

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee Held on Wednesday 7th October 2015, commencing at 8.30pm At the Benian's Pavilion, Four Marks

Members Present: Cllrs A Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs M Budd, Cllr J Foster, K Knight, D Mills, I Thomas and D Seaton
Attending: S Goudie (Clerk)
Apologies: None

OPEN SESSION:

Cllr Seaton had three issues he wished to raise:

- The issue of Sports clubs members having to pay a fee to use the Benian's Pavilion, and the fact that some groups were opening the facilities up for non-members, was raising concern. The Clerk confirmed that the users are still bound by the terms and conditions set out in the original lease, and therefore all users should have an association to a club. This would be discussed in more detail at the Finance & General Purposes Committee Budget meeting where the rates, and their implementation, would be discussed in more detail.
- The concern raised over priority for Four Marks residents for the affordable housing that was raised at Full Council, had been responded to by the Clerk and Cllr I Thomas confirmed, again, that people with a Four Marks connection were getting priority, although they don't appear to be applying.
- Streetwatch. It was agreed that as this is a voluntary group, who are not associated with the Parish Council, their activities could not be questioned. However, an update for the Parish Council would be welcomed and the Parish Council Chairman agreed to speak to Neil Bonter, the Streetwatch Chairman, in due course to see if he would come to a Full Council meeting at some point in the future to give an update.

The meeting commenced at 20.45 pm. Standing Orders were applied.

15.27 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

15.28 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.29 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th August 2015, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Budd, seconded by Cllr Knight, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 2015 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- **Matters Arising:**
 - Footpath on Recreation Ground. The Football Club are getting quotes and are to liaise with the Parish Council on length, colour and type of surface.

- Cemetery Regulations. These were approved at Full Council and have now been circulated.
- Two Picnic benches have been delivered and are currently situated in the Children's play area, however some clarification is needed as the Tennis Club seem to be expecting one. The plaques are still to be ordered.
Cllr Seaton clarified that the Tennis Club are purchasing the third one for siting by the tennis courts, and that the WI have repainted their table and ordering a plaque for it.
- The outside toilet scheme seems to be working, in as much as it is not being abused.
Cllr Seaton confirmed that it is being welcomed by parents and grandparents and is frequently used.
- However, the Clerk confirmed that a new cold tap was required. It was agreed that this should be fixed as a priority. It was also agreed that this should be a future Agenda item to discuss the long term use of this facility, as others would like access.
- Cllr Mills expressed his concern, following raising the issue at Full Council, that he was under the impression that the location of the new goal post had been agreed as back to back with the football club goals, and not as stated in the update that no agreement had been reached. This would be discussed further later on in the meeting.

15.30 OS **OPEN SPACE – AREA UPDATES:**

- **Badger Close.** Pruning works have been carried out at the Badger Orchard, and the Ivy around the Ash Tree in the Sett has been ringed. No further updates on the ownership transfer to date, a letter has been sent to the Solicitor to chase. There has been a report of fungus on the Ash Tree in the South run, which will be investigated as soon as possible.
- **Footpaths.** A kissing gate has been delivered and is awaiting installation for the footpath off Kitwood Lane. Ramblers are keen to replace another 3, which had been passed to Cllr Budd to progress.
- **Lymington Bottom Green.** The application for Village Green status is now with Hampshire County Council. The bus stop has been cleared of all the overhang, although more clearance is work required and the shrub beds need some maintenance. The Open Space Contractor is to be briefed on additional maintenance work required in the future.
- **Storey's Sanctuary.** The wildlife survey has been carried out, there were no further updates to date on enforcement, ownership or ICO Tribunal.
- **Kingswood Copse.** The Knotweed has been sprayed together with that at the Recreation Ground and the planned next works on the maintenance programme are to be carried out in the next couple of months. HBIC report has been received following survey.
- **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** HCC have been contacted to request replacing bench back to its original location and the hedge and overhang have now been pruned back.

15.31PC **OPEN SPACE – ONGOING PROJECTS**

- **Adult multi gym;** following the Full Council's decision to go through in more detail the two shortlisted options, it was agreed unanimously to go with Company A, and the Clerk agreed to contact the Supplier and progress this initiative without further delay.
- **Oak Green;** Cllr Foster had previously circulated a tender specification for discussion. It was agreed that the car park needs resurfacing, and re-lining, although the proposal to lose one space, and widen the existing ones, to attempt to prevent parking and damage to ground was not agreed and the suggestion of a higher curb to try and

prevent the ruts would be more appropriate. Cllr I Thomas advised that there should be S106 monies set aside for this kind of maintenance, and it was agreed to contact Alisdair Tweddle for more information.

Raised Beds. Concern was expressed that only 5 years after a major refurbishment, we are having to do more works, also are there guarantees? It was agreed to try and contact the supervising contractor again to see if there is any possibility of claiming compensation.

There was discussion but no agreement was reached on the beds and seating materials and it was agreed to put this out to tender and see what options are provided.

The bus shelter is currently missing one leg and Cllr Foster had been attempting to try and find the supplier to see if they can replace it and prevent further rotting to the others, however this information had not yet been ascertained. It was agreed to try and contact Scott Carmichael, the Councillor that project managed the refurbishment, to see if he could shed any light on this.

Cllr Foster advised members that the majority of the wooden parking bollards were now rotten or missing, and it was suggested that they should be replaced with a plastic type variety for longevity, options again would be requested within the tender process.

