

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee Held on Wednesday 1st October 2014, commencing at 8.50pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

Members Present: Cllrs J Foster (Acting Chair), Cllrs Brake and Howsego
Attending: S Goudie (Clerk),
Apologies: Cllr A Tomlinson

OPEN SESSION:

Due to a number of issues that had arisen subsequent to the Agenda being issued, it was agreed to discuss them in the Open Session.

The Clerk advised the members that there were grants available to upgrade footpaths, and it was agreed to speak to the footpaths officer and see if there were any works that needed to be done.

The Clerk also informed the members that an offer had been received for the mowers and machinery and that the sale of the equipment, if agreed, would mean the open space contractors using their own mower, which would increase costs. However it would still be cheaper than maintaining, repairing and the inevitable depreciation of the equipment should we decide to keep it. The decision, due to the amount of money involved, it was agreed should be taken at Full Council.

Cllr Foster asked if we could replace the Four Marks flag as it was becoming very threadbare. It was felt that perhaps it was the time to change the design of the FM flag, and the Clerk agreed to approach the school to see if they would like to hold a competition to change the design. It was agreed though to give a brief of only 3 colours and a simple design for ease of producing, and ask the District Councillor to judge the competition.

Cllr Howsego asked the committee to consider purchasing some new Christmas lights and decorations and it was also agreed that the lights on the tower need to be more accessible to switch on and off but still vandal proof. It was agreed that this issue, plus arrangements for the Christmas tree and light switch on, should be on the next Full Council Agenda.

Open session closed at 9.00pm, Standing Orders were applied.

14.31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tomlinson.

14.32 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Tomlinson had agreed to continue as Chair at the previous meeting unelected, however in her absence at this meeting, Cllr Foster agreed to chair the meeting.

14.33 MINUTES

- As Cllr Tomlinson was the only member present at both the committee meetings on Wednesday 4th June and Wednesday 6th August 2014, it was agreed that both sets of minutes would need to be agreed at the Full Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 15th October 2014.

- **Matters Arising:**

The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet managed to register the relevant portions of land with Land Registry, but would do so as soon as possible.

Full Council had agreed to the location of the Lymington Bottom triangle for Pat Seward's memorial bench, Cllr Tomlinson had written to the relatives for approval, but was not at the meeting to confirm. The Clerk is liaising with the Rotary Club to decide location of the benches.

The Clerk confirmed she had had another approach from the developer who had put the application in for the development of the land to the rear of 131 Winchester Road, to ask if the Parish Council would be interested in taking on the Woodland and she had confirmed not at this time or with the application as it stands. Diana Tennyson had sent an email raising extreme concern with development of this area due to the wildlife activity.

The Clerk confirmed that the trees had now been crown lifted on the Pine Road open space by EHDC.

No graffiti had been found where reported, and the railings were noted to be bent, but not broken, Clerk to contact highways to see if they can be repaired or replaced.

14.27 ONGOING ISSUES/PROJECT UPDATES:

- Cemetery. The Clerk confirmed that all was well, and the open space contractors were now cutting the hedges. Consecration of the new portion would be arranged once the land had been registered with Land Registry.
- Swelling Hill Pond. All looking good, except that the memorial plaque had been removed from the new bench. The owners were aware.
- Badger Close. The knotweed has been sprayed and the dead tree in the dell, one in the North run would be removed this month, and the orchard strimmed.
- Kingswood Copse. The knotweed and bracken had been sprayed, and the coppicing was looking good, although concern had been raised about too many footpaths in the area, only the original paths to be strimmed next year and the new ones formed left to return to natural undergrowth where possible. Diana Tennyson had raised concerns about dog fouling, the Clerk confirmed that there was a new sign (awaiting collection) asking people to clear up their rubbish but that they couldn't really be expected to clear up dog fouling unless it was on the footpaths themselves and causing an issue.
- Recreation Ground. The playground fence had been vandalised but had already been repaired. The clerk confirmed she had received a complaint about holes by where the goal posts are situated, the football club had been informed and were looking into it. The electricity has been disconnected from the old pavilion, the bowls club now have their own supply and the floodlights should be connected to the new pavilion imminently. It was also discussed that Mr Gibson, who had done a good job on the cemetery works, should be added to our preferred list of contractors, and approached for similar works if required.
- Windmill Fields. Reports of anti-social behaviour are still being received but it was hoped that now the evenings are drawing in, this would naturally cease. A fallen tree had been removed and the occupant of the property had recently carried out a good deal of tree maintenance work which had completely opened up the footpath and had been very well received. There was a complaint however of loose paving slabs, and the clerk agreed to get them checked out.

14.28 NEW ISSUES

- Oak Green flower beds. The sleepers were rotting and a proposal needs to be put together to either renew or repair. The Clerk agreed to contact the landscape contractors to see if there was any redress. The Cherry Tree situated at entrance to

the car park is diseased and needs to be removed. Clerk to investigate a sensible replacement, something potentially slow growing with minimal root spread. Cllr Foster also expressed concern over the wooden legs of the bus shelter going directly into concrete and investigations should be undertaken on their safety. Contact to be made with the company who installed to discuss options. Cllr Foster also asked it to be minuted how pleased the Committee are with the good work that Eddie Hodkin was carrying out both in keeping the area clean and tidy and now tidying the beds.

- Lymington Bottom triangle. Two new benches to be installed with flower bed (which will be tended by the Rotary Club). The strimming of the footpath had been undertaken as a gesture of good faith, as numerous complaints had been received, the occupants were now aware of their responsibilities. It was agreed to purchase a new bin and organise the emptying of it by the contractor who empties Oak Green. Residents had also raised concerns over the continual parking and dropping off of school children in the morning blocking the entrance. Not Parish Council responsibility but suggest they contact Highways and ask for access protection lines.
- Land to the South of 4-5 Gloucester Close. The Clerk confirmed that legal advice was being taken over the possibility of acquiring possessory title and taking legal responsibility for the land in a bid to prevent any future development.

14.29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd December 2014, venue to be confirmed, to follow Planning Committee.

14.30 Meeting closed at 9.50pm

.....

Chairman