

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 29th January 2013

The meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of the late Cllr Dr Norman Eve, who died shortly before Christmas.

Public Forum:

Mrs M Larkin, of Chorleywood Residents' Association, congratulated the Council on the award of Higher Level Stewardship funding, and said that recreational uses of the Common should have equal priority with conservation; the Residents' Association supported the suggested Woodland Play Area, and hoped that a Dog Control Order would be made and would make fencing the Play Area unnecessary; it would be desirable to put forward, as a reserve, an alternative to location 13 (near Shepherd's Bridge parking area).

GH, FoCC, said that the Friends supported the grazing project and were interested in the "virtual fence" suggestion; we would welcome the chance to be represented, if there was room, at any meeting to see the system in use. On the Play Area, there was a balance to be struck between recreation and conservation; the proposal would be on the agenda for discussion at the Friends' forthcoming AGM and a variety of views were likely to be expressed; it might well be suggested that location 13 had not been specifically considered in previous consultations and that residents should be invited to express a preference as between that location and the Chorleywood House Estate.

Mr R Hartley supported the proposal for the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the listed telephone kiosk on the A404 (opposite the Gate public house); and suggested that the arrangements for members of the public to speak at Council and Committee meetings could be varied to allow contributions after the discussion of particular items, rather than being confined to the opening of each meeting.

Mr R Mann was vehemently opposed to a Play Area on the Common, at location 13 or elsewhere, both in itself and because of what else might follow; he had raised the matter with Mr Gauke MP and with Defra.

Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting: the acquisition of further equipment for the use of Hollybush Hall as an educational centre will be something for the Village Halls committee to consider after the Open Spaces committee have assessed what facilities are needed.

Chairman's Announcements: the Council has sent a Press Release relating to Higher Level Stewardship funding to My Chorleywood News and to the Watford Observer. Following the death of Cllr Eve, the vacancy on the Council, Chenies ward, would be advertised and any request for an election would have to be made by 4 February. [*Note:*

see the Parish Council's website at <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/pdf/Notice-of-Election-of-a-Chorleywood-Parish-Councillor-2013.pdf> - nominations to be made by noon on Friday 22 February and if the election is contested, the poll will take place on Thursday 21 March.]

Committee Reports:

Planning, 8 January: Cllr Mrs Worrall reported that the road works in Chorleywood Bottom [since completed] were to install a power supply for railway equipment, and the generator by the bridge should soon be removed. [Not yet – watch this space!]

Open Spaces, 15 January: there were two recommendations to Full Council –

- **Play area:** “that with suitable landscaping and implementation plan that Area 13 is the recommended site in principle subject to
 - the nature of the scheme including the type of equipment proposed
 - ongoing maintenance of the site
 - consideration to the lack of parking and
 - lack of a footpathbeing responded to by Three Rivers District Council.”

It was explained that location 13 is about 190-200 m from the Dew Pond. On a vote, the recommendation was accepted by 10 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

- **Virtual Fencing:** “that a site meeting be arranged for all councillors, that residents are informed of what is going on and why original plans are on hold.”

It was explained that the “virtual fencing” system would be cheaper than temporary fencing: the expenditure would be about £2500 plus the cost of a collar, £250 each, for each beast. Defra permission under the Commons Act 2006 section 38 would not be required, because the cable would be buried and would not be a “structure”. On a vote, the recommendation was accepted unanimously.

The work on Christ Church pond was likely to be undertaken within the next four weeks, perhaps at half term, but subject to the weather. [Now to start on 18 February: see <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/pdf/church-pond-refurb-feb-2013.pdf> or on the FoCC website <http://chorleywoodcommon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/church-pond-refurb-feb-2013.pdf>]

Policy and Resources, 22 January: recommendations to Full Council included a proposal that the precept for 2013/14 remain unchanged at £59.11 for Council Tax band D. On a vote, the recommendation was accepted unanimously. [Not an item specifically relating to the Common, but perhaps of general interest.]

Memorial for Cllr Dr Eve: Chenies Estate Residents Association had made a proposal to the Council to place a bench on the Common in memory of Dr Eve, and to contribute £250 towards the cost; the full cost would be £519 including the memorial plaque, so the Council would be contributing £269. The meeting unanimously agreed to the proposal; Cllr Mrs Sutherland suggested that if possible the bench should be in a position

overlooking the cricket pitch.

Listed telephone kiosk on A404: it was reported that because the kiosk is listed, BT is at present responsible for its maintenance; after discussion the meeting considered that there would be no benefit to the parish in the Council taking it over.

GH

[With apologies for the time elapsed since the meeting]