

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 17th September 2014, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Paul Turner (Chairman), Cllr Janet Foster (Vice Chair) Cllrs John Hammond, Andy Hickman, Wayne Howsego, Steven Sensier, Ingrid Thomas, Bryan Timms, Anne Tomlinson

ATTENDING: S Goudie, Clerk, 9 members of the public,

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Brake and Hickman

14.122 OPEN SESSION

Mr Cheasley, resident of Gloucester Close, spoke voicing his concern over item 11 of the Agenda and discussions that may take place without any input from the residents involved. The Chairman confirmed that he would close the meeting to allow comments to be made.

A resident asked for information on the action being taken with reference to the various initiatives to try and alleviate speeding in the village. He was told that the Speedwatch teams are very active, agreement had been received by HCC to carry out local speed and traffic surveys and would be discussed later on the Agenda, together with an update on the Speed Limit Repeater signs.

A request was made to bring Item 11 ('Storey's Sanctuary') forward on the Agenda. The Chairman, as these were special circumstances, agreed.

The Open session concluded at 7.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.

14.123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brake and Hickman

14.124 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

14.125 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 16th July 2014**, previously circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Tomlinson and seconded by Cllr Foster, and signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising.

14.125 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- There was nothing to report in addition to the circulation of the previous sets of both minutes, however following the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6th August 2014, the following items required approval and action.
 - It was RESOLVED to change the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee, following Cllr Howsego's proposal to add the words "be received" in the final paragraph.
 - A request was made for additional members to join the Planning Committee, Cllr Thomas proposed Cllr Sensier, Cllr Tomlinson seconded the proposal, and Cllr Sensier, following his agreement, was voted on to the Committee. It was agreed to ask Cllr Hickman at the next meeting if he wished to join the Planning Committee, as he was not in attendance, and unable to be approached.

- The Chairman of the Open Space Committee referred to the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th August 2014, which had been previously circulated, and noted that the following item required Full Council approval.
 - The Committee proposed a memorial bench for Pat Seward, and the suggested location was the Lymington Bottom triangle beside the new war memorial. Cllr Hammond advised the Committee that the Rotary Club had recently approached the Council to erect a bench and tended flower bed, in the same location, and the request had been forwarded to the Festival Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk, should initially contact Pat's relatives to ensure that they are happy with the proposal, then contact the Rotary Club, to thank them and propose the idea of a joint venture to erect the two benches at a suitable location.
- A brief summary was received by the Chairman of the Finance & GP Committee from the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2014, minutes previously circulated. Following a proposal from the Committee, Full Council agreement was required on the following item:
 - The move of the Parish Council office from the Clerk's home to a rented office space at Lymington Barns which would be shared by the Medstead clerk. The Clerk had circulated a report, and following confirmation that a Lease would be prepared for signature by both parties. Although the office had been offered to the Parish Council for the cost of utilities only, it was agreed that a peppercorn rent should be offered. It was confirmed that Medstead Parish Council had also agreed this proposal, and would pay a small proportion towards the costs of running the office.

14.127 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk had previously circulated the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the month's ended 31st July and 31st August 2014, and reported on Income and Expenditure to date.

Cllr Foster raised concern over two items that appeared to be over budget and close to budget. The apparent over expenditure on the mower costs. The Clerk confirmed that the money had been budgeted for the maintenance works over the previous two financial years, so the money was held in reserve, but it was not able to show this on the spread sheet. The other was rates, which it was confirmed had been paid for the year in advance, with only a small portion of cemetery rates left to pay.

The accounts were proposed as accurate by Cllr Sensier, and seconded by Cllr Tomlinson.

14.128 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The District Councillor, following circulation of her report, asked for questions:

- Had there been any progression of the proposed pedestrian crossing on the A31 at Telegraph Lane junction? Cllr Thomas confirmed she was actively chasing.
- Was there any update on the Friar's Oak investigation? Cllr Thomas confirmed that a decision had been made on the Lovedean application, it had been allowed, and thought that a decision on Friar's Oak would be made in the next couple of weeks.
- Position on a Post office. Cllr Thomas felt that currently this was not going to happen under the present circumstances.
- Cllr Hammond had requested an update on the meeting with EHDC and David Wilson home. She confirmed that Chris Murray and Nick Upton from EHDC, herself and the Clerk and three people from DWH had attended. She confirmed that they are still keen to provide a community facility should their proposal be granted permission, but gave the impression that they were almost resolved to the fact that this would not happen at this time, they did seem keen to become involved at some point with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr Thomas reported that all was currently quiet on the Charles Church site but, following a Councillor's question, nothing had been mentioned to date about the resurfacing of Uplands Lane.
- Cllr Thomas also confirmed that, following a discussion at the Medstead Parish Council meeting the previous evening, they were generally supportive of the proposed footpath on

Lymington Bottom Road. They are, however, arranging a meeting with the designer, and it was agreed that a representative from Four Marks Parish Council should be in attendance at that meeting. It was suggested that the Footpath officer, Cllr Timms, would be the most appropriate representative. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the Medstead clerk.

