

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Wednesday 17th June 2015, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Mick Budd, Kellie Knight, David Mills, Derek Seaton and Anne Tomlinson (Vice Chairman),
ATTENDING: S Goudie, Clerk, Cllr Deborah Jackson (District Councillor) and 8 members of the public
APOLOGIES: Cllrs J Hammond and I Thomas

15.86 OPEN SESSION

Cllr Deborah Jackson had circulated her report. There were no questions. The Chairman thanked her for attending, and Cllr Jackson gave her apology that she was unable to stay for the duration of the meeting.

Mr Steve Nicholson had applied for the Councillor vacancy and introduced himself. He also apologised for not being able to stay for the duration of the meeting but has taken over the organisation of the Chawton Village Fete for this year and there was a meeting this evening. He confirmed he is a lawyer by training, has been in the village approximately 3 years, but knows the area well, having been born in Aldershot. His wife is a Parish Clerk in Berkshire and had advised her Parish Council in the past. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and was advised he would be contacted with the decision, following the meeting.

Mr Chris Lake responded to the concern that the Parish Council had not been consulted as Custodian Trustee on the proposed changes to the management of the Tennis Courts, however the only powers a custodian trustee has is the signature on deeds, as charities cannot own properties, a corporate body has to do it on their behalf. He confirmed that the Tennis Courts are run by the Sports & Social Club, and the Tennis Courts have their own bank account, but only he and his wife Jenny are currently signatories, so consequently they manage the money. The Sports and Social Club need a lease or management agreement in place to enable them to apply for grants. He confirmed that there had, some time ago, been a proposal that the Parish Council take back ownership (both land and financial) of the Tennis Courts, but this had fizzled out due to the previous Clerk's ill health. Chris confirmed he personally would have no objection to handing over the Tennis Courts as this would seem far more logical, providing agreement was given by the Village Hall Committee. It was confirmed that there was currently in excess of £7,000.00 in the bank account, and the suggestion was that the Courts could be run in the same manner as the Allotments. Chris confirmed that as it was the Parish Council wishing to take ownership, this would be considered a special case and it was thought there would be no financial cost, other than legal expenses, but he agreed to check. The Parish Council would be discussing the proposal within the confines of the meeting.

Mr Roy Norman of 72 Winchester Road, wished to raise his objection to the application for an additional dwelling at 70 Winchester Road. He highlighted his main concerns particularly as it is not in accord with the Village Design Statement, the reference to the NPPF, no longer incorporating back garden development in the brown site category, proximity of the proposed car port to the boundary fence, access, water discharge, the potential precedent this would set and it is not in keeping with the surrounding properties.

Mr Brough, 68 Winchester Road, who wished to support Mr Norman, and added his concerns over the proposed additional dwelling at No. 70, being next door, but higher up, and would look down on the new dwelling at No. 70.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting by drawing the members attention to the emblem on all Parish Council documents and wished to add weight to the motto "First the Community", and her expectation that all Councillors will work together as a team for the benefit of the people of Four Marks.

15.87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hammond and Thomas

15.88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received on any Agenda item as detailed.

15.89 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 20th May 2015**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Budd, seconded by Cllr Mills and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
 - Cllr Mills had requested clarification on members appointments which was duly given and agreed
 - Cllr Thomas had asked for the words '**she and** Cllr Thomas' to be added into Cllr Jackson's report.
 - Following the agreement that Cllr Seaton would represent the Parish Council on the Benian's Committee, it had been agreed outside the meeting that Cllr Knight, with Cllr Seaton's agreement, would now be the Parish Council representative.
 - Cllr Seaton raised the Pavilion extension plans that had been presented in the Open Session at the last meeting, and asked what action was to be taken. The Clerk confirmed that she had approached a contact to come up with a more detailed specification for consideration. It was agreed that this should be an Agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting, with the proposal that a working party be set up to progress this initiative without delay.

15.90 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 had been circulated, there were no matters arising.

