

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 18th June 2014, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr J Foster (Chair) Cllrs T Brake, J Hammond, A Hickman, W Howsego, S Sensier, I Thomas (for part), B Timms, A Tomlinson
ATTENDING: S Goudie, Clerk, 4 members of the public
APOLOGIES: Cllr Turner, Cllr Thomas (for part)

14.94 OPEN SESSION

David Hutchison from Pegasus presented proposals for a potential development for up to 45 houses on land to the rear of 131 Winchester Road.

Some questions were posed following the presentation as follows:

1. Why do you propose to build 3 storey properties when the village does not want them? *Answer; because the Barratts development has them.* It was pointed out that other developments have proposed them but they have been removed or changed to 2 ½ storey upon objection and that it is irrelevant that they would be sensitively located or that the Local Authority don't object. They do not fit with the village theme that Four Marks is trying so hard to keep.
2. Can the local services take this development and do we know that when financial contributions have been given for improvements to infrastructure from previous developments that they have been implemented? *Answer: not known, but contributions will be made where necessary.*
3. Will the roads be made to adoptable standard even though the proposed access through Lapwing Way is not, and is there agreement by the owners of Lapwing Way that in can be used as the main access? *Answer; they will be made to the appropriate standard and the understanding is that there is a legal agreement in place.*
4. Will an accurate traffic survey be undertaken and done at the appropriate times of day? *Answer; it would not be worth the developers not undertaking an accurate and appropriate survey.*

Mr Hutchison was thanked for his presentation.

Mr Neil Bonter, the new Chairman of Streetwatch, then provided a brief report on the current Streetwatch activities and, due to the lack of funding, requested a financial commitment from the Parish Council. When questioned he confirmed that they would like the Parish Council to commit to an amount of £250 for a three year period as a contribution towards their Insurance costs (currently costing £500 per annum), which they now have to fund themselves. Mr Bonter was questioned over membership numbers, which he confirmed had dropped but that they were actively trying to recruit new members, to enable increased patrols. The Parish Council confirmed that this was an Agenda Item and would be discussed later in the meeting. Mr Reg Pullen suggested that they also contact the Community Plan committee who may also be able to assist with some funding, and Mr Bonter was also advised to contact the District Councillor.

Mr Pullen advised the meeting that the Speedwatch team had been conducting two sessions per week, identifying Telegraph Lane as being the biggest problem area. Mr Pullen confirmed that, further to Cllr Hammond's query, they now have permission to use the equipment on the A31 without being accompanied by the Police. Mr Pullen also asked the Clerk the current situation with the SLR signs, who confirmed that there was no update. It was agreed that both the Clerk and Mr Pullen would send chasing emails now involving Cllr Kemp Gee in an attempt to move things along.

The Open session concluded at 8.20pm. Standing Orders were applied.

The Chairman asked the members if they had any objections to changing the order of the Agenda as the District Councillor was delayed. There were none.

14.95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Turner. Cllr Thomas sent her apologies and wouldn't be in attendance until later in the meeting.

14.96 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Hickman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed on to the Council.

14.97 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declaration of interests.

14.98 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Wednesday 9th April 2014**, previously circulated, were approved in principle prior to their adoption at the next APM.
- The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 21st May 2014**, previously circulated, following the addition of a missing word, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising.

14.99 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Cllr Tomlinson, who chaired both the Planning Committee and the Open Space Committee for the meetings held on Wednesday 4th June 2014, reported that there was nothing further to add to the Minutes that had previously been circulated.

14.100 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The formal audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014, following a query over a sentence in the Assets by Cllr Foster, subsequently clarified by the Clerk, were approved, proposed by Cllr Timms, seconded by Cllr Sensier, and signed by the Chairman.
- The Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement 2013/2014 (Annual Return) was approved for submission to the Audit Commission, proposed by Cllr Timms, seconded by Cllr Howsego and signed by the Chairman.
- The Income and Expenditure accounts for the months ending 30th April and 31st May 2014 were approved, proposed by Cllr Timms and seconded by Cllr Howsego. The Clerk confirmed that the incorrect date on the heading of the summary sheet had been amended.

14.101 PARISH NOTICES AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Cllr Hickman agreed to become the Parish Council's Rural Sounding Board representative, Clerk to forward the relevant email with contact details.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council should have a Parish Council Transport Representative, however it was questioned as to whether the representation had to be a

Council member and as such, if it could be an appointed non-council member, then the ideal candidate would be Mr Reg Pullen. The meeting was closed to ask Mr Pullen if he was amenable to this request. The Clerk agreed to email the relevant contact to clarify, and forward any information to Mr Pullen as necessary.