14.129 WEBSITE

Cllr Sensier presented three options, one using Wordpress that he had prepared, one using Webplus that Cllr Hickman had suggested, and the option of paying for someone to set up the website for a fee, but also using Wordpress.

It was agreed, on presentation, that the simpler site was preferable and easier to navigate, however it was agreed that whoever designed it could design the more simplistic approach, and would not have any bearing on which software option was chosen.

Questions raised:

1. How much space available on both options? *Approx 50 gbs.*
2. Would there be additional hosting costs? *We would use existing host and domain, small annual costs are incurred but would not change.*
3. How safe would the site be if we go with the server based option? *It would be password protected.*
4. How easy is it to upload information on either proposal? *It was agreed that with a small amount of tuition both would be equally user friendly, Cllr Sensier, did confirm that whichever was decided, he would be prepared to set up an 'idiot's guide on the website procedures'*

Following further discussion, it was agreed to trial the Wordpress, server based option, the decision was made purely on the basis that the Wordpress system was more widely known, and, being server based other than desktop based, would be more easily accessible for those authorised to use.

Cllr Tomlinson commended Cllr Sensier on all the work he had put into researching all the variations and options, and the Chairman added his thanks on behalf of the full Council.

14.130 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Sensier had confirmed there had been two steering group meetings since the last Council meeting, and relayed the following:

- The CPRE had visited the SHLAA sites, and advised on how they score each site particularly on detriment of view. They did not divulge their findings at the time however.
- There is a community meeting scheduled for Wednesday 24th September at Medstead Village Hall, to seek views from the public on all aspects of the plan, although the main focus appears to be on planning.
- He had been appointed Treasurer, the process of opening the bank account had begun.
- A Consultant had been appointed to help put the plan together.
- A website was being put together and a logo designed (domain name mfmplan.org)
- The formal launch date is 25th October, to be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, although the actual programme for the day was not yet planned.
- Volunteers are still required, and hopes that both events will encourage more people to come forward.

The following queries were raised following Cllr Sensier's report:

- Can they review the Plan over 'x' amount of years, in the same way as the Local Authority review their plan?

- How much does the Parish Council need to put aside in the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan for 2015-2016?

Following the request by the Steering group for an initial figure of £1,000 from each Parish Council to get started, Cllr Thomas proposed, and Cllr Hammond seconded, release of these funds.

14.131 NPPF PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Cllr Timms reported on his participation in the above forum in London. Clive Betts had chaired the event, assisted by Kevin McDonald an MP from Cambridge. He had been disappointed to discover that less than ten Parish Councils were represented at the discussion, and that it was primarily environmentalists, pressure group representatives and “NIMBY’s”. He commented that he was surprised to learn that only 18 local authorities currently have Local Plans in place, and added that we should be thankful that EHDC have worked so hard to put theirs in place. The main issues that arose were, lack of infrastructure, developments in the wrong places, density and design. It was also suggested that localism was not working and concerns raised that the New Homes Bonus was ring-fenced. The summary report from the event had just been issued and it was agreed to circulate the report to all Councillors for information. There are an additional few weeks to add any further comments, but this had not been publicised.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Timms for attending on the Parish Council’s behalf.

14.132 “STOREY’S SANCTUARY”

It was agreed by the Chairman, upon request, that this item be moved up the Agenda, as per Standing Order 6.5. The minute is left in the correct order.

Following concerns raised in the open session at the Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 3rd September, and subsequent visit to the area the next day, the Agenda item was to discuss what had taken place and agree if any further action should be taken by the Parish Council. However, following attendance at this meeting by the residents involved, and the Chairman’s agreement to close the meeting to allow the residents to speak, it was quickly apparent, by the exchanges between the residents and the Parish Council, that this is still an extremely emotive issue and it was not possible, under these circumstances, for the Parish Council to discuss any legal or financial aspects in this forum. Cllr Timms requested that this item continue in closed session, as per Standing Order 28.1, the Chairman agreed. The closed session took place at the end of meeting, to enable the rest of the meeting to continue as scheduled.

14.133 TRAFFIC SURVEYS

In Cllr Brakes’s absence, the Clerk advised the members that Cllr Brake had been going to request Council’s approval to instigate various traffic survey’s around the village, but needed approval on cost. However in the meantime, following intervention by Cllr Kemp Gee, HCC had agreed to conduct these surveys at their cost and we just had to advise on the locations. It was agreed to request, in addition to the proposed locations, the roads around the school.

The Clerk also confirmed that the SLR’s had been ordered and we were now just awaiting delivery.

