

CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COMMON USER GROUP
TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2009

Attendance list: **Margaret Jarrett Chairman, Chorleywood Parish Council**
 Barbara Green Chorleywood Parish Council
 Denys Downing Chorleywood Cricket Club
 Rod Botham Chorleywood Golf Club
 Mike Warburg Friends of the Common
 Gregory Hill Friends of the Common
 Frank Amor Commoner
 Mark Carter Countryside Management Service

Yvonne Merritt Clerk of the Council, Chorleywood Parish Council

09/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jackie Worrall Chorleywood Parish Council
Ginnie Jenkins Chenies Residents Association
Olive Entwistle Commoner

09/02 MATTERS ARISING

Mike Warburg advised of the incorrect spelling of his name.
08/09 Chorleywood Cricket Club – Denys Downing advised that the Cricket Club were not charging fees to Christchurch School, but received a voluntary donation of £100.

09/03 COMMON USERS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chorleywood Parish Council.

Mark Carter from the CMS advised that the management plan for the common was coming to an end and therefore he had started on a new plan which would include different features including grazing. Therefore this was the time to let the CMS know of any burning issues any of the groups may have. Mark stated that he was pleased that the way the grazing trial had gone and had not been aware of any problems. From the results of the questionnaire the proposals had been popular with 90% of those that responded being in favour. It was proposed that grazing would take place in Larks Meadow on an annual basis commencing in September of each year. This was the time best suited to the soil type because of the wild flower flora which was to be encouraged. There should be 3 – 4 years grazing on Larks Meadow and the whole area should be treated as one parcel of land to benefit the site and monitor what happens, adjusting the scheme were necessary.

There was general concern about the stacking of brush, the Clerk explained again about the exceptional circumstances of work in the previous year. Mark Carter again advised about the

benefits of stacking brash as a useful habitat for reptiles, insects, and small mammals. He stated that it was a more appropriate and preferable way of dealing with the brash. As the Common was a local nature reserve it was important to be as sustainable as possible.

The Clerk advised that the Council had not received any complaints from the public. She had made it clear that if access was being impeded; the Parish Rangers would cut access ways through the brash. No requests had been received.

Cllr Mrs Green asked about burning on the Common. Mark Carter stated that whilst there was no absolute ban on the common for fires to burn brash, as the common was a local nature reserve it should only be done in carefully selected sites and only as a last resort.

It was noted that the Bye-laws prohibit fires on the common, and the Parish Council should be mindful not to appear hypocritical, and it stated clearly in the management plan that fires should not be used.(?) The Clerk also advised that due to current health and safety regulations, any fires would need to be attended and monitored.

Chorleywood Cricket Club Denys Downing advised that the Cricket Club were now at the point where they were ready to submit the application to the Planning authority to release the planning conditions of the site. They were also working with the Parish Council through a series of meetings to meet their requirements.

Denys also advised that the Club were in discussion with Chenies Cricket Club to join forces, as numbers were reducing and it appeared that both clubs were poaching players. If the amalgamation went ahead there would be 300 colts and six adult sides. It would not mean that there would no longer be cricket on the Common nor would it affect the current plans. It was felt that an amalgamation would strengthen cricket in the area and it was hoped that a decision would be made before the end of the year.

Denys Downing reported that there had been more vandalism to the pavilion, breaking the clock, chairs and rails around the veranda. The police had been called.

Frank Amor, asked about the parking of vehicles on a Sunday, which seemed to block the A404, and prohibit visitors to the common being able to park. Denys explained that there were 150 children being dropped off on a Sunday which therefore required parking.

Commoners Frank Amor stated that he had nothing specific to report

Chorleywood Golf Club Rod Botham advised that the Golf Club had also been victims of vandalism, however the PCSOs had been helpful. The golfers were experiencing problems with dog fouling, and as they were trying to expand their junior section this was becoming an issue. The Clerk advised that this was an issue generally; as common land was omitted from the Dog Fouling Act the Parish Council had no powers to enforce the clearing up of dog mess. Cllr Mrs Jarrett also stated that regular articles appeared in Chorleywood Matters and on the website and that the Council gave away free poop bags. The Clerk asked if the Golf Club would like a supply of bags so that the green keepers could give them out when needed. Rod Botham stated that he would give this a try

Friends of the Common Mike Warburg advised that if the Council or Friends of Carpenters Wood wanted to have fires, he felt that he would find volunteers to stay in relays whilst the fire site was still dangerous.

He also advised that he had arranged three working parties to carry out clearance of duck weed from ponds on the common. He stated that duck weed was a problem at Church Pond and that a working party was to be arranged to deal with the problem. The duck weed seemed to be more prolific. Mark Carter from the CMS stated that nutrient enrichment within the ponds upset the balance.

The Clerk asked to be advised of the dates of the working parties in advance.

Gregory Hill advised that the cut and lift had been carried out and been cut right up to Old Common Road. He also stated that he would be coming along to Open Spaces Meetings to make notes for members of the Friends. It was agreed that publicity for what the Council were doing could only be a good thing. Cllr Mrs Jarrett did ask that she be added to the circulation list.

09/04 CLOSURE

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and there being no further business the meeting closed at 7.54 pm.

The date of the next meeting is to be arranged.