

## Four Marks Parish Council

**Minutes of the Full Council**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 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  
**ATTENDING:** K Knowles (Clerk, Medstead Parish Council) and Cllr Deborah Jackson (District Councillor). There were no members of the public  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Simon Thomas, Ingrid Thomas and John Hammond  
**ABSENT:** Cllr Steve Nicholson

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The Chairman introduced Katie Knowles, Clerk to Medstead Parish Council who was standing in for Sarah Goudie.

### **15.120 OPEN SESSION**

Councillor Budd commented on the speed of traffic on Brislands Lane entering the 30mph from the national speed limit and, enquired about the process of extending the 30mph. There was a consensus view that extending the 30mph speed limit would be beneficial to developers and therefore should be left alone.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Hampshire Association of Local Councils are holding their AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> October at Sparsholt College from 9.00 until 1.00pm and that if any Councillors would like to attend please inform the Clerk.

**The Open Session concluded at 7.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

### **15.121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Simon Thomas, Ingrid Thomas and John Hammond.

### **15.122 DECLARATIONS OF INTREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **15.123 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- The minutes of the Full Council held on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Budd, seconded by Cllr Knight and signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising.

### **15.124 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The District Councillors report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Deborah Jackson reported that the step towards devolution in Hampshire were moving forward and an expression of interest had been submitted to Central Government and EHDC are employing a cautious approach. There were a number of elements to Devolution that Council's in Hampshire including EHDC were not prepared to sign up to including, an elected Mayor and losing autonomy of housing numbers. It is not clear at this stage how residents and Parish Councils would have an input in the process.

### 15.125 OPEN SPACE

- **Minutes of the Open Space Committee** Councillor Mills commented that the site of the new goal post was agreed at the meeting, but the minutes state that there was no agreement reached. The Chairman highlighted that the notes of the subsequent site meeting report that the Football Club were not supportive of the additional goal mouth, back to back with pitch one. It was noted that this matter would be further discussed at the next Open Space Committee meeting.
- **Skate Park** Cllr Tomlinson reported that there had been a discussion about moving the skate park, but there were problems with the proximity to houses and sound generation. It was agreed that the current location was the best option but the visibility of the site needed to be improved by clearing vegetation. Cllr Tomlinson confirmed to Council that the existing skate park will be removed following a RoSPA's inspector's advice.
- **Adult Multi Gym** Councillors considered a report detailing quotations received following a tender process. The report did not detail the identity of the contractors. It was RESOLVED that Option A and Option B (2) were the preferred options and that safety surfacing was considered important. As Cllrs were unable to view any pictures to identify the equipment option, it was agreed that the Open Space Committee is delegated to review the equipment options and determine the final list and to review the warranty information.

### 15.126 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

- Cllrs received a summary report following the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015. There were no questions.
- The amended Burial Ground Regulations, were circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Tomlinson that the amended Regulations be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Foster and approved, it was RESOLVED to adopt the amended Burial Ground Regulations.
- It was proposed by Cllr Tomlinson that the signatories on the NS&I Saving's Account be updated with the same criteria for the TSB accounts, seconded by Cllr Mills and agreed by all.
- Cllr Foster reminded Cllrs that a draft budget will be considered at the October meeting and that if Cllrs have any proposals or requests for capital expenditure items for 2016/17 to forward the details to the Clerk.

### 15.127 PLANNING

**Village Design Statement** - Cllr Tomlinson reported there had been an initial meeting to update the Village Design Statement. The update will take the form of an addendum that will come back to Council for approval.

**Gloucester Close** - The Committee's refusal of 1-3 Gloucester Close reserved matters was really important, after an outline approval earlier. It shows we can make a difference and ensure the right dwellings are built.

**Tree Application** - The application to prune the Oak on Holly Drive, (Charles Church site) was refused by Stewart Garside and the Parish Council.

**The Shrave** - The Committee objected to an application in The Shrave based on need to remove two perfectly healthy TPO'd trees and over-development size & scale of property on a narrow "side garden" site.

**Post 32 Telegraph Lane / 5 Blackberry Lane Appeal** - Neighbours drew attention to visit of HCC Highways at landowners' request to inspect the alleged "diseased" highways Oak which was one of the reasons that application was refused. The Ward Councillor was informed and

she confirmed with EHDC's Stewart Garside that the tree is NOT diseased and only has a "scar".

**SINC 131 Winchester Road Appeal** - A comprehensive statement was submitted to Planning Inspectorate for SINC 131 Winchester Road appeal that takes place at Swan Hotel, Alton on 29th September. Two significant letters sent by informed residents on important environmental issues and considerations. Cllrs recorded their thanks to Cllr Thomas for all his work on the Appeal.

**105 Blackberry Lane** - Residents reported land behind 93-97 Blackberry Lane was cleared by landowner (trees and hedges), but EHDC have had no pre-application approaches. The site is outside SPB and not allocated in draft Local and Neighbourhood Plans.

**Miller Homes** - Cllrs are reminded that a Miller Homes public consultation re Reserved Matters for one of the Lymington Barns sites is being held at Lymington Barns site (next to Parish Office) tomorrow, Thursday 17th 3pm - 8pm with preview Cllr session at 2:30 pm.

**Affordable Housing** – The Council was concerned that FM residents were not getting priority and that Sovereign housing be requested to give criteria re selection. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Sovereign for the criteria and if not forthcoming it was proposed that FMPC submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Cllr Seaton proposed and seconded by Cllr Knight and agreed by all.

