



Holmes Chapel Parish Council

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AMENITIES COMMITTEE

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE – Cllr DE Savage, Cllr B Bath, Cllr Mike Blomeley, Cllr JA Clowes, Cllr PA Cotton, Cllr S Ranger and Cllr MJ Street.

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Amenities Committee on **Thursday 28 January 2016** at The Community Room, Brooklands, Holmes Chapel Community Centre, Holmes Chapel commencing at 7.00 p.m.

AGENDA:

Part I - Public and Press Present:

1. **Apologies** - To approve any apologies for absence.
2. **To receive Declarations of any**
 - a) **disclosable pecuniary interests or**
 - b) **other disclosable interests****as required under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.**
3. **Minutes** -To approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 26 November 2015 – copies circulated
4. **Matters arising –** To receive verbal reports on any matters arising from the above minutes:
 - No further news has been received on the grant application for the defibrillators for the phone boxes from the BHF;
 - PCSO contract - the council is waiting for a draft contract to be sent;
 - Notices were put up at the decking in the Dane Meadow to warn of slippery surfaces. Non slip paint will be used when the weather warms up;
5. **Planning applications** - to consider any applications on list recently circulated by CEC.
6. **Dane Meadow** - to receive any reports on snagging or activities by the Friends of Dane Meadow from Cllr Clowes.

7. **Sign by Archimedes Screw** - to note contact has been made with the contractors and meeting needs organising with suggestions for the sign. The committee to agree on wording.
8. **Pathway along Croco brook** - to receive a verbal report on the project from Cllr Clowes.
9. **Skate park working group** - to receive a written report on activities by the working group. The minutes from the meeting on 26 January 2016 will be circulated prior to Amenities committee.
10. **Holmes Chapel Community Centre** - to provide a 'wish list' of requirements for the outdoor space at the Community Centre to be put forward to the HCCC Joint Management Committee.
11. **CCTV** -
 - to receive the reports sent on 5 Jan from Jan Griffiths.
 - to review the CCTV contract letter sent by CEC (See attached documents).
12. **Open space project** - To consider the discussion paper on open space projects in Holmes Chapel from Cllr Clowes and to draw up a project plan. See appendix 1.
13. **Outside bodies** - to receive any reports from the Sandbach Almshouses, Joint Leisure Management Committee and ChALC representative. Appendix 2.
14. **Chairman and Clerk's reports.**

Part II - Private and Confidential Business

Nicola Clarke
Clerk of the Council
22 January 2016

Appendix 1

Discussion Paper on Open Space Projects in Holmes Chapel

Author: John Clowes

1. Introduction

Work in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan included a survey of the green spaces in the village which are accessible to residents. The main purpose of this was to establish how the village fared in terms of the amount of green space available compared with the target figures which Cheshire East Council aim for per head of population (Cheshire East Open Space Strategy (CEOSS)). The report (ref 5.1) showed Holmes Chapel was very short of most categories of green space and particularly children's play areas, any formal park, allotments or general kick about space. The figures are illustrated in the table below:

Recommended levels of green space for Holmes Chapel compared to existing levels of green space

Category	Recommended space	Existing	Existing	Required	Notes
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	for Holmes Chapel (ha)	area (ha)	area as % of recmnd.	increase in area	
1) Parks and gardens	Some recommended for >4000 population	0			
2) Natural and semi natural urban green space	No specified figure	17.2			Much of this area is not accessible to public use
3) Green infrastructure connectivity	0.8 per 1000 = 4.5 or 20m ² per home = 4.8 (with expansion 6.0)	3.6*	75%	1.2ha to 2.4ha	*1.4 estimated by CEOSS.
4) Outdoor sports facilities	1.6 per 1000 = 9.0	5.7*	63%	3.3ha	*6ha estimated by CEOSS.
5) Amenity green space	0.8 per 1000 = 4.5 or 20m ² per home = 4.8 (with expansion 6.0)	0.9*	19%	3.9ha to 5.1ha	*1.3 estimated by CEOSS
6) Provision for children and teenagers	0.8 per 1000 = 4.5 or 20m ² per home = 4.8 (with expansion 6.0)	0.3*	6%	4.5ha to 5.7ha	*1.1 estimated by CEOSS
7) Allotments, community gardens	0.2 per 1000 = 1.1 or 5m ² per home = 1.2 (with expansion 1.5)	0		1.2 to 1.5ha	
8) Cemeteries	No specified figure				

The report provides valuable evidence to support the need to provide additional open space in Holmes Chapel and the Neighbourhood Plan will reflect this in the policies adopted for any new land use in the village. However, the report also reviewed the use of the green space already existing around the village and suggested ways in which it could be better utilised. This is not a matter for the Neighbourhood Plan but, it is proposed, should be considered by the Parish Council when reviewing new projects to improve the amenities of the village.

