

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 18th February 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, Wayne Howsego, Steven Sensier, Bryan Timms, Anne Tomlinson

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Hammond, Hickman and Thomas (part)

15.18 OPEN SESSION

Mr Fern asked the Parish Council if there was any update on the installation of the Speed Limit Repeater signs and the proposed Pedestrian crossings. Mr Pullen confirmed, following an email received today, that the equipment has arrived and we are now just awaiting installation and training dates. The District Councillor confirmed in her report that installation works for the first Pedestrian crossing near the junction of Telegraph Lane, will commence first week in March.

Mr Reg Pullen advised the members that the 4 defibrillators had arrived, but that we are still awaiting the heated Cabinets. He also asked if there could be a security light installed above the unit at the Benian's Pavilion, members agreed that this would be a good idea and asked the Clerk to investigate options.

He also confirmed that Speedwatch had been out this week, but had been informed that, certainly in Telegraph Lane, the time to catch the majority of offenders was between 7.00 and 8.00 am. The local constabulary are being kept updated of the findings.

Mr Derek Seaton raised his concerns with reference to the purchase by Sovereign of the affordable housing on the new estate, and expressed his concern over the allocation process. Can the Parish Council or the District Councillor get involved in the allocations process to ensure that first and foremost Four Marks residents get priority regardless of their situation. He referenced the impact that the allocations to families not from the local area has already had on Four Marks, with the increase in crime and abuse of facilities. The Chairman acknowledged his concerns, and agreed to raise it with the District Councillor and noted the urgency as the first houses are due to become available in March.

The Open session concluded at 7.45pm. Standing Orders were applied.

15.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hammond and Hickman, due to half term holidays

Cllr Thomas sent her apologies due to a clash of meetings at EHDC, but hoped to be able to attend later in the meeting.

15.20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest on the Agenda items, however the Chairman, during the discussions with reference to the resurfacing of Uplands Lane, acknowledged that he had instructed one of the contractors and once he realised which was the relevant quote he withdrew from discussions and advised on a technical basis only.

15.21 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 21ST January 2015**, previously circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Foster seconded by Cllr Howsego and signed by the Chairman.
- There were the following matters arising:

Cllr Foster asked for an update on the request for APM speakers. The Clerk confirmed she was still waiting to hear from the Scouts about the teas/coffees. Cllr Timms advised he had approached Simon Hayes' deputy and was awaiting confirmation. As Cllr Hickman was not present, there was no response to the request for Nick Stenning to speak. Cllr Sensier agreed follow up on Cllr Hickman's behalf. The Clerk also advised that she had attended the Councillor recruitment exhibition in Alton, but that there was no suitable promotional material for Parish Council use.

The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to PCSO Nops with reference to the report of increased illegal activities and he confirmed that there had been increased police patrols and arrests. They were also monitoring the byways for off road users.

The Clerk also confirmed that the reported hedge encroachment on Lymington Bottom had been satisfactorily attended to.

Following the Benian's Committee meeting, and reports of excess rubbish, the Clerk confirmed new litter and dog poo bins had been ordered, and a commercial waste bin for the pavilion itself.

15.22 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 4th February 2015 had been circulated. It was agreed to defer further comments until such time as the District Councillor was present to respond to questions on the EHDC acquisition.

The District Councillor joined the meeting at 8.30pm, and following Cllr Brake's refresher of the questions and answers from EHDC, Cllr Thomas was asked when she knew about the purchase. She confirmed that she was made aware at a cabinet meeting on 28th January, but as it was a commercial transaction under a closed session she was unable to speak of it. She was not aware that EHDC were releasing the details of the purchase in December, until she was contacted by the local press to comment.

Cllr Thomas confirmed that although EHDC were looking at options for assisting with a provision of a public house in Four Marks, that this was not an appeasement for the purchase of the Co-Op. She confirmed that the pub was not viable and that the brewery that sold the Windmill Inn, had purchased it as a development project, and it had been deliberately run down. No brewery would have been in a position to take it over as a going concern.

It was agreed that the timing of the release, and the fact that the Parish Council had no knowledge of the purchase, had given the wrong perception of what was actually a good business deal, and that the District Councillor had in fact been rather unjustly in the firing line for something that was not within her control.

It was agreed that this now concluded the matter and no further mention would be made.

15.23 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2015 had been circulated. The following matters arising from that meeting require resolution:
 - Four Marks Flag. The Committee presented the design that had been unanimously selected with a couple of amendments, for Full Council approval. The chosen design was approved and it was confirmed that there would be a prize giving for the winning

design, with a few smaller highly commended prizes, with photographs and a report in the Four Marks News for April.