## **15.128 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Village Hall**

Cllr Mills reported that the PA system had been upgraded, curtains cleaned and fireproofed. The village hall had not received the certificate for electrical work carried out. There was damage reported in the store cupboard. The Village Hall trustees were disappointed that Parish Council plans taking ownership of the Tennis Courts had stalled temporarily (hopefully) due to lack of legal papers. The trustees are looking at updating the stage and are investigating possible sources of funding. Cllr Mills commented that a number of issues had come to light regarding quotations for works, routine maintenance and forward planning which he would like to address but was not clear about his role as a Council representative on the Committee. Cllr Mills agreed to contact the Clerk.

### **Festival Committee**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman reported that the Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade will commence at 10.30am at the Church of the Good Shepard on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllrs discussed the gated village signs and expressed some concern raised about the final design. Cllrs looked forward to receiving additional information at the next Full Council meeting.

### **Benian's Committee**

Cllr Knight reported that a demonstration of how to use the defibrillator had been arranged. It was not clear if the session would be open to the wider public. The Clerk was asked to make enquires with James Coles about whether Cllrs would be able to attend the demonstration.

James Coles has installed a projector and screen and each club has agreed to make a donation towards the cost together with the Parish Council and District Councillors. The Clerk was awaiting details of costings and details of the licencing requirements.

Various items had been replaced including the dishwasher, vacuum cleaner and the pool table re-covered. The Committee requested that the roof space containing Council records was cleared. The Council has formally responded on this matter.

The booking procedures for casual users need to be reviewed as it is currently ad hoc and no formal charges agreed. This will be an agenda item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The changing room is filled with cricket equipment and it was suggested that a sale could be held to get it cleared. The issue of dog fouling on the recreation ground was highlighted as a concern.

## **Tennis**

Cllr Seaton reported that two contractors had quoted for the fencing and a third is due next week. These would be brought for a decision following our procurement procedure. The issue of who owns what needs to be resolved. A management agreement may be the answer. The tennis club would like to purchase the new picnic table. Cllr Seaton was asked to contact the Clerk.

### **15.129 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- The Financial Report detailing the year to date results at the first quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> June and month ending 31<sup>st</sup> July were received.
- The provisional accounts for the month ending 31<sup>st</sup> August and September to date have been circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

### **15.130 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Tomlinson reported that the Neighbourhood Plan has been formally submitted to East Hants District Council with the statutory consultation period ending on the 9th October. The Steering Group had a meeting with Officers at EHDC last week and it seems that they are getting things moving. The Steering Group are able to select the examiner and have three names to choose from they can request one of their own. The examiner will be officially 'appointed' before the 9th October. Within a week of the closing date EHDC will have sent everything needed to the chosen examiner and the Steering Group should hear within a week, although some have taken 3/4 weeks - for the larger areas, whether the Plan will go through a hearing or written submission type examination. From past experience EHDC feel that we could have the final decision by early December. EHDC are already talking to Democratic Services regarding the Referendum which now looks likely to be early 2016.

### **15.131 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS/FACILITIES**

Cllr Knight reported on the salient points from the first working party meeting. Summarised as follows:

The current buildings/facilities and the key users were identified, and the future needs of those users, potential timescales, costs and future desires of the village were discussed.

#### **Village Hall**

This was identified as a prime site, therefore possibly worth enough to fulfil other projects if sold. Potential future uses of the site were as first time buyer housing, or sell to the church for their increasing social role, as the application to extend their building had not been successful. Although the potential to upset some users was recognised, but could be a source of finance for the rest of the projects at a time when finance is difficult.

## **Benian's Pavilion**

It was agreed that this building is not fit for purpose and we should explore the relative costs of alterations but the group felt knocking the building down and starting again would be preferable.

Rebuilding would also offer potential of a two storey building, and a building to fit the needs of the users into the future.

## **Financing the future buildings.**

It is recognised that there is little public money around therefore we need to think radically.

Initial ideas suggested:

- If the village hall site was sold, could we raise sufficient to rebuild Benians?
- If we rebuilt Benians there is a potential income stream from social coffee shop/ bar being leased to a manager which could help pay any loans needed. This would also create some local jobs.
- Restructuring of fees paid by all users of the halls with local residents clubs paying less than other renters.
- The proposal the first working party meeting would like to bring to the parish council is that

Initial actions suggested:

- Find out the value of the village hall site?
- Find out who uses which buildings and at what cost?
- Check if the church would be interested in the site?
- Investigate other village halls in the area and find out how they were financed.

It was agreed that the initial investigations should be completed by the parish council before bringing other consultees into the picture in order to check the financial viability of proposals before raising hopes of other key stake holders.

Actions agreed at the Parish Council meeting:

- To confirm what covenants exist on the Village Hall
- To establish the users of the Village Hall (Committee)
- That long term a formal Committee should be established. The current committee if they wished were asked to approach Rev. Howard Wright who has indicated he would like to be involved.

## **15.132 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

Cllrs considered changing the format of the Committee meeting dates. After a brief discussion about the length of meetings it was agreed to keep the meeting dates as they are. It was acknowledged that the respective Committee Chairmen are responsible for ensuring the meetings are well managed.

## **15.133 CORRESPONDENCE/PARISH NOTICES:**

- Correspondence. The list of Council correspondence was noted.
- The Chairman announced that there would be a social event for Cllrs and their spouses on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A formal invite would follow.

**15.134 NEXT MEETING:**

**Planning Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 7.30pm

**Open Space Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 8.30pm

Benian's Pavilion

**Full Council Meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015, 7.30pm

Village Hall

**15.135 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm.**

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Chairman