The main section of this report identifies what might be carried out in the future and provides some guidance on priorities and costs of the work. The tables that head each section are taken from original report where additional photographs can be found of the site described. Below the table a short summary is provided of the work suggested to improve the site along with an approximate cost of the work and a priority rating. This should promote a discussion within the Parish Council on which projects should be considered and help decide on the order in which they should be carried out.

2. Potential Improvements

2.1 Picton Square

<i>Site</i>	Grassed centre in Picton Square off Rees Crescent. HC3. 0.1ha
<i>Description</i>	5) Amenity green space. Mown grass, planted with medium sized trees. Large Holly bushes on either side of entrance to square. Attractive space in housing square.
<i>Habitat</i>	Open space, well planted with variety of trees including evergreen. Not linked to other spaces.
<i>Accessibility</i>	Easily accessible, not far from village centre
<i>Potential</i>	Large enough space for a children's play area – although this might require removal of some trees and fencing in to protect from road. Alternatively could be provision of some seating and a central feature such as a sculpture or planted border - the area could be made into a small, more formal park – perhaps similar in feel to a London Square (Picton Park!).

This is a significantly sized site which is close to the village centre. The favoured use would be a small formal park to provide seating and interest for residents and especially the more elderly. Maintenance would be kept

low by keeping it mainly grass but adding paths across the site and some seating. Focal point sculpture could be commissioned for the centre of the site. The village does not have a park and there is no other land near the village centre so this is likely to be the only contender. To achieve an attractive result funds would be required for the production of an initial design, creating paths, the provision of seats and decorative features.

Estimated Cost of the Work: £50,000

Priority: Medium

2.2 Corner Site Brookfield Drive/ Chester Road

<i>Site</i>	Corner of Brookfield Drive and Chester Road. RHC38. <0.1ha
<i>Description</i>	5) Amenity green space. Mown grass, mature trees, backed by stream. This area is very small, useful for dog walking and as a visual break in housing development
<i>Habitat</i>	Stream bank, mature trees. Narrow stream course to Middlewich Rd school fields and beyond. Stream enters culvert under Chester Rd and does not re-emerge until Coniston Drive
<i>Accessibility</i>	Good. On route to/from school for many children.
<i>Potential</i>	Area is probably too small to have an alternative use but much more could be made of it - Seating, visual feature, fruiting tree planting or other planting to enhance the look would be possible. Some planting to partially screen Chester road would make it a more peaceful place to sit.

The site is small but nevertheless under utilised at present. Removal of badly positioned and stunted trees would open up the site to provide a central sitting area. Some additional tree or shrub planting to hide the sub-station could be accommodated. A significant improvement could be achieved at modest cost and make this area a useful asset.

Estimated Cost of the Work: £5,000

Priority: Medium

2.3 Strathmore / Gleneagles Grassed Area

<i>Site</i>	Open space between Gleneagles Drive and Strathmore Close. RHC40. 0.15ha.
<i>Description</i>	5) Amenity greenspace. Mostly grassed with some small trees, path through from Gleneagles to Strathmore. Dog walking, some seating, pleasant green space in centre of housing area.
<i>Habitat</i>	Mown grass, some small and some mature trees.
<i>Accessibility</i>	Good path from both Gleneagles and Strathmore. In centre of the Portree Drive estate.
<i>Potential</i>	This is an area which has the potential for several other uses either using the whole area, or part of it; Children's recreation, adult fitness trail, community garden, small number of allotments, more seating areas, teenage park .

