

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 21 January 2015, 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, Bryan Timms, Anne Tomlinson

ATTENDING: S Goudie, Clerk, Mr Reg Pullen, and 3 additional members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr Thomas

15.01 OPEN SESSION

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed the attendees.

Mr Reg Pullen updated the members on the current Speedwatch situation, and advised that there were two additions to the team. He asked if the Parish Council could provide two additional 'hi viz' jackets, and as the cost was only £25 per set, it was agreed that this did not need to return to Full Council for approval, and that the Clerk could purchase these items under her remit. Clerk to liaise with Mr Pullen.

Mr Pullen also confirmed that the grant money had been received, we were just awaiting funding for one of the four pieces of equipment, once that was received the order would be placed.

He also raised his concerns that the Village Hall was 'well past its sell by date' and would the Parish Council consider entering discussions to rebuild it using Section 106 monies. The Chairman confirmed that there were various options on new buildings to be discussed and that this request would be considered.

Mr Matthew Cottam raised his concerns over the Local plan versus the Neighbourhood Plan, and what could the Parish Council do to ensure that there was clarity and that these documents would be adhered to. It was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan would be a legal document that the District had to take it into account, and that this was the Parish's contribution to the Local Plan.

He also asked if there was a way that the Parish Council could be more astute with their preparation for Appeals. Cllr Brake and Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that errors were always pointed out in our comments, but the point was noted and it was agreed to make this an Agenda item at the next Planning meeting to discuss further.

Mr Simon Shapland have several issues that he wished to raise with the Parish Council, as follows:

He queried the finances of the Neighbourhood Plan and where the funding was coming from. Cllr Sensier advised that the finances were done by the Steering Group and although the Parish Council contributed, the accounts were run by the Steering Group. It was agreed that there should be more information available in interests of being open and transparent and would raise this at the next Steering Group meeting, maybe for publication in the Four Marks News.

Mr Shapland also had concerns over the general state of the pavements around the village and wondered if the Parish Council could intervene. It was confirmed that other than the Clerk reporting the various faults as and when reported, there was not much more that could be done and that the Parish Council has to rely on the residents reporting these issues.

He also asked when the Parish Council were made aware of the purchase of the Coop by EHDC, it was confirmed that the first anyone knew was when the Press Release was issued at the beginning of December, and added that this was an Agenda item to be discussed later.

He also asked why the Developers Contributions received for all the building works were not given directly to Four Marks, as a matter of principle, but held by EHDC, it was agreed that this was a fair point but in reality it was agreed that this would, sadly, never happen.

Mr Shapland was thanked for his input and the Chairman reminded all attendees that elections were coming up and undoubtedly new Councillors would be required.

Mr Pullen also raised the overhanging vegetation outside 5 Lymington Bottom and commented that you could not easily pass. The Clerk agreed to contact the occupiers and asked them cut it back to the edge of the highway boundary.

Cllr Sensier thanked the Parish Council for the flowers sent in remembrance of his wife and for all the messages of condolence.

Cllr Howsego, wanted to advise the members that there had been reports of drug use at the railway station and worse, dealing. There had also been reports of similar activity at the Recreation Ground and it was agreed to contact PCSO Nops with the Parish Council's concerns.

The Chairman thanked the attendees for their participation.

The Open session concluded at 7.55 pm. Standing Orders were applied.

15.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Thomas sent her apologies due to a clash of meetings, but hoped to be able to make part of the meeting, time allowing.

15.03 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

15.04 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 26th November 2014**, previously circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Howsego, and signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising.

15.05 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 and 7th January 2015 had been circulated.
- Cllr Brake questioned the Chairman's decision that, despite the request by 5 Councillors following the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December for a Full Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 7th January 2015, he had not agreed to this request. Standing Order 6.b refers, however it was agreed that although the intended request was formally Minuted, because there was no actual request made in writing to the Chairman by Councillors, that the Standing Order could be misinterpreted and that this slightly grey area should be noted for future reference. The Chairman confirmed his decision that he felt that there would be nothing that could be changed by having to wait an additional two weeks to discuss, but apologised for any misunderstanding of the situation.

Cllr Brake also confirmed that the Planning Application for Glenmore, 27 Lymington Bottom Road was back on the Agenda for the Planning Committee at EHDC next week, but as it was only a request for an extension of time to complete the S106 agreement, that no presence at that meeting was necessary.

15.06 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Finance & GP Committee meeting held on Wednesday 29th October, previously circulated, had not been approved at the meeting held on Wednesday 7th January, as there were not two members who had been in attendance available to ratify and approve them. The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Sensier, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and signed by the Chairman.
- The minutes of the Finance & GP Committee held on Wednesday 7th January 2015, now circulated, contained the following actions for Full Council approval:
 - A minimal increase to the 2015-2016 Precept of £2,000 (2.5%) to cover election costs, which had not previously been accounted for as the information was not available at the time the budget was presented and agreed. The increase was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and carried.
 - It was RESOLVED to acknowledge the national pay increase to the Clerk's pay scale with effect from 1st January 2015, and additional one off gratuitous payment of £100 (pro rata, subject to Tax & NI) in January as set out in national guidelines.
 - It was RESOLVED to adopt the Publication Scheme as per circulated copy.
 - It was RESOLVED to adopt the updated Complaints Procedure as per circulated copy.

