

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 26th November 2014, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

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

ATTENDING: S Goudie, Clerk, Ms Gail Allen (Age Concern) Mr Reg Pullen, and 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES: None

14.150 OPEN SESSION

Gail Allen attended the meeting on behalf of Age Concern, and informed the members of their current project to identify and recruit locally based volunteers, known as Village Agents, and asked for the Parish Council's help in attempting to find suitable candidates for this directional role. Full details were circulated and it was agreed to publicise their campaign as widely as possible. It was also suggested she contacted Four Marks News and Medstead Parish Council.

Reg Pullen advised the members that he had managed to raise enough funds to purchase 4 defibrillators for the Village, he advised of the proposed locations, although some concern was raised over the prospect of vandalism if installed outside. The Clerk was asked to contact the Parish Council's Insurance Company for details of additional costs to cover the equipment, and Medstead Parish Council to agree to the installation in a location in their Parish.

Mr Pullen asked the Parish Council to purchase the defibrillators and take over ownership and maintenance of the equipment, which he confirmed should be minimal. He was advised that this would be discussed and a decision made under the late correspondence agenda item.

The Chairman, on behalf of both the Parish Council and District Councillor thanked Mr Pullen for all his efforts.

Mr Buckle asked if the Agenda item no. 14 could be brought forward, as he had an interest in this item. He was informed that this was to be discussed under a closed session and therefore public would be excluded as detailed on the Agenda. Mr Whitehead also had the same request, and wanted clarity as to why this was to be held under a closed session. He was advised that due to the nature of the content to be discussed, there was justification to hold it under a closed session.

The Open session concluded at 7.50 pm. Standing Orders were applied.

14.151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

14.152 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

14.153 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 15th October 2014**, previously circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and signed by the Chairman.

- There were no matters arising.

14.154 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 5th November had been circulated, the Planning Committee Chair had nothing further to report, but referred to an item raised in the Open Session with reference to changing the name of the Parish Council to Community Council, and asked for this to be a future Agenda item.
- The minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on Wednesday 5th November had been circulated, the F&GP Chair reported that all items raised were further on this Agenda for decision and confirmed that we had received our Interim Audit report, which had gone well, but had raised some recommendations.

14.155 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Income and Expenditure Accounts for both 2nd Quarter ending 30th September and the month ending 31st October 2014 had been circulated, they were approved and proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Foster and seconded by Cllr Timms.

14.156 2015-2016 BUDGET

The Clerk presented the proposed budget as set out by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The budget breakdown and the recommendation to keep the Precept at £80,000 for the following financial year was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson and agreed by the Council.

Cllr Thomas raised the issue of potential CIL income, which had not been referred to in the budget, although it was felt that one could not budget for this income as it was not possible to predict how many houses would be built. However the Clerk agreed to contact Kevin Harlow at EHDC for clarification.

14.157 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

To receive reports from Council Representatives:

- Allotments; Cllr Howsego confirmed there were currently 2 vacant plots.
- Benian's Committee; next meeting is to be held on 15th January 2015.
- EHAPTC; Cllr Hickman agreed to represent Four Marks PC at the meeting on 3rd December, but offered his apology for the Planning Committee meeting.
- Festival Committee; No meeting had been held since the unveiling, but had expressed delight in its success, and gratitude to everyone involved.
- Footpaths; Cllr Timms reported that the landowners had been contacted following concerns over broken stiles raised at the previous meeting. The stile had since been made safe. Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Timms if we could request an official public footpath from The Shrave to Weathermore Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Timms would liaise on this issue and arrange a meeting with the HCC Rights of Way officer.
- Neighbourhood Plan; The Open day was held on 24th October, with over 200 people attending. There had been no feedback from the workshop as yet, and the steering group currently were not getting together. Cllr Sensier expressed his concern that they were already slipping behind with questionnaire, which puts the completion date in jeopardy. He confirmed that the first grant application had been successful, and may ultimately reduce precept usage. The question was raised as to who the questionnaire would be distributed by, Cllr Thomas confirmed that this could be done, together with a reply paid service, by EHDC, and that they should contact John Geoghegan in Community Services. Cllr Thomas also reminded Cllr Sensier that grants were also available from the District Councillor, and County Councillor, Mark Kemp Gee.
- Oak Green; Cllr Foster confirmed that the Christmas tree would be delivered and decorated on Monday, and thanked the Festival Committee for the donation for the

purchase of new lights. It was suggested that a picture was taken and sent to the Alton Herald.

- Youth Building/Old Pavilion; Cllr Timms confirmed that quotes for a basic price had been received and it was agreed that he and the Clerk would put together a proposal for the District Councillor to present to the District Council with a request for funds to get the project underway.
- Village Hall; Cllr Sensier confirmed that he had asked the Village Hall Committee to correct to the clock in the Small Hall.
- Website; Cllr Sensier advised the members that there was more information that he still wished to add and asked whether we should now approach companies to see if they wish to advertise. It was agreed to make this an Agenda item for a future meeting.

14.158 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

"This month has been notable for many reasons.

We now have a War Memorial for the village of Four Marks which was unveiled in the presence of a many villagers. In time there will be seats and a Memorial garden which is being donated and then later maintained by the Rotary Club. It will be a pleasant place for reflection.