- It was RESOLVED to award Streetwatch a 3 year grant of £250 per year providing they were still active.
- The Clerk reported the salient points on the recent Brislands Lane Liaison meeting, in that Charles Church had agreed to resurface Uplands Lane at a convenient point, the new junction layout was being revisited due to numerous complaints, and that contractors were being vigorously monitored and not allowed to access Brislands Lane at any time other than that designated, and contractors not adhering to the request will be refused access.
- Cllr Turner's proposal to organise a Parish Council team event was approved, however it was felt that it would be an inappropriate use of Parish Council funds and should be paid for by the participants.
- Additional points on other correspondence:
 - The Clerk confirmed that Mr Dance had queried ownership, and therefore responsibility, of the stairs and flat walkways at Oak Green. The Clerk confirmed she was in the process of checking the land ownership, however the relevant paperwork needs to be retrieved from storage.
 - Cllr Hickman agreed to do a report on his attendance at the recent CPRE Solar Farm event.
- Late correspondence:
 - Email from the Police Commissioner, re: funding for Speedwatch. **It was agreed to see if there were funds available retrospectively or for further equipment.**
 - Email from the CLG department in Parliament, re the NPPF Consultation inviting a participant to attend a discussion forum on the 1ST September, at Portcullis House Westminster at 3.30pm. **Cllr Timms asked to attend on behalf of Four Marks Parish Council.**
- Planning Application: Reference: 20171/021
Pre Decision Amendment. Four dwellings with associated access, land beside the former Windmill Inn, 30 Winchester Road.

OBJECTION:

Four Marks Parish Council object to the pre decision amendment. The issues that initially raised concern do not appear to have been fully addressed, and in fact, exacerbated.

- The site is still over-developed, and one property has increased in size, from 3 bed to 4 bed, not the housing type this area requires and the change in layout gives a more cramped effect.
- There still has been no consultation with neighbouring properties
- Whilst there is an additional parking bay, there is now an additional bedroom, so effectively no increase in parking, and still no provision for visitors parking
- The proposed new exit onto the already over-burdened A31, even with modifications, the refuse collection still has to be made on the main road, as the vehicle sweep clearly shows it will not easily accommodate any type of large vehicle.

Four Marks Parish Council have received numerous complaints over the parking of construction traffic for the development the other side of this site, on the side roads and blocking pavements, and would like to ask that, should permission be granted, there is a condition that all construction traffic has to park on site at all times.

Cllr Thomas joined the meeting.

14.102 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The District Councillor's report had been circulated and is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Thomas added the following to her report:

She had been advised by the legal department at EHDC that a resident of Gloucester Close had attempted to register with Land Registry a piece of designated Open Space known as Storey's Sanctuary and had been advised that the Parish Council had the right to object. She added that he had advised that the Parish Council should register all pieces of land that they own.

It was RESOLVED to register all land owned by the Parish Council with the Land Registry. Clerk to contact Nick Leach at EHDC for assistance.

Cllr Thomas also confirmed that she had been advised by EHDC that there was money available for the new Youth building, but was unsure as to how much.

Cllr Hammond questioned the District Councillor with his concerns over the answer to a question he had posed earlier during a developer presentation, which was that any large developments would be considered for permission, over and above the agreed 175, providing that they were sustainable, as the District had a shortfall in their 5 year land supply. Cllr Thomas reassured the members that this was not the case and once the 175 had been reached, the Local Authority would have grounds for refusal for that reason. He also asked for an update on developer applications. Cllr Thomas confirmed that Friars Oak was to be on the Agenda for next week's Planning Committee meeting, she confirmed that it will be recommended for approval, however had been advised on grounds for objection. Cllr Brake asked the Clerk to apply to EHDC for a 3 minute slot to speak on this application.

Cllr Thomas confirmed that following a meeting at EHDC with the developer at Barn Lane, further amendments to the layout were being made, and that the Medstead Beechlands development was the next application likely to go to Committee and that there were delays on both the Lymington Bottom (next to the Village Hall) and the Blackberry Lane applications.

14.103 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CONSULATION

It was agreed to respond to the Consultation with the query on the fact that there is no table showing the CIL amount payable should the Parish have a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

14.104 TRAFFIC STATS AND SPEED SURVEYS

Cllr Brake advised the members that no road traffic surveys had been undertaken recently and requested that the Parish Council ask HCC to carry out up to date analysis. The roads for this request would be: Blackberry Lane, Telegraph Lane, A31, in two sites, Lapwing Way & The Shrave, and Lymington Bottom. It was also suggested that the Clerk liaise with the Clerk of Medstead Parish Council to see if they would like to undertake a similar request for a survey in both Lymington Bottom Road and Boyneswood Road.

Cllr Brake was asked if there was any news on the extension of the 30mph limit in Telegraph Lane or any change to Alton Lane, he confirmed he had not heard but would contact Cllr Kemp Gee for an update.

14.105 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

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

- a) Allotments; Cllr Howsego advised that the allotments had recently been broken into, and a request had been made to fence the bottom end. The Clerk confirmed she was seeking quotes for the additional fencing.
- b) Benian's Committee. The Clerk attended on Cllr Brakes behalf and put forward a request from the Benian's Committee to contribute 50% of the cost of the provision

of Broadband at the Pavilion. It was RESOLVED to agree to their request. The Clerk also advised that they would be putting together proposals to extend for presentation to the Parish Council in due course, but in the interim a request had been made to paint the brick walls white in the main room, this was being looked into.

