

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 9 February 2016**

Agenda at <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/pdf/agendas/CWPC-Full-Council-Agenda-2016-02-09.pdf>

Supporting papers at <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/pdf/agendas/CWPC-Full-Council-Agenda-Committee-Reports-2016-02-09.pdf>

Car parking: Cllr Killick (TRDC, Chorleywood South and Maple Cross Ward,) informed the meeting that the District Council is considering the issue of car parking charges across the District. In Chorleywood, the Ferry car park has no waiting list for season tickets, and businesses do not take up the available concessionary rates; there is a tendency for their employees to park on the streets (using spaces otherwise available for customers). The Business Association is divided as to what if anything should be done. Cllr Killick asked whether the Parish Council would be interested in taking part in the fact-finding exercise as a preliminary to examining the available options for car parking arrangements. Cllr Edwards (under 'Chairman's Announcements') invited comments on that proposal, and the meeting supported it; Cllr Worrall pointed out that the War Memorial Hall and Shepherd's Bridge parking areas on the Common are still being misused by commuters and by employees of businesses in the village. The Clerk confirmed that the issue would be considered by Policy and Resources Committee.

Precept: after discussion, the meeting resolved to make a 3.3% increase in the Parish precept and to recommend that provision for deferred capital expenditure should be included in the budget for 2017-18. The 2016-17 budget includes an amount for improvements, if practicable, to the surfaces of the Christ Church car park and the other parking areas on the Common. The increase in the precept is the first for several years, is comparable with the increases in other parishes in the District, and is equivalent to £1.33 for a Band D property.

Play Area: arrangements for Open Forum and special Council meeting. The Forum will take place on Tuesday 23 February at the War Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m. It will have an independent Chairman, Mr Dave Moore, who has been recommended by the Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils; he was for some years a Police Inspector in this area and is familiar with the locality; he has been briefed on the issues arising.

Cllr Edwards will briefly introduce the evening, Cllr Green will then give a presentation on the work and conclusions of the Play Area Advisory Committee, and the rest of the meeting will be devoted to questions and statements of opinion from members of the public; Mr Moore will aim to secure a balanced expression of views and efficient use of the time available. The members of the Advisory Committee will be present to answer

questions about the conclusions they have reached, as will the experts from the Police and from the Countryside Management Service who have provided reports to the Committee. (TRDC are unable to make a representative available.) The other members of the Parish Council present will be there to listen to what residents say - but not to take part in the discussion. (The Clerk advised the meeting that councillors should not say anything which might give ground for a suggestion that they had pre-judged the issue and disqualified themselves from participating in the eventual Council vote.) The Clerk will prepare a handout to be given to those attending the meeting, outlining the format and explaining that the question of the location of any Play Area is still open and will be decided at a subsequent Council meeting, and the objective of the Open Forum is to provide the public with information and to find out what the public think about the proposal.

It is expected that Cllr Green's presentation will take about half an hour, and that there will then be about an hour and a half of questions and general discussion; the meeting will conclude with a summing up by the Chairman. The Clerk and her staff will be present to make as full a record as possible of the questions, answers and discussion.

The full Report of the Advisory Committee is not yet in the public domain, (though, as mentioned above, Cllr Green will summarise its conclusions at the Open Forum,) and it will become generally available as part of the papers for the intended special meeting of the Full Council, to decide on a recommendation to TRDC. It is expected that this meeting will be on either 19 or 26 April, whichever date is practicable for the greatest number of Councillors: the date fixed will be announced at the Open Forum. The lapse of time after the Open Forum is unavoidable: it will take the staff a significant time (on top of their other work) to prepare the Minutes of the Open Forum and the other necessary paperwork, and it is considered undesirable that the decision-making meeting should take place in the school holidays. TRDC have indicated that they will call a special meeting of their Leisure Committee after CWPC's meeting has taken place.

Clerk's Report: 'Clean for the Queen'. The Clerk reported that the Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, Mr David Cansdale, has invited the Parish Council to support the proposal for a co-ordinated community litter-pick on the weekend of 5 March in honour of HM's forthcoming 90th birthday, and after consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council, the plan is to take the project forward. All known local voluntary organisations and schools have been approached; some have agreed to participate, and some have yet to reply. Cllr Watkins pointed out that a number of the footpaths in the Parish are in particular need of tidying.

[Note: FoCC have been approached, and I believe the Committee are in favour of joining in. Mr Cansdale has agreed to speak at our AGM on 4 March, but that will be too late to make any detailed arrangements for the following day. I propose to speak to the Parish Office and to the Ranger about the project and then to circulate details of how and where anyone interested can participate.]

Clerk's Report: the Queen's Birthday Beacons. TRDC will not be organising a beacon or able to support other organisations in doing so, but it has been suggested that CWPC might wish to light a beacon in an area near Shepherd's Bridge. After discussion, the meeting decided not to do so: the byelaws prohibit the lighting of fires on the Common, and it was considered that the Council should not set a bad example by ignoring that rule. **Work at Top Common Pond South:** the work arranged by Open Spaces Committee, to clear the pond and store the removed silt and vegetation pending removal, has now been carried out: details at <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/chorleywood-common.html> (and scroll down). **The Guide Hut** has now been demolished. Negotiations are in progress for a new **Montessori school** to use the Hollybush Hall and, possibly, the open space where the Guide Hut was. Negotiations are also ongoing in relation to a **filming project**: apparently all that can now be said is that the film is a World War II feature film and it is proposed that a short sequence should be shot on the Common.

Community Plan: Cllr White thanked the Council for adopting the draft text of the Plan (meeting of 8 December 2015, minutes at pages 9 to 14 of the 'Committee Reports' for the present meeting, url above). Pictures and diagrams are now being incorporated in the document in preparation for its publication. There has also been a further meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan group; that project is to be taken forward, probably with professional advice which (it is hoped) will be grant funded.

GH