

## FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee Held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, commencing at 9.00 pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks**

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**Members Present:** Cllrs A Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Budd, Knight, Mills and Seaton  
**Attending:** S Goudie (Clerk), 4 members of the public  
**Apologies:** Cllrs J Foster and I Thomas

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#### **OPEN SESSION:**

Cllr Seaton raised the issue of the future of the tennis courts, the Clerk confirmed that this would be a Full Council agenda item at the next meeting and that Chris Lake, who managed the Tennis Courts on behalf of the Charity Commission, would be in attendance to advise the Council of the historical events and current situation.

Cllr Seaton also raised the suggestion of organising a Village event, for example an annual cycle or walking race. Mr Whitchard also suggested, along the same lines, maybe bringing back the gala or carnival. It was agreed that this would be a good project for the Festival Committee and the Clerk agreed to liaise with Cllr Hammond and the Committee to move this initiative on.

The Clerk also confirmed that the Fun Fair would be keen to return but to maybe tie up with another Village event. The fair, and issues surrounding it, would be discussed at Full Council.

#### **15.13 OS      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Foster and Thomas

#### **15.14 OS      ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mills proposed that Cllr Tomlinson continued as Chairman of this Committee as they were all new members both to the Committee and Council, and felt it was essential to have knowledge and continuity to guide them. Cllr Seaton seconded this proposal, Cllr Tomlinson agreed to continue, and as there were no objections, Cllr Tomlinson was duly elected Chairman of the Open Space Committee for the next year.

#### **15.15 OS      MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, were unable to be agreed due to the fact that only one of the original Committee members was present and it was proposed to agree the minutes at the next meeting.

Cllr Budd, queried the fact that under Minute 15.10 OS, the word 'not' had been capitalised for emphasis and was of the opinion that this was not appropriate, as there were no other instances when this had been the case. His concerns were noted.

- **Matters Arising:**

- Open Space signs, all but Oak Green signs were now erected. Cllr Foster to liaise with Scott Stewart on her return for appropriate locations.
- The Clerk confirmed that Tichborne Cricket Club were still interested in using the pitch, but were looking at the cost implications on taking it over.
- Skate Park. As this item had been mistakenly omitted from the Agenda, the Clerk confirmed that further damage had been done, therefore there would be an increase in

the costs to make safe (approx. £700). It was agreed that until such time as the adjacent land could be cleared, the skate park should be made good for safety reasons, and it was agreed to give the Contractor the go ahead. This item would be brought back onto the Agenda in the future.

#### **15.16 OS OPEN SPACE – AREA UPDATES:**

- Oak Green. The following report was received from Cllr Foster.
  - *Christmas lights. I have made enquiries to purchase further lights and will send an order when we have the cheque signatories set up. The cost will be approximately £700 from an amount already allocated.*
  - *New Four Marks flag. This was hoisted 2 May with the help of one of the designers Matt Day and the Freeman of Four Marks, Bryan Timms.*
  - *CCTV. To allow monitoring of the cameras by the Clerk a broadband connection is required and I will be discussing this with the current host of the equipment. Excel have suggested a possible cost of £150 + vat and labour. I am progressing this.*
  - *The Church of the Good Shepherd / Love Four Marks event. Most of the Parish Notice boards, 2 benches, 3 bins and a bus stop were washed down and cleaned during the 2 May event.*
  - *The refurbishment of Oak Green Parade will be a future up for future discussion when we have received further quotes.*

It was agreed that the Oak Green refurbishment project would be Agenda item for next meeting.

