

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 15th April 2015, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Paul Turner (Chairman), Cllr Janet Foster (Vice Chair) Cllrs John Hammond, Andy Hickman, Wayne Howsego, Steven Sensier, Ingrid Thomas and Bryan Timms
ATTENDING: S Goudie, Clerk, 5 members of the public
APOLOGIES: Cllrs Brake and Tomlinson

15.53 OPEN SESSION

Chris Lake presented the plans for the new Scout Hut for comment. The Parish Council were very supportive of the details as shown, and agreed to discuss further under the Agenda item, later in the meeting.

Mr Simon Thomas spoke and wished to thank the Steering Group for their sterling work on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of Fight for Four Marks, and will be happy to adopt it and support it wholeheartedly. He also wanted to thank all those Councillors retiring in May, particularly thanking Cllr Bryan Timms for all his work for the community.

The Chairman also added his thanks both to the Steering Group and those Councillors involved and to those retiring from the Council

Cllr Timms confirmed that he has the Beacon, which Pat Seward had left in his care.

The Open session concluded at 8.05 pm. Standing Orders were applied.

15.54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brake and Tomlinson

15.55 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.56 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 18th March 2015**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Thomas and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
The Clerk responded to Cllr Hammond's question from the Festival Committee with reference to the length of time wreaths should remain at memorials, and confirmed that there was no set time and it was up to those who maintain it.
- The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th April 2015, previously circulated, were approved in principle.

15.57 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 1st April 2015 had been circulated, there were no comments.
- Planning applications for discussion:

New applications:

1. Reference No: 55919
Location: 106 Winchester Road, Four Marks, GU34 5HU
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear
Four Marks Parish Council have no objection to this application, provided that no trees or border hedges are removed.
2. Reference No: 39296/005
Location: 4 St Faith Close, Four Marks, GU34 5AY
Proposal: Remove one silver birch
No objection and defer to the Arboriculturist's recommendation and decision.
3. Reference No: 55460
Location: Parking Area Waste Lane at Mansfield Park, Station Approach, Medstead
Proposal: Nine dwellings with associated landscaping and parking
Objection. Four Marks Parish Council strongly object to this application as this proposed development is within the Industrial and Business allocated area and, in accordance with the recommendations laid out in the draft neighbourhood plan, employment sites should be protected, and there is no requirement for houses in this location.

Decisions notified:

1. Reference No: 55936 PARISH: *Chawton*
Location: Land North of Lydenhurst to Marchwood, The Shrave, Four Marks, Alton
Proposal: 2 x detached dwellings and 2 x semi detached dwellings
Decision: PERMISSION Decision Date: 9 April, 2015

The Clerk raised concern that this was yet another application on the border of Four Marks that had not been sent to the Parish Council for comment and asked Cllr Thomas if she could speak to the Planning Department at EHDC to see if the situation can be rectified.

2. Reference No: 38616/003 PARISH: Four Marks
Location: Hillside, Hawthorn Lane, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 3ER
Proposal: Conversion of roof space into habitable accommodation with roof lights on all sides
Decision: PERMISSION Decision Date: 7 April, 2015
3. Reference No: 39155/004 PARISH: Four Marks
Location: Charmaine, 116 Winchester Road, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 5HZ
Proposal: Conservatory to rear
Decision: PERMISSION Decision Date: 7 April, 2015

Notification of Appeal

1. Reference No: 55917/001
Appeal by: Cala Homes
Location: Land East of 20-38 Lymington Bottom Road, Medstead
Inquiry Details: Medstead Village Hall, Tuesday 21st-Friday 24th April, start time 10.00am

Cllr Thomas reminded all Councillors of the upcoming Appeal and asked for as much attendance as possible over the four days to show support to Medstead Parish Council.

15.58 OPEN SPACE:

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meetings held on Wednesday 1st April 2015 had been circulated. Comments were made as follows:

Uplands Lane had been resurfaced, although concern was expressed over the finish of the edging, the Clerk confirmed that the contractor had agreed to feather the edge, but it does not appear to have been done satisfactorily. The Clerk agreed to contact the contractor to see if they could return and make good.