- Uplands Lane resurfacing. The Clerk presented three different quotations, with three different options, for the resurfacing of Uplands Lane. It was RESOLVED to go with the temporary surface at this time, and look at the more long term proposals once any new construction had taken place. It was also agreed, following concerns over a potential difference in surface heights, that the bays should be addressed at the same time, providing the additional cost to do so was within £1,000.
- Oak Green. Cllr Tomlinson put to options to the members for the rectification of the beds at Oak Green, however as both options, one to replace with English Oaks sleepers and the second to replace with brick, were going to be in the region of £30,000 it was proposed by Cllr Brake, and seconded by Cllr Tomlinson and agreed to postpone any decision until the new Parish Council was in place. The Clerk however, in the meantime, would approach companies to quote for both options, in preparation for decision after May.
- Allotments; Cllr Howsego had missed the previous meeting as it clashed with the Parish Council meeting, but that there was nothing of note to report. However they were very apologetic about missing the Benian's Committee meetings, which was just an administrative oversight, and that they would be contacting the Committee to apologise
- Footpaths; The Clerk confirmed that the owner of the fallen tree had been contacted, he just needed the contact details of the other landowner, which was provided.
It was agreed that an application should be made for a Public Footpath from the A31 to Weathermore Lane as it appears to meet all the criteria, with proof that the route has been used unopposed for at least 20 years.
Cllr Howsego, commented on the fact that as the Allotments and Footpaths were now under the Open Space heading on the Agenda that the representatives for both should be on the Open Space Committee when the new committee is formed in May. This was supported.

15.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Income and Expenditure Accounts for the month ending 31st January 2015 had been circulated. They were approved as an accurate record by Cllr Sensier and seconded by Cllr Foster.

Cllr Thomas entered the meeting.

- The Clerk then advised the members of the current income and expenditure to date for information, and answered questions on queries raised on the recent invoices. The Clerk also confirmed that the new software had been ordered and would be operational in June. She also advised that the Internal audit was booked for 23rd April 2015.

15.25 PARISH NOTICES:

Following circulation of correspondence received, the following was agreed:

- Representative for Boomtown Fair transport meeting. It was agreed that as this was unlikely to affect Four Marks unduly, that just receiving email communications would suffice.
- Representative for EHAPTC meeting. Cllr Timms agreed to represent Four Marks Parish Council at the meeting on Wednesday 11 March.
- Details of late correspondence were distributed, and discussed as follows:
 - The Bowls Club had approached the Chairman to see if there were any Parish Council Funds available to assist them with the final furnishings for their new building, estimated at £1,500. It was suggested that, as the Parish Council had already put funds into the project, they could apply for a Benian's Trust

grant which was held specifically for sporting projects. It was RESOLVED to agree to a formal request for a donation from the fund up to the amount of £750.00.

- Freedom of Information Request. The Members discussed the most appropriate way to respond to a new Freedom of Information request from Mr Whitehead. As the request was non-specific and would entail a good deal of additional work for the Clerk, the most appropriate response would be to offer Mr Whitehead an appointment to come and view all the Minutes from the date specified, which contain details of all projects on Parish owned open space past, present and proposed. It was agreed that at least one member of the Council should be present, any questions arising should be put formerly in writing and any photocopies would be charged for. Cllr Timms, in response to this request, pointed out that the Councillors and Clerk work continuously for the benefit of the Community and not just in the spotlight of the public area, meetings or media
- Status report with reference to the issues surrounding Land to the South of Gloucester Close. It was agreed that due to the fact that reference was to be made to the legal matters, this should be discussed in a closed session, to be held at the end of the meeting.

15.26 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The draft neighbourhood plan is now with the consultants. They, in conjunction with the Steering Group, will produce a pre-submission draft by 3rd March, ready to upload onto the website by 12th March and subsequently for the open days on 19th 21st and 22nd March. The Parish Council will be circulated this draft for their formal approval before the website launch on 12 March.

Once the comments from the open days have been received, considered and added if appropriate the plan will be issued and open to six week consultation.

An extra ordinary council meeting on 6th May was discussed, however following a subsequent conversation with the Steering Group chairman, it may not be necessary.

Cllr Sensier asked for as many volunteers to assist at the open days as possible, and to please contact him with availability, if only for a short time on at least one of the days. The Steering Group are seeking an Events Manager to organise the Open Days.

15.27 WILDFLOWER VILLAGE

The proposal had been circulated to all members, who were in favour in principle, however Four Marks has no suitable meadow sites and agreed that verges would be the most suitable locations for this initiative.

15.28 HCC TRAFFIC SURVEY

Cllr Brake confirmed that thanks to Mark Kemp Gee's intervention we were able to have various traffic surveys at requested locations, at no cost to the Parish Council. The surveys were conducted between the 9th and 16th January, the report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Brake summarising briefly made note that there appeared to be more traffic leaving the village than entering, and on average 4,500 movements per day. On one day the volume of traffic on Telegraph Lane alone was 1700, and that did not include the traffic from Blackberry Lane. Speed, once again, was highlighted, with average speeds of 56 mph, and agreed that this information should be passed on to the local constabulary. It was noted however, that HCC had incorrectly named Lyminster Bottom, Lyminster Bottom Road.

