

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2010

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman:	* Mrs M Jarrett
Councillors	Mrs W Boatman
	* T Edwards
	N Eve
	* Mrs A Hayward (ex officio)
	* R Kipps (ex officio)
	G Liley
	* Mrs A Preedy
	* S Watkins

*Denotes members present

There was one member of the public present.

RECOMMENDATIONS -NONE

10/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Mrs Boatman, Cllr Eve and Cllr Liley.

10/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

10/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2010 be approved as a true and correct record.

10/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

09/83 Report of the Parish Ranger - Permissive Parking Areas. Work was being undertaken on these at the time of the meeting and was expected to complete by the end of the week. The change in traffic direction into the War Memorial Hall permissive parking area would take place during the summer holidays.

09/83 Report of the Parish Ranger - Christ Church Churchyard. Stress testing of the memorial stones by the Rangers had identified fourteen stones which required some action. The Church had been notified and would write to the owners to advise. If no repairs were to be actioned the headstones would be laid flat.

09/84 Tree Works at Grove Wood. Due to the late nesting season the required work could not be undertaken at the present time. Three trees had been identified as requiring urgent attention but it was confirmed that all work required was for Health and Safety reasons, none purely for aesthetics. The Committee agreed that all the work should be done at the same time in October and that the Clerk would make residents aware of the work prior to it being undertaken.

09/86 Pond Management Plan for the Common. There had been two previous instances of dogs getting stuck in the drain at Church Pond which had involved digging up part of the parking area to get them out. To prevent any further occurrences it was agreed that a mesh be put over the end of the drain. The Clerk advised the meeting that Parish Ranger Andrew Goddard had written a comprehensive report on the ponds which would form part of the draft management plan which should be available for the next committee meeting.

10/05 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2010/11

It was noted that the majority of the allotment rentals were now in.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

ALLOTMENTS

10/06 OCCUPATION & WAITING LISTS

The Committee noted that the new plots to be created would be let as half plots and acknowledged the work that was being done to chase allotment holders not meeting the terms of their tenancy agreements.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the allotments and the current waiting lists.

10/07 ANNUAL ALLOTMENT COMPETITION PRIZES

The Committee
RESOLVED
To increase the prize values by five pounds and not to award the Overall Best Novice prize this year as there were so few new plot holders this year but to retain the prize for next year when it was expected there would be a number of new plot holders.

10/08 NOISE AT DOG KENNEL LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the complaint of noise at Dog Kennel Lane and the action that had been taken to mitigate it which had been acknowledged by the complainant.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

10/09 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

Christchurch Cemetery

Discussion on the stress testing of the memorial stones and the subsequent action required clarified that the families are given the option of paying to fix the stones within a certain time period, which then transferred the liability to the owner, or for the stones to be laid flat.

Common

The spotting of the Common Broomrape on the Common had been encouraging and it was suggested that Members write an article for the website.

Flower Walks

The dates of the two planned flower walks were confirmed as 1st July with Mark Carter from the CMS and Friends of the Common on the 18th July 2010.

Permissive Parking Areas

The Committee was advised that the work at Artichoke Dell to level out areas where flooding had been taking place had been completed as part of the work on the permissive parking areas.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the Ranger's report.

LAWN CEMETERY

10/10 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the Lawn Cemetery which showed a small increase.

10/11 LAWN CEMETERY PLAQUE STANDARDS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To allow official badges of honour to be added to plaques if desired by families but that the Parish Council would take no responsibility for the badges.

10/12 LAWN CEMETERY FENCING

Discussion confirmed the length of the fencing in question to be in the order of 60 yds. It was agreed that prices would be obtained and taken to Full Council.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the requirement for the fencing and that prices for this would be obtained and taken to Full Council.

PARISH PATHS

10/13 The signs are now manufactured and will be installed in the near future. This would then allow the planned booklet of walks using parish paths to be drafted.

GENERAL

10/14 CHRISTCHURCH CHURCH WALL

The different approach to the maintenance of the church wall along the main road compared to the common side was discussed. It was suggested that concrete blocks are used in place of breeze blocks in the construction.

The Committee
RESOLVED

To place the contract for essential works to the churchyard wall.

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

10/15 TRACTOR SHED

The budget was confirmed to be Open Spaces capital. Both companies that had quoted were very reputable and being local they would be able to respond within very short timescales should there be an issue.

The Committee
RESOLVED

To place the contract for the essential maintenance works to the tractor sheds with Contractor B.
This was proposed by Cllr Watkins, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Preedy and unanimously agreed.

10/16 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting having commenced at 8 pm closed at 8.58 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.....