

## **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 16 April 2013**

#### **Public Forum:**

*Simone Tyson*, of Chorleywood Mums, expressed appreciation of the progress being made with the Play Area project [*see below*].

*GH*, FoCC, said that (a) the Friends of the Common had received a message from a member complaining about the new signs at the Memorial Hall and Shepherds Bridge parking areas, which were unsightly and too numerous. Cllr Mrs Worrall had explained that the Council has to make a judgment, and needs to ensure that people who are ticketed or clamped cannot complain that signs were not visible; but *GH* suggested that if the main object of the exercise is to deter commuters, it is worth considering whether the best places for signs might be, facing inwards, at the exits from the parking areas where commuters would leave to go to the station, i.e. the three exits from the Memorial Hall area to Common Road, and the exit from the Shepherds Bridge area by the bridge. (If the suggestion previously made to put up a height restriction barrier to keep out HGVs is pursued, the side supports would be obvious places for notices.) (b) The report of the Planning Committee meeting on 2 April [*see below*] had recommendations for training on planning issues; for Local Listing of the Dells; and for preparing a Parish Plan. If Full Council decided to take any or all of those recommendations forward, the Friends of the Common would support and assist; we think it is desirable to protect the environment so far as planning law permits.

**Matters arising from Minutes:** Cllr Liley asked whether the Minutes could record matters raised in the Public Forum; the Clerk explained that strictly the Forum is not part of the meeting, but agreed that a summary could be included – it would assist if those who spoke could provide a copy of their notes. [*Point taken.*]

**Chairman's Announcements:** Cllr Mrs Sutherland reported that –

- An enquiry had been received as to whether the Council had any information as to a hoard of Roman coins found at the Water Company's site in Stag Lane in about 1977 [*if any long-time resident remembers anything about this, it seems the Council would like to know*];
- The Audit Commission will be visiting the Council, which is considered well run;
- It was desirable to document and record adoption of the Council's "mission statement"; the Meeting agreed.

**Committee reports:** the report of the *Village Halls Management Committee* meeting on 5 March records Cllr Mrs Worrall's thanks to the Clerk and staff for making the War Memorial Hall available at short notice for the FoCC AGM.

The minutes of the *Open Spaces Committee* meeting of 12 March were received [*see previous notes*].

The *Planning Committee* meeting of 2 April made four recommendations to Full Council [*the first three are those which GH had indicated FoCC would support*]:

- The Committee considered that further training, advice and guidance in relation to planning and planning enforcement was needed by Councillors and staff, and asked Full Council for approval to approach TRDC for that purpose; the meeting authorised Cllr Mrs Worrall (Chair of Planning Committee) to make such an approach and to decide whether to suggest the inclusion of representatives of other organisations (e.g. the Residents' Association and FoCC) and other parishes in any meeting with TRDC.
- Planning Committee considered it would be advantageous to seek Local Listing for particularly sensitive areas, such as the Dells on the Common; the meeting authorised Cllr Mrs Worrall to take the matter forward in conjunction with Open Spaces committee and local organisations.
- Planning Committee also considered it would be desirable to develop a Parish Plan in partnership with residents and local organisations; at an early stage this would involve the creation and circulation of questionnaires to ascertain what matters local residents believe are important. The meeting authorised Cllr Mrs Worrall to take the matter forward.
- TRDC propose to establish a Highway Forum, which will (for example) lobby the County Council in relation to the use of money made available under Planning Agreements for highway purposes. Planning Committee recommended and the Council agreed that the Council at its forthcoming Annual Meeting should appoint a representative to attend the Forum on the Council's behalf.

**Calendar of Meetings:** the Council approved alterations to the calendar for 2013-14 to enable the meetings of Planning Committee to fit better with the dates of Planning meetings at TRDC. It was also decided that the starting time of meetings should remain at 8 pm, subject to the possibility of Open Spaces starting at 7.30 when the agenda is particularly heavy.

**Paternity policy:** the meeting approved documentation. [*Andrew Goddard and his partner are expecting a baby fairly soon.*]

**Play Area** [*proposals welcomed by Mrs Tyson in Public Forum*]: TRDC have been addressing some of the Council's concerns about siting the Play Area at "Location 13", upslope and inside the horse-track from Shepherds Bridge parking area: in particular it is proposed to signpost routes from the village via Colleyland and the Common, and via the cattle creep, avoiding the traffic hazard of Shepherds Bridge, and to erect signs either side of the bridge warning motorists of pedestrians in the road. (The possibility has apparently also been raised of installing, with LRT involvement, a new pedestrian footbridge attached to one side of Shepherds Bridge.) TRDC also propose to advertise

for expressions of interest for designing a bespoke play space and will shortlist contractors to tender: it is suggested that the designs should be considered by a “focus group” to include two Chorleywood Parish Councillors, two TRDC Councillors, officers of both councils including a Parish Ranger, a representative of either Chorleywood Residents Association or Chorleywood Mums and a representative of FoCC, before going out to public consultation later in the year. Chorleywood Parish Council will have the ability to decide whether any suggested design is acceptable.

**Village Day:** the Clerk explained that bookings are already coming in, and investigations of a possible backup – “Plan B” – location are in progress. TRDC are not keen on using the Chorleywood House Estate for that purpose; if the event has to be transferred to a smaller alternative site it may not be practicable to have the funfair. A report on the possible alternatives will be made to the next Open Spaces committee meeting, though the hope is that Plan B will not be needed.

**Parish Council Logo:** it was reported that the existing logo was not generally recognised by residents as that of the Council; the staff had prepared some slightly modified designs, and the meeting approved the addition of a circular border with the words “Parish Council”.

**French Market:** the event last year was a success, and will take place this year on Sunday 12 May, 10 a.m. – 4 pm. The organisers have suggested that local voluntary organisations may wish to have stalls along Lower Road; the Council decided to do so.

*GH*