- **Planning Matters:**

- **Decisions notified:**

1. Reference No: 39296/005 PARISH: Four Marks
Location: 4 St Faith Close, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 5AY
Proposal: Remove one Silver Birch being the most northerly Birch in G2 of Tree Preservation Order EH 709.
Decision: CONSENT Decision Date: 2 June, 2015

2. Reference No: 52037 PARISH: Four Marks
Location: Old Forge, 54a Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 5DF
Proposal: Single storey front and side extensions, and replacement dormer to front
Decision: PERMISSION Decision Date: 5 June, 2015

3. Reference No: 36544/001 PARISH: Four Marks

Location: 42 Kingswood Rise, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 5BD
Proposal: Replacement conservatory to rear (retrospective)
Decision: PERMISSION Decision Date: 8 June, 2015

New applications:

1. Reference: 34918/003 Comment deadline 1 July 2015
Location: 70 Winchester Road, Four Marks, GU34 5HR
Proposal: Single storey detached dwelling to the rear of 70 Winchester Road, with detached car port and new access from Blenheim 'Road'(Close)

Four Marks Parish Council STRONGLY OBJECT to the application as detailed for the following reasons:

- The proposals have not taken into account the recommendations contained within the Village Design Statement and emerging Medstead & Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan.
- This is back garden development to the extreme, no longer accepted as brown field sites
- Overdevelopment of the plot, and not in keeping with the surrounding properties in Winchester Road, Blenheim Close and Spencer Close
- Concern over water run off as the property will be situated higher than the properties to the West of the plot
- The proposed new access which is off a turning arc in Blenheim Close, and the potential difficulty with delivery and construction traffic.
- The loss of the garage and therefore parking at 5 Blenheim Close, leading to on street parking, again in the turning arc, thus creating access difficulties
- Proximity of the car port to the neighbouring boundary
- Proximity and potential harm to the protected Oak Tree in the neighbouring property
- Agreement to this new dwelling could set a precedent for further development in neighbouring properties back gardens.

Taking all the above concerns into consideration, Four Marks Parish Council respectfully requests that the Planning Officer refuse this Application.

2. Reference: 33960/002 Comment deadline: 6th July 2015
Location: 2 Lawrenny, Alton Lane, Four Marks, GU34 5AL
Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension, certificate for lawful development
No objection.

3. Reference: 54841/003 Comment deadline: 6th July 2015
Location: Beverley, 165 Winchester Road, Four Marks GU34 5HY
Proposal: Two storey dwelling following demolition of existing
Four Marks Parish Council have no objection to the proposed replacement dwelling, however would like to raise concern over the area edged in blue, being the garden for this property, and would strongly oppose any proposal for an additional dwelling being 'back garden' development.

Reference: 55397/002 Comment deadline: 19th June 2015
Location: Romany, 89 Winchester Road, Four Marks, GU34 5HS
Proposal: Pre-decision amendment to application for detached dwelling with new access
Reduction in size of dwelling, and changes to fenestration detailing, as per amended plans received, 9th June 2015

Four Marks Parish Council stand by their objections as detailed in their submission dated 9th April 2015, it is still back garden development, the reduction in size does not change the concerns with reference to the protected tree, and although it is noted the parking area has been increased in width, the garage dimensions have not changed, and respectfully ask the Planning Officer to refuse this application.

15.91 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 had been circulated. The Chairman advised the members of the salient points, as follows:
 - With reference to the Football Club's request for hard standing and permanent barrier. No consensus was reached and it had been agreed to approach an arbitrator to work with the Football Club, Hampshire League and the Parish Council to try and understand the conflicting information and see how all parties could work satisfactorily together. The time pressure has been removed as they did not gain promotion, however a decision must be made by 31st March 2016. It had been agreed that the Clerk should contact other parishes in a similar position and ask how they had managed these requests. It was also agreed to contact the Hampshire League to find out if they would not support a rope barrier should Four Marks Football Club apply for Step 7. It was also suggested that the Football Club put together an aspiration plan so that the Parish Council are fully aware of how they wish to grow and certainly detail their proposals for any kind of permanent barrier. It was also suggested that maybe the Parish Council could put a footpath along the side of the Recreation Ground, which could in part, act as their hard standing and make access safer for pedestrians, it was also suggested that a step further could be taken by the addition of a running track. It was agreed that this would be an Agenda item for the next Open Space meeting.
 - The damage to the Skate Park had been repaired but it had been acknowledged that the situation was not ideal and once the outcome of the proposals for the land between the Skate Park and Pavilion had been agreed, the Parish Council would then put proposals together to re-vamp the Skate Park, avoiding using plywood again.
 - Concern had also been raised with reference to the Manor Colts advertising their training sessions at Four Marks Recreation ground for the U10s. Are the football club aware? Are they paying a fee? Whose insurance are they covered under? It was agreed that this was a concern and should be investigated.
 - Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that a site meeting at Badger Close had been held arising from several complaints with reference to the over grown vegetation in the Badger run, and quotations sought to attend to the work as detailed.
- The Open Space Committee recommend approval for FM Football Club to mark a second pitch on the cricket ground, with the following provisos; they do not encroach onto the cricket table, the ground is made good at the end of the season, the goal posts are removed at the end of the season, or when cricket starts, whichever the earlier. It was agreed that the fees charged to the football club should be increased which will be discussed at the next Finance & GP Committee Meeting. It was RESOLVED to support the Football Club's request for a second pitch for the use of the U13s.
- The Open Space Committee would like the Full Council's approval to support, in principle, the purchase and installation of the adult multi gym equipment to be located between the tennis courts and the Pavilion. It was RESOLVED to support the recommendation. It was noted however that there was potential to extend the Pavilion into this area, so a new location may need to be proposed. A further proposal would be brought back to Full Council once agreement had been reached on materials, location and layout.

