

Chorleywood Parish Council: Full Council meeting -

**Notes by GH (in attendance as a member of the public)
of matters relevant to Chorleywood Common
raised at the meeting on 3 April 2012 (at Bullsland Hall)**

Public Forum – grazing. The meeting received two petitions from residents, each with over 50 signatures, in support of the principle of grazing on the common and of the proposals formulated by the Working Party of the Open Spaces Committee.

Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting. The signage survey has been completed. Grazing was one of the main issues raised by residents at the Council's recent "surgery" in the Library. Parking on the pavement between the Rose and Crown and Darvell's Yard has been something of a problem; users of the Memorial Hall will be warned about the restricted availability of parking.

Matters raised by Councillors. *[Of interest, but not just relevant to the Common.]* Cllr Mrs Boatman made two suggestions for marking HM Diamond Jubilee: the creation by the Beaver Scouts of a flower-bed at South Lodge, and a competition for (digital) photographs taken on the Jubilee weekend, with a short-list to be printed and the winners chosen at Village Day, in classes for younger and older children and adults. The meeting unanimously adopted both suggestions.

Play Area advisory committee. The Committee's Report had been received by Open Spaces Committee and forwarded to Three Rivers. The necessary funding is now included in the District Council's budget, and they will be in touch with the Parish Council when taking the proposal forward.

Open Spaces committee. The Council received the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 6 March 2012. There have been some further developments in connection with the matters discussed. (a) The ice-cream concession (at the Cricket Club parking area): the company whose tender was accepted is having some difficulty with its trading certificate; the officers are therefore investigating whether the company which presently holds the concession, the other tenderer, would be interested in continuing as at present, trading at weekends and on Bank Holidays. (b) Oral history: the Chilterns Conservation Board have funding for the project and are asking the Parish Council for contacts with people whose recollections would be of interest. (c) The proposed Apprenticeship scheme: discussions with the College are in progress, and the Rangers will be involved in the process of choosing the apprentice, as well as in his or her actual training.

Planning committee. *[Not relating to the Common, but perhaps of general interest.]* The Council discussed at some length the fact that the Post Office in Lower Road has applied for an off-licence; the Planning Committee had been opposed to the very lengthy hours requested, but recognised that in principle the proprietor needed other sources of income as well as the Post Office stipend, liable to be reduced. A variety of views

were expressed on whether the business was likely to remain viable and what would happen to the Post Office facility if that business closed. A resolution that the Council was not in favour of the application for an off-licence was put to the vote and not carried.

Four Year Vision. The Council received the various Committees' suggested projects and selected those to be given priority, as follows: Open Spaces and Village Halls, the change of use of Hollybush Hall to an Education Centre; Open Spaces, also making ongoing arrangements for butterfly and moth surveys [*in response to a question, GH indicated that the Committee of FoCC would be willing to publicise a request for volunteers to take part in the project*]; Policy and Resources, setting up a cross Committee group to investigate sources of grants and funding; Planning, the training budget.

Requests for events on the Common. (a) Community football training: Watford Football Clubs Charitable Trust has approached the Council with a request for permission to run a weekly "Footy in the Park" session for children from 5 to 9 years old; the suggested timing is every Tuesday from 17 July until 12 September, 16.00 to 18.00, in the area Christchurch School uses during its term times (the Cricket Club have been consulted and have no objections); the Council decided to give permission, and to publicise the event on its website, subject to the applicant entering into an appropriate licence agreement, making arrangements for indemnity insurance and agreeing to make good any damage.

(b) Churches' Olympic Fun Day on 26 May: the suggestion is for an event including such things as a three legged race, an egg-and-spoon race and a coconut shy and perhaps a Bouncy Castle (also near Christ Church; the Cricket Club agrees); the Council decided to give permission, subject to the organisers arranging for public liability insurance and first aid cover.

(c) The possibility of a Fun Run on Village Day was also discussed.

GH
[with apologies for delay!]