
REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2009

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: *Mrs M Jarrett

Councillors *N Eve
* Mrs B Green
*Mrs A Hayward
*P Kemp
*R Kipps (ex officio)
*G Liley
*S Watkins
Mrs J Worrall (ex officio)

*Denotes members present

Also in attendance Cllr Green
There was one member of the public present.

09/31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Worrall.

09/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

09/33 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee
RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting dated 21st July 2009 be approved as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

09/34 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

09/21 Application to carry out a fitness programme on the common – The Clerk advised that the offer had been declined by Body Coach, who felt that the offer was unreasonable and he had decided to operate elsewhere. However the Council had been approached by another company wishing to carryout power walking classes twice per week who were prepared to pay the fees. She had asked if she could book initially for six months, for two classes, term time only. The Clerk advised that the Council would invoice per term in advance. This would avoid the issue of having to pay VAT.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That the Clerk be able to agree applications for fitness courses on the common under the parameters agreed by this committee as outlined in minute number 09/21

09/26 Application to place geocache containers on Chorleywood Common

The Clerk advised that this would be going ahead but the organisers had to register the site with the central office. The Parish Council would know the location of the sites but this information would remain confidential.

09/35 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 09/10

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

ALLOTMENTS

09/36 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the allotments.

The Chairman advised that she had given out the allotment prizes at the horticultural show. The Dog Kennel lane site which used to be the poor relation had won all the accolades, with the third prize winners' points being higher than the first prize points at the two other sites.

There was no further progress with Wearing's Fields

09/37 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

Chris Watts explained about the proposed tree work for the forthcoming year, stating that crowns would be lifted near the cattle creep and along Common Gate Road.

The committee agreed to the suggestion of placing a bollard at the entrance to the cattle creep to stop fly tippers and illegal parking.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.
That a lockable bollard be purchased and fitted to the entrance to the cattle creep.

09/38 WINTER WORK ON THE GOLF COURSE

Members discussed request from the Golf Club to carry out work on the common as part of their management plan which had been forwarded under separate cover. It was agreed that the Golf Club should be formally congratulated on the standard of the application and the plan, which was of a far higher standard than the Council were used to seeing.

The Parish Ranger explained about the process of root pruning, and advised that the proposed work would be of benefit to the Common.

The Committee
RESOLVED

To approve the work proposed by the Golf Club as detailed in the report.

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

09/39 ACCESS ROAD TO THE ALMS HOUSES

Some members of the Committee had visited the site with the Parish Ranger and Clerk. It was agreed that some work was required to the entrance way to the Alms Houses, however it was felt from the site meeting that not all works asked for were required.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That works to the access way could be carried out but that the area outside number one did not need the level of works suggested and the specification should be modified to reflect this.

This was proposed by Cllr Kipps, seconded by Cllr Liley and unanimously approved.

09/40 GRAZING ON THE COMMON

Members discussed the report and representation from Mark Carter from the Countryside Management Service. Some members had concerns relating to the proposed fence line along Dog Kennel Lane, however if the fence line was to be further up the hill the remaining area would have to be cut and lifted in the future. Mr Carter stated that it made sense to graze the whole parcel of land. He also stated that the site would benefit more from being grazed in the early autumn, with perhaps a light cut in the spring which could be done in house.

There were concerns regarding the cost of the fencing. The Clerk explained the conditions around the legacy and stated that once the Council approved grazing on Chorleywood Common as a form of maintenance, the money could be released. Members asked for costing of the proposed enclosure, and although costs had been given on a 'per meter' basis, some members wanted further clarification, stating it would be irresponsible to go ahead with the project without the true cost of the funding. Mark Carter advised that it may also be possible to apply for the higher rate of stewardship to pay for renewal of fencing and that this would be investigated. Therefore

The Committee

RESOLVED

That a full financial appraisal be present to the next meeting for grazing the whole of Larks Meadow, as designated on the map for next autumn.

That the financial appraisal should be split into revenue and capital costs.

This was proposed by Cllr Eve, seconded by Cllr Mrs Green and unanimously agreed.

09/41 TREE WORK AT GROVE WOOD

Members were interested to know why contractor 'C' had refused to quote for the works. The Clerk explained the details as outlined in the original report and these reservations were echoed by the Parish Rangers. Members agreed that it was therefore essential to attain a second opinion.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Clerk go back the TRDC to ask for a second opinion and answers to the criticisms made by the contractor.

LAWN CEMETERY

09/42 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the Lawn Cemetery.

09/43 PROPOSAL TO REPLANT THE ROSE BEDS IN THE LAWN CEMETERY

Members thanked the Assistant Ranger for his comprehensive report. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Beaumont next door to discuss the width of the hedge with the proposal to reduce it.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the Rangers replant the rose beds in the Lawn Cemetery as detailed in the report.

This was proposed by Cllr Kipps, seconded by Cllr Mrs Green and unanimously approved.

PARISH PATHS

09/44 The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

09/45 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting having commenced at 8.00 pm closed at 9.58 pm.

These minutes have been checked signed by the Chairman

Signed Date

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

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