

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee Held on Wednesday 5th August 2015, commencing at 9.10 pm At the Benian's Pavilion, Four Marks

Members Present: Cllrs A Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Budd, Knight and Seaton
Attending: S Goudie (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllrs J Foster, D Mills and I Thomas

OPEN SESSION:

Cllr Seaton reported a further outbreak of Knotweed at the Pavilion, the Clerk confirmed she would advise the contractor so this can be treated at the same time as Kingswood Copse.

Cllr Knight also reported some rubbish dumped in the woods near Weathmore Lane, although it was noted that these are private woods, so not much the Parish Council can do.

15.20 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Foster, Mills and Thomas

15.21 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.22 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2015, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Budd, seconded by Cllr Knight, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- The Clerk confirmed that due to the absence of Cllr Foster, the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2015 were still unable to be ratified and would be carried forward to the October meeting for approval.
- **Matters Arising:**
 - Lymington Bottom Triangle, the Clerk confirmed that the application for Village Green Status had been completed but just required witnessing by a Solicitor of Justice of the Peace. She also confirmed that the fence had been repaired.
 - The request for a bin at the end of Weathermore Lane had been put to EHDC and they were monitoring, to ensure there was a need.
 - Land at A31, new bus stop. It was agreed that the bench should be relocated back to its original position, in the shade, the Clerk to contact Highways to arrange.
 - Storey's Sanctuary. New wildlife evidence was being monitored, however concern had been expressed over the installation of the stock proof fencing and barbed wire, and more investigations are taking place, by an interested member of the public.
 - Contractors. A new maintenance contractor has been appointed, with a job log system in place for monitoring.
 - Cemetery. The gate is now locked and the hedgerow will be allowed to grow over it in time, rather than remove. Updated burial ground rules and regulations had been produced for the Finance & GP Committee to approve.
 - Kingswood Copse, the knotweed to be treated this month and the Clerk confirmed that the wildlife information in the notice board was being updated.

15.23 OS OPEN SPACE – AREA UPDATES:

- **Allotments.** The Clerk confirmed that the installation of the new fencing was now complete, but the repairs had not been done as requested. The Clerk advised she would contact another contractor to carry out the works required.
- **Adult multi gym.** Longevity of the wooden equipment was not proven over 5 years, but current equipment appeared to be weathering well to date. It was agreed that this project should go ahead as a priority, but the proposed location should be changed, in case the Pavilion update involved building towards the Tennis Courts. It was agreed that the area between the playpark and tennis courts was wasted land and that this could be a better placed location. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the three companies who had already quoted to adjust their quotes for the new location and potentially to include ground surface material. The Clerk agreed to prepare the three updated quotations for decision at the additional Open Space Committee and site meeting to take place on 2nd September at 7.15pm (NB. This date has now been changed to Wednesday 26th August, 7.30pm)
- **Badger Close.** The site visit took place and the southern badger run works had been completed, including an additional tree removal. The ownership of the fence to the rear of 20 Badger Close needs to be established as the Blackberry Lane resident has said he does not own it. The transfer of land is now progressing.
- **Footpaths.** The footpath from Badger Close down passed the properties to the rear of Thorn Lane has been strimmed following a complaint, although initially the wrong location had been given. The Kitwood Lane stile to Kissing Gate needs to be progress, the first action is to contact the landowner for permission. The ramblers have offered grant money for updating the footpaths, and it was agreed that this would be an ideal project for them to support.
- **Oak Green.**
 - CCTV. An ownership of the CCTV sign for the Fish & Chip shop has been prepared together with forms for release of information. To be given to Darren Dance.
 - The reported 'abandoned' car has been traced to the Naked Grape, will be removed as soon as DVLA send the paperwork.
 - Refurbishment Project. It was agreed that tenders should now be invited to refurbish the beds at Oak Green. The type of material was again discussed and was still a difference in opinion, however it was agreed that longevity and ease of maintenance must be the determining factors and therefore a brick finish would be more durable than replacing the Oak sleepers. Clerk to action tender applications as a matter of urgency.
- **Skate Park.** It was agreed that there was no point in continuing to maintain the skate ramps for the youths to destroy as, all the time it is shielded from view, the unsociable behaviour will continue. The adjacent land owner appears reluctant to sell, or even clear the land, so the decision needs to be made whether to decommission and withdraw the facility altogether or move the location and build a more vandalism proof resource. It was agreed that a site visit should take place to look at all the options. This will take place prior to the additional Open Space Committee meeting scheduled for 2nd September (now 26th August).
- **Tennis Courts.** The process had begun to approach the Charity Commission for transfer of ownership. Temporary scaffolding had been erected to keep the fence up until such time as it can be replaced.

15.24 OS OPEN SPACE - NEW ISSUES

- **Recreation Ground**
 - Footpath from Cemetery to Scout Hut. It was agreed that there should be a footpath the length of recreation ground, however there still seems to be disparity over the allowed surface. Although the Clerk had been given confirmation that a 'scalpings' surface would be adequate, the Football Club had been told it was not. The Clerk agreed to, once again, get this clarified, and if Scalpings are not allowed (this being the preferred surface by both), then a permeable green tarmac would be the preferred option.

- Running track. There was no agreement to this suggestion and it was agreed that this should be deferred until a later date.
- Goal posts. There was, again, no agreement to this request, and it was agreed to defer until Cllr Mills was in attendance and locations could be looked at the site visit at the next meeting.
- Pitch Fees. It was agreed that the youth football team using the Recreation Ground should be paying peppercorn pitch fees. It was agreed that the fee structure needs to be looked at and this would be an Agenda item for the Finance & General Purposes budget meeting.
- It was agreed that the Pavilion could be used for a regular toddler dance class, at the going rate (currently £5 per hour) for September and October.
- Vandalism. The speed signs had been vandalised and it was agreed that no more money should be spent on replacing or fixing them. However it was agreed that the speed ramps should be properly lined. Clerk to Action.

• **Children’s Playground**

- Goal mouth. Following understandable complaints over stray footballs onto the bowling green, it was agreed that some form of preventative measure should be carried out as there was nowhere suitable to move the equipment to, and it is a very popular piece of equipment. Clerk agreed to contact the supplier for suggestions and would also mention this in her next Four Marks News article.
- Picnic tables. It was agreed to purchase two new picnic tables at the offer price of £50 for the play area.
- ROSPA report. Following the concerns raised following the safety check, it was agreed that the Clerk should, in the interim, ask the contractor not to strim around the wooden struts, and that the small maintenance issues raised should be addressed. *[Following an inspection, the Clerk would like to raise concern over the state of the wood on this piece of equipment as a whole and would ask the committee to include this on their proposed site visit for further deliberation].*
- Outside toilet. Following Cllr Seaton’s proposal on issuing the code to users of the play park, it was agreed to give this a trial period. James Coles had agreed to clean and inspect the toilet regularly and would be paid accordingly (minimum wage for approximately 1-2 hours per month, or as required). The Clerk felt that the Allotments should be advised that they no longer have sole use of the outside toilet and are therefore relieved of their maintenance duties.

15.25 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd September 2015, 7.15pm, at the Benian’s Pavilion
[please note this has now been rescheduled to Wednesday 26th August 2015, 7.30pm, Benian’s Pavilion]
 Wednesday 7th October 2015, venue to be confirmed, to follow Planning Committee.

15.26 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.45pm

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 Chairman