

**REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2010**

**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 Mrs M Hampton, Mark Carter CMS  
There was one member of the public present.

**RECOMMENDATIONS -NONE**

**09/77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**09/78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Liley – Cricket Club

**09/79 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes which had gone to Full Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 and were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**09/80 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**09/69 Access to the Alms Houses.** Officers had visited the Alms Houses to speak to one of the residents to re-assess the flooding issues. It was agreed that it was not so much flooding as lower areas then filling with water to create puddles. John Warren would be engaging a contractor approved by the Council to level out the areas where puddles are forming.

**09/74 Purchase of new Tractor.** The question was raised of whether the new tractor had been purchased. The Clerk advised the meeting that procedures dictated that three quotes now needed to be obtained which would then be put to Full Council to release the allocated money.

**09/81 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 09/10**

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the report

**ALLOTMENTS**

**09/82 OCCUPATION & WAITING LISTS**

The requested information regarding the occupation of the allotments, details of the waiting lists and the number of letters issued for each site had been included in the report. The Senior Admin Officer updated Councillors on the recent survey of Copmans Wick to determine whether additional plots could be created without impacting on the Rangers ability to maintain the site. An additional ten plots were felt to be achievable immediately with a possible further five at a later date.

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the occupation of the allotments and that the proposal to create a number of additional plots be agreed.

**COMMON & GROVEWOOD**

**09/83 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER**

**Permissive Parking Areas**

A response is awaited from the Highways engineer following the site meeting at the War Memorial Hall permissive parking area to assess the changing of the exit and entrance ways. He had promised to email the legislation regarding signage.

Discussion regarding the rules governing parking on the common took place with particular reference to the area around the entrance to the underground station where the bunding is becoming quite damaged as a result of cars constantly being parked there. The meeting was advised that the PCSO's were informed of these instances and they then issue notices to the car owners.

**Christ Church Churchyard**

A meeting had taken place that day with Christchurch to discuss a number of items. Arrangements for their forthcoming building works which were due to commence in July had been discussed. A compound would be built within the churchyard to store materials with access from Chorleywood Road which should therefore not impact on the Common. The next Information Bulletin would have reference to an explanatory booklet from the Church detailing the fund raising that had taken place and plans for the work.

The stress testing of headstones by the Rangers would be taking place over the next few months. Notice of this had been covered by notice from the church regarding the building works.

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the Ranger's report.

#### **09/84 TREE WORKS AT GROVE WOOD**

Work would be carried out after conservation area consent was given, with the funding as per the committee paper. The original issues surrounding the proposed work were discussed and the Councillors updated as to the background to the objections and the process that had been followed to address and alleviate concerns from residents. It was reported that the Rangers were happy with the work that was now identified in the new report which was not nearly as extensive or invasive as previous reports had indicated. The office now have a resident in Grove Wood who is happy to distribute letters to residents as the need arises. A letter would now be written to residents advising of the work now proposed and the Health and Safety issues driving the works giving assurances that only essential work was being undertaken. It was suggested that the letter include the availability of the Tree Surgeon's report which could also be placed on the Website.

The Committee  
RESOLVED

That the Priority 1 work be undertaken using the remaining funding in the Grovewood budget and the Tree surgery budget before spring in this financial year with Priority 2 and 3 work being carried out in the next financial year from the Grovewood budget.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Liley and unanimously agreed

#### **09/85 APPLICATION FOR TREE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE COMMON**

The Ranger recommended that the tree in question only be brought down half way and arisings left on the common to retain a wildlife habitat. The Clerk advised that the Parish Ranger would meet with the resident's contractor when on site.

The Committee  
RESOLVED

That permission be granted for the tree work requested by the resident from South Cottage Gardens based on the recommendation of the Parish Ranger.

Proposed by Cllr Liley , seconded by Cllr Watkins and agreed with one abstention.

