

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2014

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

There were two members of the public present.

13/89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

13/90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13/91 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014 which had been discussed at Full Council with no changes made, be approved as a true and correct record.

13/91 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The meeting was suspended to allow Mr G Hill – Friends of Chorleywood Common to address the Committee – thanking the Officers and Members for their contribution towards their AGM. The meeting was then reconvened.

13/76 Open Spaces Officers Report. It was understood that the Cricket Club had been to a meeting with TRDC to discuss their proposals for their new clubhouse. The Clerk advised that no plans had been seen and that she had not been advised of anything officially.

13/92 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2013/14

In response to a member's question, the Clerk advised that there was a further Higher Level Stewardship instalment to come in.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

13/93 NATURE TRAIL

This agenda item was brought forward to allow the Temporary Research Assistant to take part in this item on the agenda

Members were briefed on the feedback from the Common Information Day where members of the public had been asked their opinions on the proposals for the Nature Trail. Whilst the responses were not mathematically or statistically robust, they were an indication of views. Members were advised that the mushrooms, seats and other carvings created by the Rangers on tree stumps on the Common were creating a lot of interest. In response to a question Members were advised that the current figure for funding for the Nature Trail being applied for was £59K, but was likely to rise.

13/94 OPEN SPACES OFFICER'S REPORT

Maintenance of the Horse track: Members were advised that this had been discussed with Natural England who had advised the material suggested for the maintenance was not suitable given the proximity of the area track to one of the ponds and had suggested grasscrete. This was clearly not suitable for horses so the maintenance had for the time being been put on hold.

The issue of riders not keeping to the permissive horse track was discussed. The British Horse Society had previously advised that if riders were not on the horse track they were not covered by insurance for themselves or others. The Clerk had also previously written to the local stables highlighting the issue. Following discussion

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk engages with the relevant National bodies regarding the horse track.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Mahon-Daly and carried unanimously.

Christchurch Brick and Flint wall along the A404: The two quotes that had been received by the Council for the repair and maintenance of the flint wall around Christchurch were explained. It was suggested that it would be better to do as a whole but funding was not allocated to the required amount. After further discussion on the budget position:

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the work to the whole wall bordering the road be completed this summer and that the necessary revenue be taken from the underspend from Open Spaces. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jarrett, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Sutherland and carried unanimously.

Height Restriction Barrier at Shepherds Bridge Permissive parking area: Members were concerned about the operation of such a barrier whilst agreeing with the principle of the idea to address the damage being caused by heavy goods vehicles turning in the area and suggested that Herts County Council be consulted.

Treeworks at Grovewood: During the course of treeworks at Grovewood the Contractors had noted a further number of trees not included in the original contract that in their view now needed attention.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the work be undertaken at the quoted cost of around £600 plus VAT

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

Grazing: Members were advised that the meeting with the stockman had taken place and that initially four cattle were to be trained with the collars. Following discussion the line of the compartment for the fencing had been adjusted to the top of the hill along Dog Kennel Lane. Members were advised that there was interest in the grazing from a number of other Councils who would be coming to visit during the course of the grazing period.

Parking Proposals: Members were updated on the progress of the implementation of the scheme and voiced concerns that the scheme should be well publicised. It was agreed that notices would be put up in the two permissive parking areas affected and full information would be available on the website before the scheme came into operation.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

ALLOTMENTS

13/95 OCCUPATION

The Council
RESOLVED
To note the occupation

13/96 WAITING LISTS

The Council
RESOLVED
To note the details on the waiting list

LAWN CEMETERY

13/97 INTERMENTS

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

13/98 REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL BIRD BATH IN THE CEMETERY

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the request to place a memorial bird bath in the cemetery be agreed subject to the condition that the supplier installs the item given the weight of the chosen product.

This was proposed by Cllr Edwards, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Boatman and carried unanimously.

13/99 CEMETERY FLOWERS

Members were advised that the Cemetery Administrator had endeavoured to find suitable pot holders with spikes. Only one option had so far been found which in itself will cause issues with storage, robustness and availability to visitors to the Cemetery. An example of this option had been purchased which was passed round the meeting. Although marketed as a pot holder members felt that it was not fit for purpose.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the rule regarding flowers in the Lawn Cemetery would stand for the time being but that Officers continue to try to find a suitable alternative container for pots for use in the Cemetery.

This was proposed by Cllr Mahon-Daly, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Jarrett and carried unanimously.

13/100 COMPOUND IN THE LAWN CEMETERY

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Compound in the Lawn Cemetery is agreed with the exact location subject to discussion with the Diocese.

This was proposed by Cllr Watkins, Seconded by Cllr Mahon-Daly and carried unanimously.

COMMON AND GROVEWOOD

13/101 MOTH SURVEY

The Committee

RESOLVED

That permission be given for the survey of moths on Chorleywood Common to continue this year with vehicle access onto the Common.

This was proposed by Cllr Mahon-Daly, seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously.

13/102 PURCHASE OF A NEW MINI EXCAVATOR

The Committee

RESOLVED

That a new Kubota Mini Excavator be purchased in part exchange of the current digger and bucket with the engine immobiliser at the additional spend also being purchased.

This was proposed by Cllr Mahon-Daly, seconded by Cllr Watkins and carried unanimously.

In passing the Rangers were given credit for the part exchange value of the existing digger which was down to their careful machine maintenance regime.

GENERAL

13/103 THANKS

The Chairman stated that as this was the last Open Spaces committee of the current Council he wished to thank all those who he had worked with and in particular Cllr Mrs Jarrett who had been on the Committee for over 25 years.

13/104 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8.00 pm closed at 9.55 pm.

Signed ...Chairman agreed by email Date31/3/2014.....

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

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