14.134 PARISH NOTICES AND CORRESPONDENCE FOR RESPONSE

A list of items of correspondence received were circulated with the Agenda, the following items required response:

- Permission for use of the Recreation Ground for the Village Picnic Sunday 14th June (28th June wet weather date). AGREED

- Permission requested by Four Marks Care to use Oak Green for a recruitment/awareness drive on Saturday 8th November. AGREED
- Request by Victim Support for a grant/donation. It was AGREED to award a grant of £50 as the previous year.
- Request by CPRE Hampshire for a donation. It was AGREED to award a grant of £50 as the previous year.
- It was AGREED to add the project proposal ‘Scheme to enhance recruitment of Parish Councillors at the next election’ as a future Agenda item, following the presentation at the HALC conference.

14.135 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

To receive reports from Council Representatives not previously on agenda, as appropriate:

- a) Allotments; following a recent meeting, Cllr Howsego confirmed that all plots were taken, with 3 people on the waiting list and confirmed that the bees are doing well.
- b) Benian’s Committee; next scheduled meeting is on 18th Sept, Cllr Turner confirmed he would attend on the Parish Council’s behalf and report back accordingly.
- c) EHAPTC, Cllr Hickman had attended the previous meeting, however was not in attendance, so was unable to provide a report. However a summary had already circulated by the Clerk.
- d) Festival Committee. Cllr Hammond confirmed that the War Memorial unveiling was discussed in detail and 2 plans for the event (wet and dry) were in place. It was confirmed the event takes place on Sunday 9th November at 2.50pm. Cllr Foster confirmed that Rev Howard Wright had already been approached to say a few words about Pat Seward at the same event.
- e) Footpaths; Cllr Timms confirmed that finally the overgrowth had diminished and that there would be one final cut.
- f) Oak Green; Cllr Foster confirmed that a discussion had taken place over the failing sleeper beds and would be an Agenda item for the next open space committee to discuss action. However our contractor had been busy clearing and tidying the beds as well as his usual clearing up work.
- g) Youth Project; the clerk was in the process of preparing a document to request quotations for the new building, so we can approach EHDC for Developers Contributions. The Clerk confirmed that the pavilion had not been demolished as we had been let down by the asbestos removal company and that she was now having to source a different supplier. Cllr Howsego asked that it be noted that, following the concerns he had raised initially over using more than contractor, the cheapest option not being the best way and this was a valuable lesson learned for the future.
- i) Village Hall, nothing to report from the recent meeting.

14.136 NEXT MEETING:

- Planning Committee - Wednesday 1st October 2014, 7.30pm
- Open Space Committee - Wednesday 1st October 2014, to follow planning
- Full Council - Wednesday 15th October 2014, 7.30pm

14.137 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05 pm

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Chairman

District Councillors report 15th August to 15th September 2014

Whilst August has generally been a lovely quiet month we have still our share of planning excitements. The residents of Boyneswood Road and Friars Oak have continued to search for ways to oppose the planning committee decision on Friars Oak. Our MP Damian Hinds wrote to the Department of Communities and Local Government which resulted in the application at Friars Oak being put on hold. So we now have a situation where EHDC cannot issue the full planning permission until the Department has decided whether or not they wish to examine the details of the application further – which would then mean an Inspector would consider the application and decide whether or not permission should be given, so we are in limbo with that site at the moment. I have spoken to EHDC Officers about it and in their opinion it may not be decided until after next year's election which is very unsettling for everybody.

We have had a decision on the land north of the telephone exchange in Lymington Bottom Road – locally known better as the pig farm at the crossroads – the application to build 22 houses was refused. There was much concern about the state of the site when the committee visited the site so perhaps it is now time for the site to be cleared up.

Damian Hinds, Mark Kemp-Gee and I had a meeting with Derek Seaton to discuss the possibility of the post office reopening in Four Marks. We all find it very frustrating that there is a suitable place to open a Post Office, people who want to use it and yet we have made very little progress. With the rising population there is surely enough business to support Post Offices in both Medstead and Four Marks.

The Neighbourhood Plan steering committee continue to make progress in spite of their difficulties in getting answers to some questions they are planning a launch event on the 25th October from 10am-4 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Four Marks. Please put the date in your diary as it is important to go along and find out more – this is the future of our community.

The liaison committee for the Charles Church site is still working to ensure that the developer abides by the commitments made when their planning permission was agreed. From the number of problems the need for close communications has become essential and for any future development sites I will endeavour to ensure that similar liaison committees are formed.

The lunch club has purchased a new freezer which enables them to serve ice cream without having to send somebody off to the shop half way through the service. They are a wonderfully organised and cheerful team doing an outstanding job, so I am very pleased that a small grant has made life slightly easier. I still have money in my councillor grant pot so if you have a need of money to fund a small project which will benefit our communities please contact me. I wish everybody patience and shorter delays than we expect with the closures on the A31 to improve the pipeworks. As ever if I can be of assistance in any way please contact me.

Ingrid Thomas

Cllr for Four Marks and Medstead – 01420 561552.