

## Minutes of the Chineham Parish Council Recreation Committee

**Date:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Place:** Community Room, Chineham Village Hall, Thornhill Way, Chineham

**Present:** Cllr. Sue Fuller (Chairperson)

Cllr. Ginny Wright

Cllr. Andy Clarke

Julia Johnston (Assistant Clerk)

### 1. To receive apologies

**Actions**

There were apologies from Cllr. Marian Adams.

Cllr. David Thornton joined the meeting as an observer.

### 2. To agree the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

### 3. Allotments

Sally Dodd from the Chineham Allotment Team joined the Recreation Committee meeting for the allotments section of the meeting.

#### 3.1 To receive an update from a representative of the Chineham Allotment Team (CAT)

There was a discussion about the CAT plot inspection which had taken place on 13<sup>th</sup> September and the Assistant Clerk advised that letters had been sent to three plot holders as a result. It was acknowledged that some plots had been placed on a watch list until the next inspection in March 2018. There was a discussion about one plot which has now had several letters in the previous 12 months and has appeared on the CAT inspection list again. It was agreed that the plot holder has not been cultivating their plot to an acceptable standard for over a year and after much consideration, it was agreed that this plot holder should be served with a notice of termination of tenancy.

Action: Assistant Clerk to liaise with Parish Clerk to gain formal approval from the full Parish Council at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Asst Clrk

There was a discussion about the trees on plots 9 and 38 which were now creating too much shade across the plots and which the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) Tree Officer had agreed should be cut back and in the case of one tree, felled. It was acknowledged that this had not yet happened. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk should follow up with the BDBC Tree Officer.

Action: Assistant Clerk to contact Frank Wright at BDBC.

Asst Clrk

Signed .....

Mrs Dodd advised that the timing of the CAT meetings had changed and the next meeting is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**3.2 To review and agree appropriate actions for allotment issues raised since the previous meeting**

There were no other allotment issues requiring discussion.

Mrs Dodd left the meeting at this point.

**4. To receive an update from a representative of the Chineham Conservation Group about their planned enrichment programme for Tollhouse Meadow and other green spaces in Chineham**

Marion Wolstencroft from the Chineham Conservation Group joined the meeting.

She advised that the Chineham Conservation Group (CCG) had been around for a number of years and currently has 12 active members and a number of additional volunteers. Marion advised that she plans to hand over the running of the CCG by the end of 2017 and is keen to establish a working relationship with the Parish Council. The CCG's main focus has been on three woodlands within Chineham: Guinea Copse, Great Sorrell's Copse and Long Copse. There is currently a backlog of work to be carried out in the 2017/18 season.

Marion advised that the CCG wants to be more pro-active about improving the biodiversity of Tollhouse Meadow. She advised that there still needs to be agreement with BDBC about an appropriate mowing regime for Tollhouse Meadow to allow wild flowers to flourish. She advised that some wild flower seed planting could take place in autumn 2018. There was a discussion which Cllr. Thornton joined about Tollhouse Meadow 'scrubbing up' and agreement that this needs to be managed by BDBC. Cllr. Thornton advised that the self seeded trees on the east side of Tollhouse Meadow need to be removed to allow better mowing.

There was a further discussion about the practice of creating 'sacrificial' areas within Tollhouse Meadow for the arisings (grass cuttings) but without any communication about where the sensitive areas were. Cllr. Thornton advised that some years ago the Parish Council had agreed to pay for the removal of the arisings and this could be reviewed again given that this was now a nature conservation area. There was some discussion about the issue of access for a tractor and trailer and Cllr. Thornton advised that there was a gate which would allow access directly from the A33. There was also a discussion about the current concrete bridge over Petty's Brook not being load bearing and it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk should make contact with BDBC to ensure the planned replacement bridge is sufficiently load bearing to allow the BDBC grass cutting machines to use it.

Action: Assistant Clerk to contact BDBC about replacement bridge over Petty's Brook

Asst Clrk

Marion advised that there isn't a water meadow specialist within the group. She advised that Natural Basingstoke have an annual wild flower seed collection and they would be happy to let the PC have some seed to plant within the Parish. It was agreed that as the PC's wild flower expert, Cllr. Wright would liaise directly with the CCG about the wild flower planting.

There was a discussion about the pond on the western side of Tollhouse Meadow and Marion advised that there was too much non native invasive weed in the pond, specifically Typha and Crassula, some of which may never be completely removed. One view of how to overcome the

Signed .....

weed problem is to fill in the existing pond and dig a new one.

