

Minutes of the Chineham Parish Council Recreation Working Group

Date: Thursday 26th February 2026

Time: 20:15pm

Place: The meeting was held remotely via Teams

Present: Cllr. Sue Fuller

Phil Walker (Rapid Response Warden)

Ellen Harmon (Assistant Clerk)

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Cllr. Olumide Oratokhai, Cllr. Tom Brine and the Chineham Allotment Steward were not in attendance.

2. To receive an update from the allotment steward and discuss the most recent CAT meeting minutes.

- Cllr. Fuller notified us that the next scheduled allotment inspection is due on the 21st of March, with more to discuss following this inspection. The next CAT inspection after this will be on 14th June.
- EH notified the working group that there has been little interest in terms of people wanting to be added to the allotment waiting list. At current we have 1 plot available, which has drainage issues during the wetter months, so it has been harder to rent out. At the moment we still have a decent sized waitlist, so EH will begin trying to find a new tenant for plot 1a before the new growing season. When the waitlist gets down to around 15 people, we will begin advertising that we have an allotment, should the interest not begin to pick up again. EH
- The allotments are in need of the encroachment pruning back, but our Lengthsman is currently away on sick leave after having a surgery. If the Legthsman is unable to complete the work, the Clerk will contact the landscaper that the Chineham Village Hall Management Committee uses to carry out the work. EH

3. To review the progress of current projects:-

• **RRW bench report**

- *To receive an update on current ongoing bench works.*

All benches have been completed by Saul and we are ready to move onto the next 6 or so benches. EH to contact Saul to provide us with quotes for the work. Our key moment of interest now is the benches in Binfields Woodland area, which are in a state of disrepair and pose a hazard to the general public, due to their sharp rusted away legs. EH to make contact with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council once more and insist they deal with them appropriately. If B&DBC declines or denies ownership, EH to obtain quotes for both mobile welding and the removal of the benches, with views to doing whichever is most cost effective. This is to be done as a matter of urgency due to the health and safety hazard posed. EH

- *To discuss and agree next steps.*

EH to contact Saul and organise quotes for next set of benches, which were agreed as Thornhill way x2, Tollhouse Meadow x 2 and Binfields Woodland x 2. RRW proposes spacing the benches in the Binfields woodland further apart should they be removed and replaced. EH

• **Chineham Community Orchard**

- *Are we ready to order the items for the Orchard maintenance?*

EH to order items for the Orchard maintenance (cost was agreed at previous CPC meeting). Item's to be ordered to Cllr. Miller's home address around mid-march time. EH & SF

Signed.....

- **Chineham Allotments**

- *To discuss when we need to schedule the next round of pruning for the allotment site.* EH

EH to contact the Lengthsman to arrange pruning to be completed ASAP.

- *To discuss and schedule alternative numbering and signage for the plots.* EH

EH to meet with Allotment Steward to agree new numbering system. New plot numbers will be issued alongside updated Tenancy & Allotment agreements at the same time as their annual invoices.

4. To discuss and agree any new potential projects we would like to implement within the Parish and bring to the Full Parish Council for discussion.

- *Is there anything aside from benches we would like to look at doing for the community?*

Cllr. Fuller is satisfied that with the ongoing bench refurbishment and the Community Orchards, we have enough going on in terms of projects for now.

5. Chineham Landscaping

It was agreed that the Chineham Parish would be surveyed around Spring time of 2026 to see if there are any areas that could use some additional landscaping.

6. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

23rd April 2026 @ 20:15pm.

DRAFT

Signed.....

APENDIX A

CAT meeting, Sunday 15th September 2024

Present: Sandra, Simon M, Sue F,

Apologies: Simon E

Since our last meeting, Rebecca Lewis has stepped down from CAT.

Inspection

Plot 1a: second time on watch list

Plot 1b: just messy, otherwise ok. But we will keep an eye on this plot.

Plot 2: requested if tenant might like to downsize, in case he is overwhelmed with the amount of work.

Ellen, did you reach out last time and did you get a reply?

Plot 5: Keeping an eye on this plot.

Plot 11: New on watch list

Plot 12: Did R. Pilbeam return his key on 21/July and do we have a new plot holder?

Plot 13: second time on watch list

Plot 20: New on watch list

Plot 21: New on watch list – these tenants took on the plot in February and were given this season to get on top of the weeds, but it doesn't look like anything has been done.

Plot 27: second time on watch list

Plot 29b: second time on watch list

Plot 30: Keep an eye on this plot, not yet on watch list

Plot 32: new on watch list – little planting activity this season

Plot 38: Does Sarah need help? Please reach out to see if she would like to downsize or would like help from the CAT to tackle the fence line or repositioning of her raised beds.

For any plots on the watch list for the second time, we will check during our end of March '25 inspection if any activity is visible and will suggest a warning letter to be sent. If by June the plots are not cultivated we will recommend an eviction.

Action: **Ellen please send updated email list for all plot holders after any changes.**

Paths

Noticed that the loosening surface had been compacted once more. We will keep an eye on it if it will stand up to the autumn rains and report back.

Upcoming dates:

none set until after the winter break. |

Signed.....

DRAFT

Signed.....