- **Skate Park;** the Clerk had received a proposal to clear all the vegetation back to the boundary and remove 3 trees to try and open the area right out. It was agreed that this should be carried out as soon as possible to see how much more spacious and safe the area would become before spending money on new equipment. The Clerk advised that similar clearance works had been carried out in 2011, but had subsequently not been maintained. It was agreed that this would now be a new brief to our Open Space contractor to do on an annual basis. The equipment was to be cleared week commencing 12th October 2015. Cllr Knight no longer wished to re-home any of the equipment as it was too costly to move.

The research with the youth groups had been contradictory but did generate some new ideas. The consensus was not to spend money on new equipment initially but to consider the possibility of hiring equipment in for short periods of time. It was agreed to think about some different options. It was also agreed that a teen shelter would be a good investment, and that the wooden goal posts should be moved there as a temporary measure. This will be an agenda item for further discussion.

- **Tennis Courts;** the Clerk confirmed an initial meeting had taken place between the Tennis Club treasurer and herself. There had been a small break-through in the finding of the deeds which the Clerk was investigating, and was waiting to hear from the Solicitor. The Tennis Club were not keen on the multi gym being located adjacent to the Court or the basketball area being refurbished, however they were supportive over the removal of the Goat Willow tree. Considering this, this committee agreed to continue to site the adult gym equipment next to the tennis courts, as any future tennis club development may be some years off. There was some discussion about what to do with the third court, as to whether to make this a multi-sports area, and fence and mark it appropriately, or to leave it as a third court. It was agreed that a meeting should take place with the Tennis Club committee members and two nominated Councillors (Cllr Seaton and Cllr Budd) to try ascertain what improvements the tennis club actually want to see and report back to the next Open Space meeting. Quotes had been received to date for new fencing and resurfacing ranging from £16,000 to £32,500.

- **Recreation Ground**

- It was agreed to the refurbishment of the multi-play item of equipment that had been picked up on the RoSPA Inspection, rather than replace with a new unit at this time, as per the quotation received. To be funded by District Councillor grant or Developers Contributions as appropriate.
- It was agreed to go ahead with the replacement aerial runway, with the most cost effective quotation, with a platform. Developers' contributions or grant application to be applied for to fund.
- As the proposal to locate an additional goal post, back to back with the existing football club goals, had not been well received, it was agreed to go ahead with putting two new ones on the cricket ground. However, Cllr Mills, as mentioned previously, was of the opinion that the location had been agreed at Council, and challenged the report referring to this item, and therefore felt this should go ahead despite the Football Club's protestations. It was resolved to continue with the two new goals on the cricket pitch only at this stage. The Clerk suggested that a sports grant should be applied for to purchase the goal posts and agreed to progress this as appropriate.
- The Clerk advised that the wooden goal mouth structure was to be removed and relocated in the skate park area once it was cleared, exact location still to be agreed.
- It was agreed to replace the old basketball back board and hoop by the tennis courts, strip and re-paint pole, fix fence, clean tarmac area and repaint the wall. This would be done in conjunction with the installation of the Adult Multi Gym.
- The purchase of additional dog waste bins on the Recreation Ground was not agreed, however it was RESOLVED to increase the lifts to weekly rather than fortnightly.
- The Clerk advised the members that, following a site visit, several areas of concern had been raised with trees along Uplands Lane and on the Recreation Ground beside the football pitch, and that maintenance should be carried out to remove dead wood and diseased trees as soon as possible.

15.32 OS OPEN SPACE - NEW ISSUES

- **Windmill Fields/Station Approach;** following the receipt of an email complaint, nothing, other than excess litter had been reported since, although it was noted that fence damage has occurred on several occasions. Cllr I Thomas was still attempting to get hold of EHDC's mobile security camera and if possible, locate it here for a short period of time to try and catch the culprits. The lack of bin emptying in this area was mentioned again, and the Clerk agreed to speak to EHDC to see if we can increase the lifts at this location.
- **Boundary breaks between the Charles Church Development and Recreation Ground;** due to the current poor landscaping, the hedging will be sparse in places and easy to break through. Julie Boschi at EHDC is investigating to see if Charles Church have provided the correct screening, and if they have, the Clerk proposed that a grant is applied for to plant a thicker hedgerow to prevent numerous boundary breaks. However, the general consensus was that these will occur whatever is planted and the question raised should there be an official boundary break to avoid this issue. It was agreed to look into this matter at a later date, once the information had been received from Julie Boschi, and conversations take place with Charles Church.

- **Village signs;** some members of the Parish Council had not been in favour of the proposed gated signs and would welcome the opportunity to discuss. It was agreed that the Festival Committee should present several options to the Parish Council for further discussion and approval. The Clerk will be attending the next Festival Committee meeting (20th October 2015) and will make the request to them and suggest the November meeting.

Highways had confirmed that they were very short staffed and currently not able to progress our request for directional signs from A31 to the Recreation Ground and Cemetery, this was being passed to a voluntary team at EHDC.

- **Cemetery;** following a report over concerns of ivy smothering the trees, a site visit was undertaken, which also raised concerns over dead wood in several trees and a failed oak which needs to come out. As this Oak is adjacent to another Oak, its loss would not be too noticeable and would allow the healthy Oak to flourish. As these issues have safety implications to the general public, this work was agreed as a matter of urgency.

15.33 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd December 2015, 7.15pm, at the Benian's Pavilion, unless advised otherwise, to follow Planning.

15.34 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.45pm

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Chairman