- **Allotments;** in the absence of a current representative, the Clerk confirmed that the go ahead had been given on the new fencing, however the vandalism appears to have eased, primarily due to the additional visits by Streetwatch. Councillor Thomas had confirmed that she has requested the temporary security cameras. The Parish Council would like to thank Streetwatch for their assistance.
- **Footpaths;** Cllr Budd had met with Bryan Timms and been handed the relevant paperwork, nothing currently to report other than the removal of a wind-blown tree on Footpath 2.
- **Oak Green;** Parking Signs still need to be put up and the purchase of the additional Christmas lights would go ahead once the bank signatories had been cleared.

15.92 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Our congratulations go to Janet Foster on being elected as Chairman of Four Marks Parish Council, whilst Deborah Jackson was re-elected as Chairman at Medstead. Sadly FMPC has said goodbye to Paul Turner who worked hard for the village during his term of office, thank you Paul.

The past month has been mainly taken up with new councillor inductions – there are 17 new councillors wandering around Penns Place in various stages of “lostness”, clutching maps and trying to look like they know where they’re going!

Ingrid and I have decided to work together to cover both villages in our ward as we feel this will give most benefit to residents. Ingrid has been appointed as chairman of the planning committee, vice chair of both “governance and audit” and “overview and scrutiny” and will also sit on the licensing committee. I am hoping to ease myself in more gently with “licensing”, the “development policy panel” and joint environmental services (a joint committee with Winchester). Once I have completed the required training and sat the exam, I hope to join Ingrid on Planning, but until then I will continue to do my best to represent you from the ward councillor’s seat. So as you can see, we are going to be very busy, but between us we are covering most areas dealt with by EHDC.

District Councillor Surgeries continue to be held between 10 and 11am on alternate Thursdays, at the Four Marks PC and Medstead PC parish office at Lymington Barns. Upcoming dates are 2nd, 16th and 30th July – please feel free to drop in for a chat!

Installation of the pedestrian crossing at Telegraph Lane is nearing completion and should soon be fully operational. Several people have commented on the reduced width of the junction and potential difficulties for large vehicles. These concerns have been passed on to the junction design team, who would like us to wait until the junction is finished and in use.

Earlier in the month, Ingrid spent a great afternoon at Four Marks School, looking at how democracy works and why. It is wonderful to listen to debates by children making good points very clearly and changing other children's minds in the process.

The Brislands Lane liaison committee has met again and are still struggling with the continuing problems with Charles Church. It seems incredible that such a large company cannot abide by the planning conditions placed upon them! It is entirely unacceptable for construction at weekends to disrupt people's lives seven days a week. EHDC enforcement officers are working on several issues at the moment so I am hopeful that the situation will improve. I am happy to report that following a recent meeting with the site manager, our enforcement officer has confirmed that there will be no construction work taking place at "Medstead Farm" after 1pm on Saturday or on Sundays/ Bank

Holidays. There may be some tidying up going on, but this should not cause any disturbance to neighbours. I feel confident that residents will keep us posted if this is not the case. In addition, there is now agreement as to the correct location of the fence on the south side of the site. Measurements have been taken and the fence will be relocated.

At the time of writing, no date has been set for the appeal at Noah's Ark – it appears that the inspectorate are struggling under the sheer volume of appeals; whilst in Medstead, we are still waiting for the Inspector's decision on the Cala homes appeal in Lymington Bottom Road but expect the decision to arrive in late June (fingers crossed).