It was suggested that the report be sent to Medstead Parish Council, and to request a copy of their recently carried out survey.

15.29 VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall representative, Cllr Sensier, had compiled a report from the previous meeting, which the Clerk circulated with the late correspondence. It was confirmed that the Clerk now holds a key to the Small Hall and that conversations had already taken place with reference to holding grant money in the deposit account solely for maintenance and replacement equipment for the defibrillators.

15.30 AWARD OF HONORARY TITLE

The Chairman sought Full Council's Agreement to the awarding the title of Honorary Freeman to person/s to acknowledge long term commitment to the Parish of Four Marks. The idea was agreed in principle, and would be on the Agenda next month to consider nomination/s. (It was formerly minuted that the Parish Council are not entitled to offer the title of Alderman, as per the Agenda item, which had been the initial proposal as detailed on the Agenda.)

15.31 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr surgeries have now started at the Parish office on the first and third Wednesday's of each month (next 4/03/2015 and 18/03/2015) please come along if there is anything you need to talk about or if I may be able to help you on any district council matters. Top of the list at the moment seems to be mud on the road from building sites, I have been to talk to several site managers and they have agreed to clean up mess made but say we are in mud season!

We have a new interim planning manager at EHDC called John Slater who will stay until a permanent manager is appointed.

I have been to numerous application site visits in the last month as part of my duties as a member of the planning committee - many in the southern part of the district where there are similar problems to our own, lack of infrastructure, traffic junctions that don't work well, environmental issues. I am continuing to make our problems known whenever possible.

Now that the five year land supply is in place I hope we can look forward to a return to some real planning, our neighbourhood plan is moving on to the next stage now that the questionnaires have been completed. There has been much discussion as to the weight that can be given to neighbourhood plans at each stage of their making, the NP gains more weight and importance as each stage is reached and as the consultations are done because it shows that the community is behind the plan. When the NP has been examined and we have had a referendum on it we will have a document that has a legal planning importance.

The dates have been set for the Cala homes appeal it will be from 21st April until 24th April at Medstead Village Hall. EHDC are working hard with the appointed barrister to build up the case and as we now have a five year housing land supply the scenario is much changed from the last appeal hearing. This one will also be different because it is a full enquiry which is managed in a much more court like way with witnesses being examined by the barristers. Please do come along if you can because it shows the depth of village feeling about the appeal, this affects us all as residents of both Medstead and Four Marks.

Tuesday 21st will be a busy day for Medstead with the Annual Parish Meeting at the village hall in the evening.

I am pleased to be able to say that the first of the long awaited A31 crossings will start to be installed in the first week of March. Mark Kemp Gee and myself are continuing to press for the second crossing at the western end of the village to be installed soon.

At the Community Forum this month HCC officers made a presentation on education and the number of places that were available in our schools. These meetings are held quarterly and are an opportunity for residents to speak to all the district cllrs and there is usually a theme with officers to answer questions.

I would like to shed some light on two issues that are circulating in the village at the moment. Firstly the Windmill or Coop as it is now. The Windmill closed as a pub because it was not a viable business and was then sold to a property company who changed it into the Coop. EHDC bought the building AFTER it became a food retail unit, the lease on the flats above was retained by the property company. This happened some time ago so looking to the future if somebody finds a suitable site and comes up with a good business plan that can make a viable business perhaps we will get another pub if not we will have to support the few remaining pubs near us.

Secondly the rumour that all the affordable housing at Medstead Farm has been sold to Portsmouth Corporation is false. The affordable housing on this site has a legal agreement in place which means that local people must be offered the housing first followed by residents from further afield in East Hampshire. This information came from the housing manager at EHDC himself so a reliable source.

As ever if I can be of any assistance to you please contact me and I look forward to seeing you at the Parish Office if you would like to come along.

Following Mr Seaton's comments in the Open Session, the District Councillor was appraised of his concerns. She confirmed that Portsmouth Corporation and Sovereign are not the same company, and following a visitor at her clinic that morning it was apparent that they are being very strict with the allocations.

She also commented on that EHDC are making strong progress on the CIL charging, but there was still some concern over how much will have to be paid from each amount, for example, roads and education. Comments can be made on the consultation until Friday 13th March 2015.

15.32 EHDC PURCHASE OF THE CO-OP

This Agenda item was covered in full under Minute 15.22.

15.33 NEXT MEETING:

Planning Committee	Wednesday 4 th March 2015, 7.30pm, Benians Pavilion
Finance & GP Committee	Wednesday 4 th March 2015, to follow
Full Council	Wednesday 18 th March 2015, 7.30pm, Village Hall

15.34 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm

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Chairman