There was a discussion about the section of Petty's Brook which runs through Tollhouse Meadow. Marion advised that the CCG usually allocates one session per year to sort out the brook and remove Typha. The Assistant Clerk advised that she had recently visited Tollhouse Meadow with the Parish Clerk and they noticed that several areas of the brook were quite thick with weed (species unidentified) which was causing it to run very slowly and back up further upstream.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of a new mowing regime for some of the grass verges in Chineham and it was acknowledged that this had been discussed previously within the Recreation Committee. There was also a brief discussion about the grass area within the ancient moat and it was agreed that Cllr. Wright would have a further discussion with the CCG about these two topics outside of the meeting.

Marion Wolstencroft left the meeting at this stage.

There was a further brief discussion about a new mowing regime for both sides of Tollhouse Meadow and Cllr. Thornton agreed to prepare a briefing paper for consideration by the full Parish Council.

**5. To review the progress of current S.106 projects:-**

- **To refurbish the play area on Hanmore Road beside the Busy Bees Nursery**

It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had agreed a budget from Section 106 funds of up to £60,000 for this project and that the process of getting the funding in place within BDBC was ongoing. It is expected that this process should be complete by the end of October 2017 and the Recreation Committee agreed to review progress again at its meeting in November. The Assistant Clerk advised that she is currently setting up a site visit with a BDBC tree officer and the project manager for the playground refurbishment as well as Cllr. Thornton in his capacity as Parish Tree Warden to discuss the options for the veteran oak tree which is located in one corner of the site.

- **To replace the concrete bridge over Petty's Brook in Tollhouse Meadow.**

The Assistant Clerk advised that the process of getting the Section 106 funding in place for this project was ongoing and it was expected to be completed by the end of October. It was acknowledged that this project would not start until the spring/summer of 2018.

- **To install some new seats around Chineham**

The Assistant Clerk advised that the Parish Rapid Response Warden had completed her review of the condition of the seats and benches around the Parish as a follow up to her first survey in 2015. Seven seats had been highlighted as being in a poor condition and details of these had been passed to BDBC with a request that they carry out the necessary repairs.

The Assistant Clerk advised that she was still trying to make contact with the tree surgeons about turning the timber from some felled Chineham oak trees into seats for the Parish.

Signed .....

Action: Assistant Clerk to continue to seek to make contact tree contractors to understand what's involved and costings.

Asst Clrk

The Assistant Clerk shared some information about two different options for a new commemorative seat on Thornhill Way close to and on the same side of Thornhill Way as the entrance to Mattock Way. It was acknowledged that the seat could be installed during 2018 to mark the 2018 World War One commemorations, whilst ensuring the style of seat was relevant for all war conflicts.

The Recreation Committee agreed to recommend to the full Parish Council the 'Lest We Forget' seat by David Ogilvie and seek agreement in principle to a budget of up to £2500. This would include the purchase and installation of the seat and any groundworks. The price of the seat is currently £647 plus £105 delivery + VAT. There are some additional charges for the fixing kits depending on what type of surface the seat is installed onto. The Recreation Committee agreed that their preference would be for some paving or alternative hard surface to be laid to link the existing footpath with the new seat and for the seat to be on a paved or other hard surface. The proposed budget would be to cover the total cost of the project.

It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would establish with BDBC whether Section 106 funds could be allocated for this project.

Action: Assistant Clerk to liaise with Parish Clerk to include an item on the October full Parish Council agenda & to establish with BDBC whether the project could be funded from Section 106 funds.

Asst.  
Clerk

## 6. **Chineham Landscaping**

- **Community Orchard**

The Recreation Committee acknowledged that the Parish Council had agreed a budget of up to £1000 for the purchase and planting of fruit trees on the site behind the new bund on Reading Road that had been identified for a community orchard. It was also acknowledged that the proposed planting plan for the trees had been sent to BDBC for agreement and feedback.

The Assistant Clerk advised that she would follow up with BDBC contacts as no response had been received so far.

Asst.  
Clerk

- **Wild flower planting**

Cllr. Wright advised that she would be planting some wild flower seed on the new bund. It was acknowledged that Cllr. Wright would maintain contact with the Chineham Conservation Group about future wild flower planting projects.

## 6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 7.30pm (TBC), Community Room, Chineham Village Hall.**

N.B. This is a change of date from the original meeting scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Signed .....