Hot off the press from EHDC is information about the Youth Group Grants. Small community projects that benefit young people in East Hampshire can now apply for a grant of up to £250 from the East Hampshire Youth Council Money Pot. All of the eligible grant applications received will be considered together and granted by members of the East Hampshire Youth Council. Organisations that have previously received these grants include the Chawton Indoor Bowls Club (for a junior bowls tournament) and Froxfield Youth Group (towards hall hire costs and equipment). The deadline for the latest round of funding is Friday 10 July 2015. For more information, contact tracy.vear@easthants.gov.uk or call 01730 234188.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the District Councillor Community grant scheme that will be running again this year. Both Ingrid and I will have "pots" available for projects within the ward. More information about how apply should be available shortly.

District Councillor Report

Deborah Jackson

15.93 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The Clerk had circulated details of an applicant prior to the meeting, Steve Nicholson, who had introduced himself in the Open Session. Mr Nicholson was unable to stay for the meeting, so the vote took place without him having to leave the room.

It was RESOLVED unanimously to Co-Opt Mr Nicholson onto the Parish Council feeling that he added a different dimension and looked forward to him joining the Council.

The Clerk agreed to advise Mr Nicholson of his co-option, and arrange for the necessary paperwork to be completed.

15.94 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The Clerk distributed at the meeting the newly produced financial reports for the months ending 30th April and 31st May 2015, both reconciled with the bank statements. June's current receipts and payments to date were also distributed. The Clerk asked if the members were happy if the reports at the end of each quarter were approved formally, but would detail the previous month's expenditure at each meeting as before.
- The formal audited annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015, were approved by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- The Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement 2014/2015 (Annual Return) were read out and approved for submission to the External Auditor, proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

15.95 CORRESPONDENCE/PARISH NOTICES:

There were no queries on circulated correspondence.

Late correspondence had been circulated and the Clerk confirmed the meeting at Eastleigh Borough Council on 8th July for information on the Boundaries Commission Electoral Review, and Cllr Seaton advised he would like to attend, Cllr Thomas had also confirmed her attendance. This would be an Agenda item for discussion at the July meeting, to discuss the Parish Council's response.

The Clerk also updated the members on the ICO Complaints, one decided, one decision imminent and a new one just received. All would be dealt with by the same officer for consistency.

- **EHAPTC.** Both the Chairman and the Clerk had attended the EHAPTC meeting and AGM the previous week, the following items of note were reported:
 - Doug Jones had been re-elected uncontested as the SDNPA representative.
 - The Chairman was actively seeking a replacement and asked all Councils to consider the position of Vice Chairman, with a view to succeeding her in due course.
 - Bob Coleman from EHDC had distributed the draft Parish Charter, which will be circulated for further comments. He also confirmed his department had taken over the organisation of the Community Forums and was hoping to improve the format.
 - Farnborough TAG was raised again, and the fact they are trying to make more changes without consultation. Although it was acknowledged that the changes would not affect Four Marks, support should be given as appropriate to those Parishes affected. Clerk to circulate email.
 - The issue of HALC's proposal to disaffiliate from NALC was raised, requiring more detail as to why, and what would happen to HALC if they did disaffiliate. Sue Halstead agreed to find someone, impartial, to come and speak to the Association so members can make an informed decision.
 - The next meeting will be 9th September, in Hawkley, followed by 2nd December in Beech, 9th March 2016 (venue tbc) and 1st June 2016 (AGM)

15.96 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The new Council representative on the Steering Group, Cllr Tomlinson, reported on the current status. It was noted that a second representative should be appointed for appropriateness, and it was agreed that this should be raised at the next meeting to see if any of the new members would be willing to join.

Confirmation from the Parish Council was required that the Steering Group should be covered by the Council's Insurances.

It was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Mills and RESOLVED to agree the following:

"FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL notes that the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is a jointly constituted Subcommittee of Medstead Parish Council and Four Marks Parish Council and, as such, confirms that the Subcommittee and its non councillor members, are severally covered under the insurance arrangements for Medstead and Four Marks Parish Councils, with liability in proportion of 50% to each Council."

It was also noted that the Village Design Statement was in need of review and should be refreshed as a matter of urgency. It was agreed to add this to the next Planning Committee Meeting agenda, for the meeting to be held in August.

Cllr Tomlinson also confirmed that a considerable amount of the finance for the Neighbourhood Plan had come from grants, although did warn that a small additional amount may need to be requested from the Parish Council's if the submission document needed to be reprinted in full.

15.97 FUN FAIR

The Clerk reported there had been four emails raising concerns with reference to the Fun Fair's appearance in Four Marks, the concerns were.