This is an important space which was originally intended to accommodate a children's play area as part of the Portree Drive housing development - but it was never built. The Cheshire East Green Space Strategy makes the point that the south west of the village is poorly served by play facilities. At present the site is only lightly used as a children's play space with no equipment provided. The site could be better used and it is suggested that its potential use for play, allotments, outdoor gym or just seating is reviewed. There needs to be some consultation of the people who live in the area once a potential scheme is conceived. The budget suggested would allow some play equipment to be included but the final budget would depend on the review.

Estimated Cost of the Work: £50,000 Priority: High

2.4 Elm Drive Play Area

<i>Site</i>	North of Elm Drive, strip of land at top of river valley, from Hermitage track to
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	Cedar Close varying in width, including children's recreation area. HC543. 0.48+0.5ha (see below)
<i>Description</i>	6) Provision for children and teenagers. Note on the CEOSS map this area is marked as 4) Outdoor sports facilities, although is listed as being category 6) in the text. The children's play area has been recently renovated with new equipment occupying about 0.1ha and a 0.1ha grass space with one basketball hoop/goal. Outside of the fenced children's play area, the rest of the area is mostly grassed, rough mown approx 0.5ha. This area does not provide any facilities for children/teenagers and is incorrectly counted in this category by the CEOSS. It is more appropriately categorised as 5) amenity green space. It is a pleasant space on the top of the river valley Excellent views over the Dane valley, good walking area.
<i>Habitat</i>	Mostly rough mown grass, good mature trees and mixed younger trees and bushes. Adjoining pasture & open countryside in Dane valley.
<i>Accessibility</i>	Good, links Hermitage track & Cedar Drive.
<i>Potential</i>	Much more could be made of views over the valley with addition of seats. The area adjoining is pasture leading down to the river and towards Cedar Drive This is owned by Cheshire East (see 2.3). There is an access stile to the field; this would be a prime site for conversion to a recreational open space which could extend the current area.

The play area has been recently upgraded and is a valuable asset to this area of the village. As the table above points out there is more land available than occupied by the play area and more could be made of the walk along the level area above the flood plain with an all weather surfaced path and additional seats. As work has recently been carried out in this area, new work is given a low priority.

Estimated Cost of Work: £20,000

Priority: Low

2.5 Macclesfield Road in front of Bungalows

<i>Site</i>	Open area in front of bungalows
<i>Description</i>	Mown grass, bulbs, a few young trees. A red oak sponsored by the Holmes Chapel partnership was planted 2012.
<i>Habitat</i>	Young trees
<i>Accessibility</i>	Easy
<i>Potential</i>	Other bushes, flower borders, community garden, seating could enhance this area

This area could accommodate a further two large native trees and this has been requested by the near residents. It is given high priority as it would be a quick improvement and has local support. The cost might be reduced with volunteer effort.

Estimated Cost of Work: £1,000

Priority: High

2.6 Middlewich Road near Bessancourt

<i>Site</i>	Small open area corner off Bessancourt
<i>Description</i>	Mown grass, bulbs, a few young trees
<i>Habitat</i>	Young trees
<i>Accessibility</i>	Good
<i>Potential</i>	A small area Risk: occasional maintenance relying on volunteers so might become unsightly

This area could accommodate a seat for passing walkers. It might be possible to find a donor for the seat.

Estimated Cost of Work: £1,000

Priority: Medium

2.7 Bus Stops on Chester Road

The four stops are only marked at one location and any passengers have to stand on the grass with no seating available. The users tend to be elderly and the provision of a seat at each location would be of significant benefit. As stated above, it may be possible to get seats donated by villagers.

Estimated Cost of Work: £4,000

Priority: Medium

2.8 Northway Grassed Areas

<i>Site</i>	Grassed areas in front of bungalows on Northway. RHC31 0.15ha
<i>Description</i>	5) Amenity green space: Memorial bench in centre of one area is well maintained. Large tree with 2 rope swings. Insufficient space for ball games.
<i>Habitat</i>	Open space, grassed, 1 mature tree, several smaller trees. Not linked to other areas, but not far from edge of village.
<i>Accessibility</i>	Easily accessed although unclear if non-residents are welcome
<i>Potential</i>	Clearly used by local residents but quite bare. Other seats could increase community value. Decorative planting could improve look and wildlife potential. Could be improved by enthusiastic local residents with the support of other village groups.

Unless local residents were keen to create more planting areas the proposal would be to add to the one seat on the site with at least one other. There may be the opportunity to add a few trees including one or two native species which will grow to a good size.

