

Chorleywood Parish Council: Open Spaces Committee -

Notes by GH (in attendance as a member of the public)
of matters relevant to Chorleywood Common
raised at the meeting on 19 July 2016

Agenda at <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/pdf/agendas/CWPC-Open-Spaces-Agenda-2016-07-19.pdf>

Supporting papers at <http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk/pdf/agendas/CWPC-Open-Spaces-Agenda-Committee-Reports-2016-07-19.pdf>

Cllr Dickens in the chair.

Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting, 17 May 2016. The fixed penalty ticket books for enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order have been received, and when the Clerk and Rangers have their warrant cards 'soft' enforcement of the Order will start (planned for 1 September); the Ranger reported that dog walkers were already 'picking up'. The Office were in touch with the Countryside Management Service in connection with the Common Management Plan.

Open Spaces Officers' Report. *Parking schemes:* the machine installed at the Old Shepherd was defective and had to be replaced (at no cost to the Council). The machines at the War Memorial Hall and Shepherd's Bridge are obsolete and it may not be possible to obtain parts when necessary; the Committee decided to defer the expense of replacing them until it has to be incurred, and if one machine fails, then to keep it as a source of parts for the other. *Dog bins and litter bins:* residents have complained that some of the dog bins, particularly at the War Memorial Hall parking area, are not big enough or are not emptied often enough; and bags of domestic waste are being dumped in litter bins. It was noted that use of the dog bins would increase because of the PSPO. The Committee decided to ask the Office to obtain prices for possible replacement bins for consideration at the next meeting. *Cattle:* the cows that came in June were not sufficiently trained on the 'virtual fence' system and had to be sent back; consideration is being given to the options available for the next grazing period. *Orchids:* Pyramidal Orchids were slightly down in numbers; they are most prolific in Larks Meadow but there are small numbers in other areas. One Common Spotted Orchid was identified but it seems that slugs got the flower spike; it is hoped the plant will re-grow next season. The Bee Orchids were not very successful - only one set seed, the others were trampled or eaten - and the Committee agreed to the Ranger's suggestion that some of them should be given physical protection next season and the results compared with an un-protected control patch. *Top Common Pond South:* removal of the waste will be more expensive than had been expected because of possible contamination from road run-off; the Committee decided to authorise the whole job to be done as soon as possible and accepted the lowest of the three quotes received - it was noted that the work to this pond would not need repeating for perhaps 30 years.

Four year vision. The Committee decided that the *Nature Trail and Signage* should have highest priority; ‘Community Infrastructure Levy’ funds could be used for the purpose. The Clerk reported that a provisional route had been identified, which would include the Holly Tunnel, the Gun Dell and the fallen oak between Shepherds Bridge and Cherry Tree Dell, and it was agreed to arrange a walk of the route for councillors before the next meeting. Other priorities for Open Spaces are *security of the Common, permissive parking area surfaces, and Copmans Wick allotments.*

Request for a mirror opposite Darvells Yard: the Office had received a request from a resident for permission to install a mirror to improve visibility at the entrance to Darvells Yard; the Committee noted that Hertfordshire Highways’ guidance was opposed to installing mirrors, and decided that the Clerk should write to the resident explaining that guidance and suggesting that the matter should be taken up with the highway authority.

Proposal for an annual 10 km ‘fun run’ on the Common. The Committee felt that this was in principle a good idea, subject to practical details, but the Ranger should meet the proposed organiser to explain what parts of the Common could and could not be used - the fire rides would be available, but most of the rest would be ruled out by the requirements of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Chorleywood House Estate might be a possible alternative.

GH