The Clerk confirmed that both benches should be installed at Lymington Green next week, and together with the new shrub borders that the Rotary were providing, that this area was now certainly worthy of Village Green Status, and the Clerk confirmed that HCC had no objection in principle to the Parish Council applying and it was agreed that the Clerk should progress this initiative.

- It was RESOLVED to support the Open Space Committees' decision to refuse permission for hard standing on the recreation ground.
- Allotments; Cllr Howsego confirmed that there had been nothing of significance raised at the previous meeting other than reports of vandalism. The Clerk confirmed that new fencing was to be erected at the end of the allotment plot and repairs made to the damaged fencing. There were at the time of the meeting 2 people on the waiting list. Cllr Howsego was asked if he would continue to represent the Parish Council in an advisory role until such time as a replacement was found. He agreed to consider the request.
- Oak Green; Cllr Foster confirmed that the new flag was now ordered. Our Honorary Freeman, Cllr Timms was asked if he would be available to hoist the new flag. Cllr Foster also advised that quotes were now being sought to replace the oak sleepers, but confirmed that the Eddie Hodkin was looking after the flower beds and area very well in the interim.
- Footpaths; Cllr Timms confirmed he would be happy to continue to look after the footpaths until a replacement had been found after his resignation, but asked that kissing gates would be used rather than stiles, when replacements are required and was still keen to see the designation of The Shrave to Weathermore Lane footpath to a formal Public Footpath.

15.59 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

At last week's Four Marks Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman Paul Turner outlined some of the Parish Councils achievements over the past year, there have certainly been many. Looking at what the District Council has achieved in the same period the list is similarly long, this time last year we were in the awful period of constant attack by developers because we did not have a five year land supply therefore the JCS was not effective.

We now do have that essential land supply and the Officers at EHDC are far more optimistic about our chances at the Cala homes appeal to build 75 additional houses in Lymington Bottom Road. by the time this is published we will have heard all the evidence and be awaiting the inspectors decision. The planning climate is very different now to the time that the hearing on the Bargate site for 54 houses was heard last December, so let's be hopeful!

The major achievement for the villages is the huge amount of work that has been done and is continuing to be done for our Neighbourhood Plan, this will be published for pre-submission consultation just before the start of the appeal, we all owe a great deal to those members of the steering committee who have worked so hard for all our benefit. Once the Plan is in place we will have a real say in future planning matters for our community.

I have worked with residents and the developer of the Brislands Lane site to try to mitigate the huge amount of disruption that has been caused to peoples lives by that development, although we still have another year to go before they are finished. Due to our regular meetings we have been able to get the roads cleaned more often, tried with varying success to get the traffic management plan to be adhered to and addressed issues as they arise. This liaison committee was the first in the District and will now be rolled out for other large sites over the whole District. This will include the proposed development at Friars Oak where conditions have yet to be fulfilled and the liaison panel is expected to begin in September.

The District Council is continuing to look for ways to save money and also to make money to ensure that our Council Tax does not rise. Amongst these is the huge amount of funding that has been achieved for the reinvigoration of Whitehill and Bordon which will produce many jobs for the area.

There are also many short term projects available for residents to be involved in for example next month is the youth driving challenge which will see the car parks at EHDC transformed into a driving track for the junior driving challenge, please see the website for details of how to join in.

The long awaited pedestrian crossing at the end of Telegraph Lane has now been started although it does seem to take far longer to build a crossing than I had anticipated! the other crossing between Lapwing Way and Goldcrest has not been forgotten but is also taking longer than expected.

If I am elected to represent our community again in May it would be my intention to continue the long and twisting road to gaining finance for the new sports hall and community facility at Four Marks and the extension to the Village Hall in Medstead. Both these projects are very necessary with our increased numbers of residents.

