

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 25 September 2012**

Public Forum: Mr Michael Hyde spoke in favour of the reintroduction of grazing on the Common.

Chairman's Announcements: Cllr Mrs Sutherland stated (among other things) that she had been on one of the Butterfly Surveys with Mr Bill Cattle and the Friends of the Common volunteers, and had found it useful and enjoyable; and that she had been to Burnham Beeches to observe how cattle were being grazed there.

Election of Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, 15 November: the meeting was suspended to receive a presentation from Kate Belinis, Chief Executive Officer for the CDA for Hertfordshire, about the introduction of this new elected position. *[The subject has no particular connection with Chorleywood Common, but I am sure Mrs Belinis and the Parish Council would wish me to report to Members of Friends that further publicity is going to be given to this new form of election, and that everyone is strongly encouraged to turn out and vote on 15 November.]*

Committee Minutes: the Council received, as usual, the Minutes of Committee meetings held since the last meeting of Full Council; that included the Open Spaces meeting of 3 July, the extraordinary meeting of Open Spaces on 7 August, and the most recent meeting of Open Spaces on 11 September. In connection with the latter meeting, the officers reported that the Grassland Survey *[mentioned in my Notes of that meeting]* was not yet on the Council's website, but would be put on when Andrew Goddard had replaced (as far as possible) the Latin botanical names of the plants mentioned with their English names. Cllr Mrs Worrall explained that the grassland at the top of Larks Meadow is showing signs of becoming less acid and more neutral as a result of the buildup of nutrients when grass is not grazed or otherwise removed, but left to become thatch and then go back into the soil. The confidential discussion of grazing, and of the Council's legal advice, at the last Committee meeting was minuted as follows: ***"The Council are still committed to grazing and are looking at ways of safely and legally facilitating grazing on the Common for nature conservation purposes. Until these investigations are completed, no grazing is planned to take place. Once the Council has agreed a way to proceed, further information would be made available."*** But there was no further discussion of the grazing project by Full Council, either in open session of the meeting or confidentially. *[It appears probable that the next stage will be for Open Spaces or (I speculate) for the Grazing Working Party.]*

Hollybush Hall: in answer to a question on the report of the Village Halls Committee, Cllr Watkins explained that a builder had indicated that extensive and expensive work would be required, externally and internally, to facilitate wheelchair access to and use of

Hollybush, and the Halls Committee might therefore be asked to consider saving money by acquiring necessary equipment (such as a projector and screen) for the proposed education centre use, but using the Memorial Hall or Bullsland Hall for the classroom part of educational visits to the Common by parties from outside Chorleywood when they included wheelchair users.

The generator on the railway land by Shepherd's Bridge: under the report of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 September, Cllr Mrs Worrall explained that the generator belongs to Railtrack, not London Transport, and the green screens around it are an "acoustic quilt"; and apparently Railtrack have said it will be replaced by a cable. All councillors were encouraged to tell the office if they heard of or saw any changes. *[I expect the Council would also be grateful to hear from any members of the Friends who become aware of anything relevant.]*

GH