statement.

Members discussed the benefits of obtaining the results from the reptile survey that had been commissioned by TRDC as part of the Play area. Published results would have been copied to Herts Biological records although it was possible that given the timing of the survey, the results had not been collated. It was possible that money for such surveys could be recovered from the Higher Level Stewardship

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the Clerk obtains the information of the reptile survey by the most economic route

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

Christchurch Car park: Members were updated on the latest plan to complete the work when the School has an inset day on a Monday before Christmas. The car park would need to be closed on the preceding Sunday so that no vehicles would be present first thing on the Monday when work would need to commence early in order that the work be completed in the day.

Following confirmation that the Tree officer was not required to be present for any discussion on the trees on the Common as the Council has a tree management programme in place,

The Committee
RESOLVED

To enlist the services of a tree professional to advise on the best way forward with some of the trees following the storm damage at the end of October with cover under the tree budget.

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

ALLOTMENTS

13/57 OCCUPATION

The Council
RESOLVED
To note the occupation

13/58 WAITING LISTS

The Council
RESOLVED
To note the details on the waiting list

LAWN CEMETERY

13/59 INTERMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the increased number of interments that had taken place.

COMMON AND GROVEWOOD

13/60 GRAZING UPDATE

The meeting was suspended to allow two members of the public to speak on the Grazing agenda item and then reconvened.

Members discussed the various aspects of the proposal to graze Chorleywood Common using virtual fencing covering the insurance aspects, the need for fencing posts at the start of the grazing and the legal agreement that would be entered into with the farmer. It was suggested that a line be drawn on the ground along the line of the fence to indicate the limit of grazing and make more obvious the point from which dogs should be kept on leads.

The Committee
RESOLVED

1 That the Open Spaces Committee approves the proposal to graze Chorleywood Common using virtual fencing

This was proposed by Cllr T Edwards and unanimously agreed.

2 That the first session commences in the spring for a short period followed by a longer period in the autumn

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs M Jarrett, seconded by Cllr T Edwards and unanimously agreed

3 That the Council holds an information day to explain the concept of using virtual fencing, the proposed scheme and explain about the benefits of conservation grazing. Details of this information day to be covered at the next meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr T Edwards and unanimously agreed.

13/61 NATURE TRAIL

Members were given a presentation by the temporary Research Assistant employed by the Council to investigate sources of funding for Council projects on progress of the proposed Nature Trail

The Committee

RESOLVED

1 That the Committee agree to the concept of a nature trail

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Worrall, seconded by Cllr Mrs M Jarrett and unanimously agreed.

2 That the Committee agree to a Public Forum meeting be held in the War Memorial Hall preceded by a display in Chorleywood Library on a date to be confirmed with consideration being given to suitable timing and possible parallel running with the grazing information day for economies of scale.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs M Jarrett, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Worrall and unanimously agreed.

13/62 PURCHASE OF A NEW TRACTOR

The Committee

RESOLVED

To agree to the purchase of the new Kubota L5040 4WD GST tractor including Turf tyres, front loader, 4 in 1 bucket counter weight and service valve kit in part exchange with the Massey Ferguson 4215 tractor from Company A

This was proposed by Cllr S Watkins, seconded by Cllr R Khiroya and unanimously agreed..

13/63 GROVEWOOD TREWORK

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk obtains a second quote for the tree work identified at Grovewood taking the survey cost into account.

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

That money be set aside in next year's budget to include a tree survey to be carried out on Chorleywood Common on the boundary of the common and those trees around residential properties.

This was proposed by Cllr T Edwards and unanimously approved.

GENERAL

13/64 REVISED ESTIMATES

The Committee

RESOLVED

To approve the Revised Budget for Open Spaces for 2013/14

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs M Jarrett, seconded by Cllr Mrs L Sutherland and unanimously agreed.

13/65 RSPB BIRD SURVEY ON THE COMMON

The meeting was suspended to allow two members of the public to speak on the Bird Survey agenda item and then reconvened.

The Ranger gave a detailed response to members on the points and suggestions raised in the report from the RSPB

The Committee

RESOLVED

That a letter of gratitude and a donation of £50 be sent to the RSPB for undertaking the survey. It was also agreed that the report be published on the website with the response to the points raised possibly to include pictures of the birds mentioned.

13/66 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8.00 pm closed at 10.42 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.....