- Late night noise, keeping young and school age children awake
- Concerns over security of neighbouring properties
- Wrong impression of Village Life
- Why were the neighbouring properties not informed or consulted?
- Decreasing the area of dog walking facilities
- Soliciting for business inappropriately (access to the Scout facilities uninvited)
- Rude and unapproachable staff
- Teenagers hanging around and behaving inappropriately
- The staying of an additional week
- Parked too close to the hedgerow (will be advised not to if they come back)

In response;

- Various members of the Parish Council visited the site on numerous occasions, there was only one night they opened later than 9.00pm, and it was felt that the noise was not unbearable, however accept that houses adjacent may have found it irritating;
- There were no reported incidences of misbehavior, other than the normal teenager activity which is, unfortunately, a regular occurrence and was not unduly accentuated by the arrival of the Fair, just a change in location;
- Fun Fairs were historically traditional Village events, and the Parish Council are not of the view that they are for towns only, and were keen to introduce something new for the Parish
- The recreation ground is for all uses and users, particularly sporting and other associated activities, there are plenty of areas in and around Four Marks to walk dogs;
- The Scouts did not report any concerns, and when they asked the Fair to move equipment out of the way for them, they did happily;
- The fair staff were always friendly and very happy to help, to all who approached them;
- The Parish Council agreed to let them stay an additional week as they had lost two days takings due to bad weather and were unable to set up in Alresford until after the music festival and needed stability as one of the family was about to give birth;
- That they are just as vulnerable to theft and it would not have been ideal for them to stay in a layby.

To add:

- There were no concerns from any of the sporting clubs who share the facilities;
- There were additional patrols from Streetwatch and the Police;
- The proprietor of the Fair agreed that the second week was not profitable, however were extremely grateful to be allowed to stay;
- The Parish Council received £300 in ground rent, which will go straight back into the maintenance of the Open Spaces;
- There was no damage to the Ground.

To summarise:

It was agreed that there would be no objection to the Fun Fair returning in the future, as there had been more support for than those against, however to avoid disruption, it would make sense for them to come 'in tandem' with another event, rather than stand alone, with wider

publicisation. The suggestion of organising a new annual village event had been raised at the Open Space meeting, such as a gala, fayre or charity bike ride as examples, and the Festival Committee would be approached to see if this is something they would be prepared to arrange.

15.98 TENNIS COURTS

Cllr Seaton had raised concern over the tennis court management at the previous meeting and Chris Lake had been invited to appraise the members over the history of the tennis court management, and confirmed details as laid out in the Open Session notes.

It was agreed that as the Tennis Courts sit within Parish Council grounds, it would make far more sense for the Parish Council to take over ownership, particularly as the Sports & Social Club currently manage the Courts within the remit of the Benian's Committee. Chris Lake was going to check, but it was thought that as ownership would be able to be transferred with no financial implication, and that providing the Village Hall Committee did not object, it was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Seaton, and carried unanimously, to request to take over ownership and management of the tennis courts. The current arrangements would remain in place, however the Courts would, in future, be run in the same manner as the Allotments are now. The Parish Council would be accountable for the receipts and payments, but they would still be collected by the Sports & Social Club's Treasurer, and any payments made by the Parish Council on their behalf. This would enable them to apply for Grants for repairs, and open doors for further grants for them in the future.

The meeting was closed briefly to allow further questions to Chris Lake with reference to charges and rules, he confirmed that the third court was no longer used as a public court due to the issues in management, and it was no longer necessary to have that facility available, particularly as the costs to join the Tennis Club were minimal.

The Clerk agreed to put a formal proposal together for the Chairman, Chris Lake, to put to the Village Hall Committee at their meeting on Monday 6th July 2015.

15.99 DOG FOULING

The Parish Council agreed to support EHDC's zero tolerance policy for dog fouling and would be publicising fine notices for offenders. This follows an incident where a contractor had fallen head first into a pile of dog mess on the recreation ground and following the count of at least 12 unpicked up piles on the football pitch itself. It was noted that despite the addition of 5 new dual purpose bins, particularly on the Recreation Ground where children play sports, the dog fouling has become intolerable. The Clerk has written a report for publication in the Four Marks News highlighting the concerns, and would be contacting the EHDC Dog Warden to ask for extra patrols, and Cllr Knight agreed to put an article on the website.

The Clerk confirmed that the pedestrian gate between the Recreation Ground and the Cemetery has now been closed due to misuse by dog walkers.

15.100 NEXT MEETING:

Full Council Meeting Wednesday 15th July 2015, 7.30pm, Village Hall

15.101 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

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Chairman