- c) EHAPTC, no report as Cllr Turner, who attended the meeting, was absent.
- d) Festival Committee. The Committee were holding their AGM this evening, with the regular meeting to follow, he confirmed that the Village Picnic was on the Agenda. Cllr Hammond took the opportunity to remind members that the Picnic was taking place this Sunday, 22 June at Uplands Lane Recreation Ground.
- e) Footpaths. Cllr Timms advised that the paths were very overgrown but being attended to, Cllr Tomlinson raised concerns over stiles not being 'dog friendly' Cllr Timms agreed to investigate.
- f) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Sensier advised of a very poor turnout at the last meeting, but hoped that the proposed stands at both the Village Picnic and Medstead fete would re-ignite enthusiasm, there was a steering group meeting the following week, together with a meeting at Penns Place, and hopefully there would be something more positive to report at the next meeting.
- g) Oak Green, nothing to report.
- h) Youth Project, Cllr Thomas informed members that a Portacabin had been offered for the proposed youth milk bar. It was agreed that the Parish Council should accept the offer, with the possible siting of it on the area of the old pavilion when demolished.
- i) Village Hall, meeting next month.
- j) Website, Cllr Sensier advised the members that initial meetings had been held and that 4 different options were being looked into, these would be presented in full at the next Full Council meeting.

14.106 NEXT MEETING:

Planning Committee - Wednesday 2nd July 2014, 7.30pm
Finance & GP Committee – Wednesday 2nd July 2014, to follow planning
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 16th July 2014, 7.30pm, Village Hall

14.107 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm

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Chairman

District Councillor's July report

For some time I have been trying to arrange for lights controlled crossings to be installed at each end of the village to safeguard our children crossing for school buses and all other residents. With the help of Mark Kemp-Gee our ever busy County Councillor and Damian Hinds our MP a meeting was arranged at which it was agreed that two crossings would be installed; one at the end of Telegraph Lane before the end of 2014 this one taking priority because of the Writers Way (a new circular walk that will pass through Four Marks and Medstead and be opened soon) The other between Goldcrest and Lapwing Ways, this one to be installed by next summer. We hope to see surveyors and engineers on site very soon. It is lovely to be able to report something positive being done to help with road safety in our villages.

Sadly the same cannot be said about some of the housing application sites we are awaiting decisions on. It is not good enough to have virtual footpaths anywhere and then claim it will make walking in the road safer! Several applications are still held up in the planning system because of these ideas. A virtual footpath round Trinity Hill with blind bends is asking for accidents to happen, and because of the perceived danger people will use their cars making nonsense of the sustainable walking residents idea. The virtual footpath over BOyneswood Road Bridge has similar problems, local people know that the bridge is not wide enough and the sight lines are poor so only cross the bridge on foot when essential. These plans would of course be fine if all other factors were virtual too!

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee of which I am now a member looked at how the Planning Department is managing to cope with the huge influx of applications. Julia Potter (Executive head of Planning Development and Policy) answered questions on how the department was recruiting and retaining staff to ensure that the team would soon be back at full strength.

The Planning Panel has decided to look closely at how the Planning Committee is organised, we will be considering issues such as should the number of speakers invited to make a presentation to the committee be increased when applications are very large? Should the number of members on the committee be increased? Should major major applications of which there are several in the pipeline be heard separately and at a longer meeting? These questions are being considered in order to ensure that the Planning Committee is operating competently. Councillors are also being encouraged to attend all training sessions whether they are on the committee or not as the information is vital in the current situation.

Whilst on the subject of planning our Neighbourhood Plan team are now beginning the work which will be so important to us all. Many thanks to all the volunteers and lets hope the project makes good speed, I will offer any help I can and hope that other residents will come forward to assist in this project too.

We are still waiting for several of our large housing application sites to get to committee stage, the hold up has been caused by the huge amount of work the Officers have to do on each application and the time it takes to get more information back from the applicants. By the time you read this it is possible that the one or more may have been decided, let us hope that if permissions are given the builders show considerable respect to local residents and do not attempt to evade conditions set. The problems continue with the Charles Church site in Brislands Lane where a driver managed to cut the only electric cable to cross the site and caused a power cut to hundreds of homes.

I would like to thank Byran Timms for all his years as Chairman of Four Marks Parish Council and the many projects he has steered to completion. Of course he is staying on the PC for the moment so we are not

losing his input! I would like to welcome Paul Turner as the new Parish Council Chairman with his new Vice Chair Janet Foster, I am looking forward to working with them and wish them well. Medstead Parish Council team are carrying on and I hope to be of continuing use to them too. The working together ethos that now exists can only be of benefit to both Parishes.

Finally I would just like to pass on a couple of comments I have heard recently relating to what friendly places to live Four Marks and Medstead are. New people like being talked to in shops, like our ways and are pleased to be in our villages – something to be proud of!

As ever if I can be of assistance to you please contact me.

Ingrid Thomas

Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead

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Unadopted