

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2016

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Tony Edwards

Councillors * Jo Clark
* Barbara Dickens
* Raj Khiroya
* Jill Leeming
* Alison Preedy
* Steve Watkins (ex officio)
* Sarah Wright
* Jane White (ex officio)

* Denotes members present

Officers present Yvonne Merritt – Clerk
Claire James – Deputy Clerk

There were two members of the public present.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Commons Day

To consider the two events of Village Day and Commons Day, whether to combine the two events or not and if established as two events, what the optimum timing of an annual Commons Day would be.
See Minute 16/35 Recommendation 4

16/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

16/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16/32 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 19th September 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

16/33 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

16/22 ALLOTMENT WAITING LISTS - It was suggested that allotments were under threat in Watford and this may generate some interest in the vacant allotments. Cllr Jill Leeming offered to write an article for the next issue of Chorleywood Matters.

16/18 (16/04 – 15/93) PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS The Clerk advised Members that the photos that were required for the warrant cards had been sent off and she would chase the issue of the warrant cards.

16/23 Copmans Wick – In response to a question about the letter that was to be issued to residents about the dumping of rubbish, the Clerk suggested that as it was a difficult letter to write some help and support to the allotment officer would be welcome. It was noted that the Clerk had emailed the resident interested in leasing the wooded area at Copmans Wick advising of the legislation covering such transactions and had suggested the establishing of a Friends group for the wood. It was also suggested that a District Councillor be approached to help set up the meeting with TRDC regarding the boundary fence issue.

16/27 Proposal for an annual 10K run on Chorleywood Common- it was noted that there had been no further contact from the proposer of the run.

16/34 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2016/17

The Chairman had raised a number of questions on the statement with the office prior to the meeting which were answered at the meeting.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report.

16/35 OFFICER'S REPORT

Recommendation 1 Cemetery Memorial Bench Maintenance – The Deputy Clerk explained the background to the recommendation.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To carry on with the usual maintenance of the benches and to keep the colour brown.

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

Recommendation 2 Christchurch Cemetery Treework – The Clerk explained the quotation process and good practice regarding the tree surgeons used.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That if a realistic quote was submitted by the tree surgeon that had undertaken the original survey then it should be accepted.

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

Recommendation 3 Purchase of Tree Surgeons Pole

The Committee

RESOLVED

To approve the purchase of a tree surgeons pole for the Rangers with the cost being taken out of the Tree surgery budget.

Recommendation 4 Commons Day – The Clerk briefed Members on the events of the day and the positive feedback from those that did attend. Timing of such an event was discussed and reference made to the Scavenger Hunt and Rangers Chainsaw carving event that had been held the previous year around Easter.

The meeting was suspended at 8.06 pm to allow Greg Hill Chairman of Friends of Chorleywood Common to speak and reconvened at 8.08pm

It was noted that it was not possible to hold such an event on the grassland area nearer to the War Memorial Hall both from a weather point of view, this area being very exposed if the weather was bad, but significantly because the area was under stewardship. Discussion covered:

- the concept of Commons Day being good,
- Easter potentially being a better time to run such an event,
- the need to book participants such as the Birds of Prey now as they were unlikely to be available at short notice as they get very booked up,
- the need for more Councillors to be involved in such events,
- bouncy castles were very resource intensive
- the suggestion to move the film viewing to Village day on the Second fire ride with a possible showing of two films.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To recommend to Full Council to consider the two events of Village Day and Commons Day, whether to combine the two events or not and if established as two events what the optimum timing of the Commons Day would be.

Cattle: The current situation with the cattle and options for resolving the issues were discussed. If possible it was hoped to keep cattle grazing until Christmas to avoid more cut and lift being necessary.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report

ALLOTMENTS

16/36 OCCUPATION

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Allotment Officer frequently advertised the availability of allotments on Social media. It was suggested that in addition to My Chorleywood News that an advert be placed in the sister magazine My Rickmansworth News and also in the Watford papers. A further suggestion of notices at the allotments advising the availability of allotments would be actioned. Cllr Jill Leeming would write an article for the next issue of Chorleywood Matters on the subject given her experience of being an allotment holder in the past.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the occupation

16/37 WAITING LISTS

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the details on the waiting list.

LAWN CEMETERY

16/38 INTERMENTS

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the number of interments that had taken place.

COMMON AND GROVEWOOD

16/39 LITTER AND DOG BINS

Dog Bins:

The Committee

RESOLVED

That additional dog bins were needed at War Memorial Hall and Shepherds Bridge permissive parking areas and that the largest possible be purchased.

This was proposed by Cllr Steve Watkins, Seconded by Cllr Tony Edwards and carried unanimously

Litter Bins

The Clerk presented three options for bins that offered recycling with the third option of the Steel bin agreed on as the preferred option of the Members.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk obtains three quotes for two bins of the Steel type at no more than the budget available.

16/40 BT FIBRE CABINET

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the request from BT Openreach to place a Fibre Broadband cabinet on the Common be refused

This was proposed from the Chair and agreed unanimously.

16/41 WINTER WORKS PROGRAMME

The Clerk advised that due to annual leave of the Rangers she had been unable to have a meeting with them to discuss the Winter works programme.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee meet with the Clerk and the Rangers to agree the programme.

16/42 NATURE TRAIL

Members had been out on the Common prior to the meeting with the Clerk to walk the proposed route of the Nature Trail. The Clerk then gave a presentation to the Committee on the proposals. It was noted that the head of Play Safety at ROSPA was in favour of such play items and it was understood that Natural England were also happy with the type of proposals under consideration in place elsewhere. There was further discussion on what was proposed and how to go about progressing the ideas.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the principle of placing a Nature Trail on the Common be accepted and that Natural England be approached for approval of the scheme. Additionally the contractor be given permission to go out onto the common to produce a proper design of what should go where.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Tony Edward and Carried unanimously.

16/43 FOUR YEAR VISION

The Clerk brought Members up to speed on the current proposal for all parishes to have a common process in place using a single solicitor and the proposal from the Joint Parishes meeting to make the recommendation to Full Council that all 5 parishes use a solicitor at Watford. It was noted that this solution was more expensive than using TRDC but they were not prepared to assist Parishes and something needed to be put into place. It was noted that a report would be put to Full Council on the subject.

At 9.45pm Cllr Alison Preedy left the meeting

The practical issues associated with the barriers at Christchurch which could prevent installation were noted.

The Clerk advised that the surfacing of the Permissive parking areas was still being progressed.

GENERAL

16/44 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There was nothing to report.

16/45 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm closed at 9.50pm.

SignedAgreed via e-mail..... Date11/10/2016... ..

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

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