#### **09/86 POND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COMMON**

Mark Carter from the CMS briefed the meeting on the health of the network of the ponds on the common and the wildlife presence in each. The interest of the Friends of the Common in the management of the ponds was also noted. A recent walk on the Common with the Chairman of the Open Spaces committee and the Parish Ranger had identified a priority of work with due regard being taken of the depth and therefore the safety of working in some of the ponds. There was an issue with inappropriate plants and wildlife being introduced into the ponds and it was suggested that an article be added to Chorleywood Matters and publicised at Village Day. It was agreed that Mark Carter be called on to assist with the writing of such an article. A discussion on signage on the Common covering this and other issues then ensued. The Clerk advised that a preferable option to signage advising what could not be done on the Common which gives a negative aspect would be interpretation boards which would serve several purposes. This was to be considered under a later agenda item in the meeting concerning the five year plan.

The efforts that the Friends of the Common were making to become trained in pond clearance and first aid trained so that they would be able to work independently was noted. It was however emphasised that working on the ponds during the school holidays must be avoided

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the plan for the ponds be adopted as part of the draft update of the Common Management Plan.

Proposed by Cllr Liley, seconded by Steve Watkins and unanimously agreed.

#### **09/87 GOLF COURSE SIGNAGE**

The Committee

RESOLVED

To agree to the application from the Golf Club to renew their notice board near the first tee as detailed subject to the board being no more than 6 ft high and that it was not to contain any advertising.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Green, seconded by Cllr Kipps and unanimously agreed.

#### **09/88 GRAZING**

An example of the re-usable post holders (to be known as 'slotties'), which would be placed in the ground permanently with the posts for the fencing being removed at the end of the grazing, were available at the meeting. The slotties were robust enough in design not to need setting in concrete which other more familiar post holders would require. Photographs of the two types of fencing to be deployed were also shown to the meeting. The Clerk advised that there was a need to get the fencing underway. Several avenues of grant funding for both capital costs of grazing and maintenance costs were being explored. In answer to a question regarding the size of area being considered for grazing the meeting was informed that it amounted to a sizeable increase on the area previously grazed. The increase in the costs from the last time grazing was discussed was due to both the area being considered for grazing and the re-useable type of fencing now being proposed.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To agree to the forms of fencing to be used for the grazing as detailed in the report

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Liley and unanimously agreed.

#### **09/89 CHORLEYWOOD CRICKET CLUB**

Discussion took place on the cost of the practise nets in relation to the proposed works. The meeting was suspended to receive comments from the representative of the Cricket Club present at the meeting. He advised that the current nets are currently unusable and that with the refurbishment works were planned for their existing location with the need being immediate. If the bigger project goes ahead it would be considered at that time whether the nets be moved as part of that work or indeed stay in their current location which was a possibility. Either way the nets would have a minimum investment life of 2-3 years, maximum 10 years. Discussions on the arisings that would be left from the work resulted in agreement that as these would be minimal they would be removed from site. The requirement to get Section 38 approval from DEFRA was raised with the appropriate paragraph of the regulations being read out at the meeting. The Clerk agreed to check this and advised that it should be a relatively short timeframe to get this clarification. The meeting having reconvened:

The Committee

RESOLVED

To approve the application with the proviso that arisings were removed from site and subject to the Section 38 approval by DEFRA requirement being clarified.

**LAWN CEMETERY**

**09/90 OCCUPATION**

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

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

**PARISH PATHS**

**09/91**

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
To note the report and place the contract with Supplier B.

This was proposed by Cllr Kipps, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Hayward and unanimously agreed.

**GENERAL**

**09/92 FIVE YEAR PLAN**

The inclusion of the Hollybush Hall as a Field Study Centre suggestion on the Open Spaces Agenda was questioned. It was agreed however that the process had to start somewhere and that it would be on the next Village Halls Agenda. The possibility of obtaining a higher level stewardship grant of £100 per session/activity on the Common was raised. There were a number of aspects including access, child safety and CRB checks that would need to be explored further if the idea was felt to be worth pursuing.

The Five Year Plan includes the following items

- Common and Grovewood Bye Laws
- Hollybush Hall – Field Study Centre
- Signage or Interpretation Boards
- Public Rights of Way Map and Walks Booklet

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
That these items become part of the five year plan to be explored further

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

**09/93 CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 9.56 pm.

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

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

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