- Lymington Bottom triangle. The Clerk confirmed she had received a letter from James Seward thanking the Parish Council for the Memorial Bench. She also confirmed that the application for Village Green Status was almost completed, just awaiting some further information, and a quotation for £115 had been received to fix the broken fence, it was agreed to go ahead. No further quotes would be required.
- Recreation Ground
  - Adult Multi gym equipment. The Clerk presented details of three quotations that had been received, it was agreed that this was a good initiative and a report should be prepared and presented at Full Council for agreement. Cllr Mills asked for confirmation on longevity of the wooden style equipment. Clerk agreed to investigate.
- Kingswood Copse. The Clerk advised of a complaint that had been received problems with a goat willow affecting a residential property, and a further outbreak of Japanese Knotweed had been discovered. Hampshire Woodlands would be spraying the Knotweed once it was fully grown and had requested that the area not be strimmed. Hampshire Woodlands had also confirmed that a metre clearance from the fence lines of the properties would be carried out as part of the three year maintenance programme, late Autumn, early Winter.
- Badger Runs, Sett, Dell and Orchard. Following two separate concerns raised of hedging and fence lines within the Southern Badger corridor, it was agreed to set up a site visit to assess the situation, and see what action needs to be taken. The Clerk confirmed that the actual transfer of this portion of the Badger run had still not taken place, but was chasing.
- Footpaths. Cllr Budd was taking on this responsibility. The Clerk confirmed the first strim had taken place. Cllr Knight suggested that perhaps we could investigate installing a bin at the Weathermore Lane footpath. The Clerk agreed to speak to EHDC.
- Allotments fencing. Following the spates of vandalism the Clerk had received a quote for £2,000 to re-fence the whole of one end. The District Councillor had suggested that the Allotments Committee could apply for a grant. However due to the urgency, it was agreed to give the go ahead, initially using Allotment/reserve funds, and apply for the grant retrospectively.
- Land at A31/Telegraph Lane junction. The clerk confirmed she had instructed a contractor to quote for the cutting back of vegetation, which would be done once the road works had been completed. She did raise concern that due to the re-location of the bus shelter, that the bench

and notice board would look rather out of place. It was agreed to wait and see how it looked once the works were completed.

Cllr Knight raised the issue that cars appear to be parking on the new tarmac beside the new crossing, although there are no restrictions, it was already causing problems. The Clerk agreed to notify the Highways officer.

- Contractors; the Clerk confirmed that no one had come forward in response for the request for a small job maintenance man, and it was agreed to re-advertise. Semrah, our Open Space contractor, was quoting separately to tidy the hedges around the tennis courts and confirmed that they had removed the fence and mowed cricket table, the fence will be reinstated once the future of the cricket pitch is known, and Scott Stewart is still currently doing the larger maintenance jobs.
- Storey's Sanctuary; the Clerk confirmed that there was currently nothing further to report, the wildlife survey has not yet been done, although there is clear evidence that it is well used by deer, badgers and dormice. The Clerk confirmed that there was nothing that could be done about the reported fly tipping as there is no owner to enforce its clearance and the proposal of a footpath from the new development to Lymington Bottom for use by both people and wildlife was mentioned and this seemed to be welcomed, certainly by our local Wildlife co-ordinator.

#### **15.17 OS      OPEN SPACE - NEW ISSUES**

- Recreation Ground
  - Football Club request for hard standing. Following the discussions at the Full Council meeting, and the decision not to allow the hard standing, it was agreed to discuss how this decision was reached and look at the possibility of bringing back to full Council.  
There were mixed interpretations of the rules and no decision could be amicably reached. Whilst it was understood that the Football club wish to apply for Senior League status, and the Parish Council want to support the Club, the other users of the recreation ground have to be taken into consideration. It was agreed that an impartial arbitrator should be approached to discuss how an amicable agreement can be reached between the Football Club and the Parish Council, to work together and agree a suitable compromise to both sides.
  - Following the Football Club's request to have a second pitch, to be located on the cricket pitch to the right of the square, it was agreed to recommend approval to Full Council, with the following conditions; there must be no encroachment onto the cricket table, the goal posts must be removable, there must be no clashes with other sporting activities, and the ground must be rolled and restored to a playable condition for cricket, or any other summer activities.
- Swelling Hill Pond; following concerns raised over the removal of frog spawn and 'paddling' in the pond. It had been suggested that the picnic bench be removed to dis-encourage picnicking families. It was agreed by both the Committee and the Angling Club that it would not be effective or popular to remove it, consequently no further action would be taken.
- Cemetery, it was agreed that following the inappropriate use of the Cemetery grounds by dog walkers, to remove the gate and block the gap, as there is no longer need for this gate.

#### **15.18 OS      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015, venue to be confirmed, to follow Planning Committee.

#### **15.19 OS      The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.40 pm**

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Chairman