

**REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

**MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

- Chairman:** \* Mrs B Green
- Councillors** \* Mrs J Clark  
\* Mrs B Dickens  
\* T Edwards (ex officio)  
\* R Khiroya  
\* Mrs J Leeming  
\* Mrs A Preedy  
\* M Trevett  
\* S Watkins (ex officio)

\* Denotes members present

There were three members of the public present.

**14/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**14/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**14/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee  
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 which had been discussed at Full Council with no changes made, be approved as a true and correct record.

**14/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**13/91 – 13/76 Open Spaces Officers Report.** Members were advised that nothing had been received by the Clerk direct from the Cricket Club regarding their plans although the Council had been copied in to correspondence with Martin Hicks (Herts Biological Records) who had been consulted by the Cricket Club. Cllr Trevett advised that the Cricket Club had contacted him to enquire who they should be speaking to regarding their plans and Cllr Trevett had responded that they should speak to the Parish Council as the Cricket Club's landlords. The clerk reminded Members that a Cricket Club advisory committee had been formed which was a formal committee of the Council and as such any meeting of this committee was a formal meeting and was required to be minuted with an officer present.

**13/94 Maintenance of the Horse track:** In response to a question from a member regarding why maintenance was necessary, the Ranger present explained that there was an area that had become quite boggy. It had been planned to put down Type 1 aggregates to consolidate the ground but this had been objected to by Natural England who had suggested grasscrete. Grasscrete was felt to be unsuitable for the horses and therefore the item was currently on hold. As a horse rider herself the Member felt that if horse riders needed to slow down to go through this area this was not an issue.

**13/94 Height Restriction Barrier at Shepherds Bridge Permissive parking area:** Members were advised that no discussion had yet been held with Herts County Council on this subject.

**13/94 Christchurch Brick and Flint wall along the A404:** Members were advised that works to the Flint and Brick wall along the A404 were due to take place in the School summer holidays, commencing following the last day of term for Christchurch. Both the School and Church have been advised of the works and the Church have been very helpful in agreeing to provide facilities for the workmen.

**13/94 Parking Proposals:** An update on the parking scheme operation was given to Members. Whilst there had been some initial confusion between the messages on the machine which indicate it is 'Out of Service' when outside the ticket issue times and 'Out of Order' when not working this is now better understood. There had been some vandalism to the machines by people seeking money that is clearly not in these machines and there had been a manufacturers fault with the wiring to the battery which had led to intermittent working. All faults had been fixed and remedial action taken by the enforcement company. Overall the feedback from both Members and parishioners was positive that the system was having an effect on the parking issues with more spaces generally available. There was however an issue with a local company that was abusing the system and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to them.

**13/99 Cemetery pots:** Members were advised that the Cemetery Administrator was still researching suitable graveside containers for potted plants.

#### **14/05 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2014/15**

The figures and layout of the report was explained to Members. The Clerk advised that more detailed breakdown of the figures could be provided should Members require this outside the meetings.

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the report.

#### **14/06 HABITATS AND MANAGEMENT OF CHORLEYWOOD COMMON**

Members received a presentation by the Parish Ranger on the habitats and management of Chorleywood Common which was well received. The Clerk suggested that if Members wanted a walk on the Common with one of the Rangers this could be arranged through the Parish Office.

#### **14/07 NATURE TRAIL**

Members were briefed by the Temporary Research Assistant on the Nature Trail Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which was well received

Both presentations would be made available following the meeting.

#### **14/08 OPEN SPACES OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Closed Churchyard at Christchurch:** The background to the closing of the Churchyard in the 1980's and the maintenance contract operated by the Church with a contribution from the Parish Council was explained to Members. Officers would be having a meeting with the church office during the summer to discuss this and other matters.

**Grazing:** Members were advised that the grazing trial had finished and the cattle removed. Officers would be meeting with the grazier in the next few weeks to review the trial and the Clerk was asked to email Members with the outcome of the meeting. It was noted that the vandalism to the fence had stopped following publication of the issue by councillors and Friends of the Common.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for the very full and comprehensive report.

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the report.

**ALLOTMENTS**

**14/09 OCCUPATION**

Members were advised that allotment plots that were not being cultivated were being followed up and the process for this was explained. The position of the waiting lists containing people who now wanted to wait until next year was discussed. An advert had been placed in the Village day brochure inviting new tenants for the vacant allotments.

The Council  
RESOLVED  
To note the occupation

**14/10 WAITING LISTS**

The Council  
RESOLVED  
To note the details on the waiting list

**LAWN CEMETERY**

**14/11 INTERMENTS**

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

**COMMON AND GROVEWOOD**

**GENERAL**

**14/12 CLOSURE**

The meeting having commenced at 8.00 pm closed at 9.52 pm.

Signed        Agreed by Chairman via email.....        Date .....14/07/14.....

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

Signed.....        Date.....