We also had the first public consultation and presentations by the Neighbourhood Plan group, they have done a sterling job so far and are contributing so much to the future and how our villages will develop and change over the next years. There are already spin offs with developers realising that talking to the residents and the Plan group is a sensible way to interact with the villages. It would be fantastic if in the future we were properly consulted and listened to. A group of Medstead residents seem to be making progress with discussions with a developer there so we hope those plans will work for the benefit of the village and be satisfactory to all.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan would have done an allocations plan for Four Marks had there been time before the allocated numbers were given permission, it will be involved in choosing sites for Medstead Village as numbers for the "villages North of the South Downs National Park" have not yet been decided. There was a very interesting meeting with the consultant employed by the Plan group who was encouraging us to look at how we would like to see the villages grow and what we would like to see happen to our space. Listening to an outsider looking objectively at the area on a map was very enlightening - wouldn't it be wonderful to choose where we have a large area of open space!

Now that I am on the planning committee I have spent several very long sessions looking at sites in other places in East Hampshire. I have always believed there should be site visits for all major or controversial sites which is happening, looking at the ground means so much more than photographs. Although we are the first place to have met our allocation other towns and villages are also being deluged by applications.

At the planning committee on the 30th October the site at Noah's Ark in Telegraph Lane was refused and at the same meeting the site at the Sinc site on Winchester Road was deferred as the numbers were significantly reduced, although of course both application sites were once again asking to increase our allocated number. Whilst 175 was a minimum number of course that does not mean that there can be no maximum number, as the Inspector of the JCS clearly stated.

We had our first Appeal against the decision to refuse an application to build 51 houses off Beechlands Road in Medstead. This Appeal was in the form of a Hearing so the Inspector allowed all who wanted to speak or make points to be heard. His decision should be made within about six weeks so we have a long wait. We all worked hard on our evidence and hope the Appeal will be dismissed which would be good for our villages. Many thanks are due to Roy Pullen and Peter Fenwick of Medstead Parish Council for all their work before and during the hearing. It was good to see so many Parish Councillors and residents take the time to show the Inspector how important his decision is to us. The next Appeal is likely to be by Cala Homes for their site in Lymington Bottom Road, all will be welcome to attend but we do not yet know the format or date.

The plans seem to be advancing well for the puffin crossing on the A31 at Telegraph Lane end of the village which has finished its consultation period and so hopefully will soon be installed. The crossing for the other end of the village should follow. Highways department are also soon to install a footpath along Lymington Bottom Road, this is being specially designed to look more rural than an average road pathway.

This month I have had an application from Four Marks School for some cllr grant money to help fund a garden for the children to grow vegetables but I do still have some money left in the pot so please do apply if you have a community project in need of some funds. Maurice also has some funds left I believe.

As ever if I can be of assistance please contact me and I will do my best to help."

- The District Councillor requested the use of the Parish Office two Friday's a month for surgeries, this was proposed by Cllr Hickman, seconded by Cllr Sensier and agreed unanimously.

14.159 PARISH NOTICES, GRANT REQUESTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- The request for the Annual Village Hall grant was approved, proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Brake, and agreed.
- The request for an annual grant for the Benian's Committee for 50% share of provision of broadband was approved, proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Sensier, and agreed.
- The request for temporary hire of the Cricket ground by Tichborne Cricket Club was proposed by Cllr Timms, seconded by Cllr Thomas, and agreed in principle.
- It was RESOLVED to support Selborne Parish Council's request to write to Alton Police over the misuse of the BOATs by motorcycles.
- It was RESOLVED to purchase new accounting software including risk assessment calculation software, following a trial to assess its suitability.
- It was RESOLVED to agree the request by Alton Lions to use Oak Green Parade for occasional Craft markets, following their presentation last month, and it was agreed that they should liaise with Cllr Foster over suitability, retaining the right to withdraw the permission if deemed necessary.

Late correspondence:

- It was RESOLVED that, following circulation of a claim received by the Parish Clerk for damage which occurred to a car using Uplands Lane, and subsequent discussions, that the fact that the general public access and use the Recreation Ground (as per the sign at the entrance) at their own risk, the Parish Council could not be held responsible for any damage to property, howsoever caused.

However, it was agreed, following concerns raised over the flooding issue, that the drainage at the Cemetery end of Uplands Lane was clearly inefficient. Cllr Timms presented a proposal which should solve the ongoing problems, thus enabling the Parish Council to commence with the proposed re-surfacing of Uplands Lane. The solution would cost the Parish Council the amount of £1,200. The works as presented were proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Foster, and agreed unanimously.

- It was RESOLVED to agree the proposal for the Puffin Crossing on the Winchester Road by Telegraph Lane.
- It was RESOLVED to agree to the request, made by Mr Reg Pullen, that the Parish Council would purchase the defibrillators, upon receipt of the grant money, and would take ownership of the equipment, and be liable for any future maintenance costs.

The point was raised, however that the equipment to be purchased and installed at Lymington Barn was actually to be located in the Parish of Medstead and it was agreed that the Clerk should receive confirmation from Medstead Parish Council that they agree to the equipment to be installed, and perhaps even contribute in some way to that unit's maintenance costs.

The following items were discussed under closed session, following agreement to resolution, as per Standing Orders, No. 3(d).

14.160 CLERKS REMUNERATION

14.161 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

14.162 LAND TO THE SOUTH OF 4-5 GLOUCESTER CLOSE

14.163 NEXT MEETING:

Planning Committee	Wednesday 3 rd December 2014, 7.30pm, Benian's Pavilion
Open Space Committee	Wednesday 3 rd December 2014, to follow Planning

FULL COUNCIL	Wednesday 21 st January 2015, 7.30pm, Village Hall
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14.164 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm

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Chairman