15.07 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 had been circulated. There was nothing further to report.
- Allotments; Cllr Howsego confirmed that the last meeting had been postponed, and had been rescheduled for this evening. He advised that he had forwarded the Benian's Committee report to the Committee to pass on concerns that had been raised at the meeting the previous week.
- Footpaths; Cllr Timms reported a large tree down across Footpath 7 from Willis Lane to Alton Lane, which needs to be removed. Although it was acknowledged that it would be the landowner's responsibility to clear, the owner of the land is not known. It was agreed that the landowner needs to be identified, contacted, and asked to address. Clerk to contact rights of way for advice.
- Oak Green; Cllr Foster confirmed that the funds had been received for the new flag, more news on the design at the next meeting. The quotation from Gemini for replacement beds at Oak Green had not yet been received and that she would be ordering the additional Christmas lights that were out of stock prior to Christmas when the other order was placed.

15.08 BENIAN'S COMMITTEE

- The Benian's Committee representative, Cllr Brake, had attended the meeting the previous week and had subsequently circulated his report. He reconfirmed the concerns raised that the Allotments Committee had not been represented at the previous 3 meetings, and a warning should be issued. There had also been a request for them to take their rubbish home or provide adequate facilities within the area and not use the Pavilion bin. The biggest concern were the complaints received over the lack of health and safety responsibility, and general monitoring of the project, during the demolition of the old pavilion, including lighting bonfires and leaving them unattended, lack of protective clothing wear, and no security fencing leaving the site vulnerable. Cllr Tomlinson suggested that this was made an Agenda item for the next Open Space meeting, and a follow up report preparing detailing lessons learned for future projects.

15.09 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

No report.

15.10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Income and Expenditure Accounts for both the month ending 30 November 2014 and 3rd Quarter ending 31st December 2014, previously circulated, were approved as an accurate record by Cllr Timms and seconded by Cllr Howsego .

The Clerk circulated details of the current income and expenditure to date. There were no questions.

15.11 PARISH NOTICES:

There were no queries on the circulation of correspondence.

- Late correspondence. The Clerk circulated details of late correspondence received since the issue of the Agenda. One item was the notification that a reminder email had been received with reference to a FOI request submitted prior to Christmas. The request was for the release of the Closed Session minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November. It was RESOLVED, unanimously, not to release these minutes, as they all contain either personal or legal information covered under the exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act.
- Following a grant request of £500 from Home-Start WeyWater, it was proposed to award a grant of £100 by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and carried.

15.12 EHDC PURCHASE OF THE COOP

It was proposed by Cllr Timms, and seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and agreed unanimously that this item should be deferred to the next Full Council meeting as the District Councillor's attendance is key.

The Chairman agreed to contact the District Councillor to ascertain which of the next meetings should would be able to attend, and advise her that the Parish Council's questions would be sent to her in advance so she is able to ascertain as much information prior to the meeting as possible.

The main areas that need clarification are:

When did negotiations begin with the Fund Management Company to purchase the former Windmill Inn pub?

Were there any potential conflict of interests with any of the planning or change of use applications granted?

What is the position on the sale and ownership of the flats?

Why was the Parish Council not informed at any time prior to the Press Release being issued of the acquisition, when the District were more than aware of the concerns over the loss of the public house?

15.13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hickman formally thanked all those who helped put the Questionnaires into the envelopes, and reported that they are steadily coming in, and to date 236 had been completed on line despite issues with the software.

It was agreed that more information on the Steering Group's finances and grant awards should be made more readily available and agreed a report should be prepared in the future and published in the Four Marks News as appropriate. Cllr Hickman advised on the open days to be held on 21st and 22nd March, and Consultation in April to endorse the final document for referendum in June.

It was confirmed that the group are still struggling for volunteers, particularly the requirement for an Events Organiser.

Finally, Cllr Hickman reminded everyone, if they have not already done so to complete their questionnaires, currently running at a 26% return.

A question was asked on how much is the driving force being done by the Consultant, and Cllr Hickman did confirm that in his opinion, not enough.

15.14 YOUTH BUILDING PROJECT

Cllr Timms had circulated a draft Proposal for comment for the District Councillor to present to EHDC officers in an attempt to get them to agree to reallocate at least a portion of the Developers Contributions from the Charles Church development towards the project. Cllr Tomlinson asked for assurance that these were just potential options not actual proposals. If agreement is reached, then a fundraiser can be employed to build on the allocated funds and get the project underway.

The clerk reported that following the recent Brislands Lane Liaison meeting that Cllr Kemp Gee had confirmed that he would support Cllr Thomas, feeling this would add more weight to the request, and would be contacting her separately.

It was also acknowledged that following comments made in the Open Session, the Village Hall needs rebuilding and it may be that this may be an alternative, or even an additional project for consideration. It was generally felt that the location of the Village Hall should remain in the centre.

15.15 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk requested Councillor's to put forward ideas for speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on Wednesday 8th April 2015.

The following ideas were put forward, and agreed:

With the election looming, and new Councillors are likely to be required, a brief presentation by a current councillors on what the Committees and Parish Council do, with a question and answer session to follow:

"What do you want your Council to do for you?"

"Should the Parish Council change and become a Community Council"?

"What are your priorities for tomorrow?"

It was agreed that a speaker from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be a good idea, particularly as this will follow the Consultation events.

Cllr Hickman to ask Nick Stenning if he would be available to speak.

It was also suggested that the new Police Commissioner, Simon Hayes, is asked if he would be available to speak.

Cllr Timms agreed to contact him.

The Clerk asked the members if they were in agreement to the provision of refreshments, which was approved. The Clerk agreed to ask the Scouts if they would like to provide tea, coffee and biscuits, as part of their fundraising for their new hut.

15.16 NEXT MEETING:

Planning Committee Wednesday 4th February 2015, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Open Space Committee Wednesday 4th February 2015, to follow

Full Council Wednesday 18th February 2015, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Please note that subsequent to the closure of the meeting, it was agreed that the Planning Committee meeting should be re-designated as a Full Council meeting to cover the deferred item.

15.17 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

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Chairman