Estimated Cost of Work: £3000

Priority: Low

3. Discussion

The report has shown that a number of green areas within the village could be improved for the benefit of residents. In view of the low proportion of green space per head of population in the village of Holmes Chapel it makes sense to make the best use of the space that we do have available. Proposed improvements range from adding a few trees or seating to creating a small public park, adding a new play area for children or even allotments.

Part of the CEC document Green Space Strategy linked to the Local Plan deals with certain shortcomings in the provision of green facilities at Local Service Centres including Holmes Chapel. The points made specifically about Holmes Chapel are as follows:

1. Investigate whether park facilities could be provided in Holmes Chapel.
2. Improve access to the River Dane in Holmes Chapel.
3. Address the shortage in children's play provision in the 13 Local Service Centres.
Improve accessibility to children's play sites in the following areas: Holmes Chapel - west and southern edge.....
4. Consider the need for allotment facilities in Holmes Chapel where there are currently no allotments.

Some of the work identified in Section 2 would go some way to satisfying these needs identified by CEC so support both financial and in kind should be sought from CEC.

The costs of the projects would vary considerably and, in total, amount to a significant sum. However, once the desired work was identified a rolling programme could be established to tackle the work as funds became available.

It is proposed that the Parish Council reviews the proposals and includes those favoured into the long term capital programme. In each case some preliminary work would be required to assess local opinion and decide on the detailed scheme. Thus, even before funding became available some work would need to be done, possibly in

conjunction with CEC. Once a priority list has been established any available effort could be concentrated on the projects in order of priority.

4. Conclusions

4.1 There is an opportunity for the Parish Council to improve the use of the existing green space in the village.

4.2 A range of improvements could be introduced at the various green spaces ranging from a new play area to extra seating.

4.3 Some improvements would not be expensive and the community may be prepared to make donations towards additional seats around the village.

4.4 The options should be reviewed by the Parish Council in order to produce a priority list to be added to the capital programme.

5. References

5.1 Open Space, Outdoor Recreation and Environmentally Important Spaces within the Village of Holmes Chapel, HCNP Report CE37, October 2015.

5.2 CEC Green Space Strategy (HCNP reference CE15)

Appendix 2

Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre Advisory Panel Meeting

Notes of the meeting held on 14th January 2016 2.00pm

At Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre

Present

Chair Cllr A Kolker	Cheshire East Council
Cllr L Gilbert	Cheshire East Council
N Clarke	Holmes Chapel Parish Council
B Pitt	CEC Assets Department
M Wheelton	CEC Corporate Commissioning Manager
S Smith	Everybody Sport & Recreation

1. Apologies

D Savage Holmes Chapel Parish Council

2. Notes of the last meeting

Previous notes were agreed

3. Update on activities or opportunities from Everybody Sport & Recreation Trust

Councillor Kolker as Chair of the Trust confirmed that everything was still progressing well with no major issues. He highlighted the recent opening of the new Holmes Chapel Community Centre and its initial success. Over 40 members had moved from the leisure centre site. He and the Trust are looking

forward to working with the Parish Council on future phases on the site, subject to funding. Future work will form part of a Master Plan (early March) which may include a skate park. An information report regarding recent activities at the leisure centre was discussed at the meeting (copy attached). Key items included –

- Attendances at the leisure centre up by 12,000 in the year to the end of December including new users of the 3G football pitch.
- Quest accreditation had been achieved – status “good” which included a good response from the mystery shopper element.
- Everybody memberships now at 93 , this is still good for a small fitness offer.
- Good health and safety inspection
- Upgrading to lighting in minor hall had been well received in particular by the local Music Society.

4. Update on activities and any issues or opportunities from the School

- None – no representatives present

5. Update on the activities and any issues or opportunities from the Parish Council

- The PC have a “Croco Brook Project” with a budget to upgrade the path to improve access for residents to the site. This will be discussed in more detail with the school.

6. Any Other Business

- Cllr Gilbert reported positively that he had only ever had one complaint about the leisure centre service

7. Agree agenda items for next and subsequent meetings

- Update report on discussions on energy

8. Date and time of next meeting

- **Thursday 16th June 2016** - 2pm (Venue - Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre Meeting Room)