It has been interesting to talk to so many people during the election campaign who have real issues that need to be addressed, I am pleased that I have been able to assist with some of those issues but please remember that I am always available by telephone or in person at the twice monthly 'surgeries'. I may not always know the answers but will try to find out to help solve the problem.

Thank you all for electing me at the by-election in September 2013, I hope I have served you well. Please do go to vote on May 7th whoever you decide to support, it is so important for our democracy to take the trouble to vote and it is so much easier to do than in some parts of the world.

Cllr Thomas added that following the news that EHDC would shortly have some mobile cameras available to borrow that she hoped to use them to try and catch the illegal off road activity on various footpaths and the excess of fly tipping in the vicinity.

15.60 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Income and Expenditure Accounts for the month, 4th Quarter and year ending 31st March 2015 had been circulated. However, due to the fact that the bank statement had not been received, they had not been reconciled, so accuracy could not be confirmed. The Clerk informed the members that the current Income to date was £230 burial fees and the current Expenditure stands at £2,490.96 (£287.00 for flag, grant received, the precept payment of £41,000 was imminent). The Internal Audit was taking place next Thursday 23rd April, accounts and report would follow the Audit.

15.61 PARISH NOTICES:

1. Email. 4th April 2015, from District Councillor, re Beacons, to be discussed under Parish Notices/correspondence. It was agreed that it was too short a notice to organise an event, but noted that Cllr Timms has the beacon for any future occasion.

2. Emails. 4th, 9th and 14th April, from Mr Stephen Whitehead, re: Freedom of Information. The Clerk confirmed there are now 2 official complaints and 2 Internal Review requests outstanding. The Clerk confirmed that both complaints and Internal Review requests had been sent to EHDC for response, as per agreement at the previous Council meeting. The work involved will be charged at £130 per hour and will be logged in detail in the Council's accounts, together with the name of the requestor.
3. Email. 13th April 2015, from Mr Michalski, owner of the land between the skate park and the Benian's Pavilion, advising he was open to offers from the Parish Council to sell the land. It was RESOLVED to make an offer for the land as per the current agricultural going rate of £12k per acre, as this area would not be development in the foreseeable future and, should this be acceptable, a solicitor would be appointed to progress the sale.
4. Email. 13th April 2015, from Darren Dance, re authority to look at and release CCTV footage. It was agreed that clarification from a legal point of view should be sought and it was agreed that the Finance & General Purposes Committee should look at a suitable proposal.

15.62 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Foster and unanimously RESOLVED that Four Marks Parish Council adopt the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2028 as the Pre-Submission Plan and publish it for the purposes of undertaking statutory consultations prior to formal submission of the Plan to East Hampshire District Council.

The Chairman confirmed, on behalf of the Parish Council, they were full of admiration for the team and offered formal thanks to the Steering group and both sets of Parish Councillors who had worked so hard in its preparation.

15.63 ELECTION 2015

The Clerk reported that there were six uncontested elected Councillors to start their term in May 2015, leaving four spaces available for co-option. There were already at least two interested candidates and the Clerk was liaising directly with them to get information ready to co-opt, subject to confirmation, at the May meeting.

There was disappointment expressed in the lack of applications.

15.64 NEW SCOUT HQ PROJECT

The members were impressed with the plans and were pleased that there was flexibility to incorporate the Youth sports building in the future. It was agreed that as the building remains in perpetuity as a parish asset, the Parish Council should be supportive. Cllr Timms reminded the members that it was the right decision to split the project into two phases as the Parish Council cannot fund raise, and was never going to move forward appropriately as a joint project

The Parish Council agreed, unanimously, to support the proposal, and it was agreed to write to Chris Lake, confirming the support and to offer the Parish Council's assistance in applying for the Full Planning Application.

15.65 NEXT MEETING:

Planning Committee	Wednesday 6 th May 2015, if required
Finance & GP Committee	Wednesday 6 th May 2015, if required
Annual General Meeting	Wednesday 20 th May 2015, 7.30pm, Village Hall

15.66 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm, and once again thanked the departing Councillors for all their hard work over the years and wished them well in the future.

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Chairman