

Four Marks Parish Council

**Minutes of the Full Council
Wednesday 21st October 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, Ingrid Thomas, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson

ATTENDING: Sarah Goudie (Clerk), Teresa Hammond and Chris Lake

APOLOGIES: Cllr John Hammond

ABSENT: Cllr Steve Nicholson

15.136 OPEN SESSION

Teresa Hammond and Chris Lake were in attendance to appraise the members, particularly new Councillors, of the history and current position with respect to the new Scout HQ project. A summary of the historical timeline is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

Cllr Tomlinson queried the position over Councillors absences from meetings. The Clerk clarified the position as detailed in the Local Council Administration guide.

The Open Session concluded at 7.45pm. Standing Orders were applied.

15.137 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Hammond and District Councillor Deborah Jackson.

15.138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.139 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The minutes of the Full Council held on **Wednesday 16th September 2015**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr Mills, and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Budd advised that the date on the Minutes was incorrect, this was changed by the Chairman, and initialled as appropriate.
- Matters arising:
The Clerk advised that the Defibrillator training at the Benian's Pavilion had not yet been arranged, but would take place on a Friday evening. The training is done 10 people at a time, if there are any spaces on the course, the Parish Council would be advised.
With reference to a donation towards the new Projector, it was agreed that a formal request for a specified amount should be put in writing to the Parish Council.

15.140 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

The District Councillors report, detailed below, was circulated prior to the meeting.

*District Councillor's Report 15th September to 15th October 2015
Ingrid Thomas*

Boyneswood Road has been a major focus of my attention this month, there was the shocking accident of a school boy seriously injured, we all wish him a very speedy recovery and no lasting problems. The accident was not on the bridge but at the pinch

point near the bend. Many people have complained for a long time about the traffic speeds in Boyneswood Road. Medstead are to have their own Speedwatch group so perhaps now is a good time to volunteer a couple of hours a month to either of our Speedwatch teams and together work on the problem of speed on our village roads.

I attended a meeting with Mark Kemp Gee, Roy Pullen and members of the Highways Team in Winchester to discuss how traffic would be managed when the big building sites begin to build. Nick Upton an EHDC Planning Officer who has been dealing with three of the sites was also there, he reported that pre conditions have not yet been fulfilled so there is still some time until building can begin. There is also the Grampian condition for sewerage which means that Thames Water must agree that they can cope with the additional sewerage.

At the meeting we agreed that we must work together to ensure that traffic here is not brought to a grinding halt and that all possible measures are taken to avoid chaos. I hope we have all learnt from the early chaos of the Charles Church development.

An Inspector dismissed the Appeal to build 17 houses between Telegraph Lane and Blackberry Lane. He said that as there is now a five year housing land supply in EHDC area and our villages had so many over our sustainable number, and because of possible damage to a protected oak tree he would dismiss the appeal.

We also attended the appeal hearing for the site behind 131 Winchester Road sometimes known locally as the SINC site, the decision of that Inspector has not yet been published. We are hopeful that because several other inspectors have now agreed that the five year housing land supply is in place that will also be dismissed.

There is an appeal which will be decided by written representations - which members of the public can write into for the site at Five Ash Crossroads. The decision on that should be known before the end of the year.

As our Neighbourhood Plan is about to be examined it also now has 'weight' and its policies have a strong bearing on planning decisions. We will shortly be having a referendum to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan which if we vote for it will give local people a far greater say in future planning matters.

I was very pleased to read in last month's Four Marks News that the Evening WI had had a great start and created lots of interest, it is always good to hear that grant money is well spent to the benefit of groups in our villages. There is still some money left so if you have a good project that will benefit the community please do download the application form from EHDC website and hand it to me, the system is a simple one.

As ever if I can help you with a problem concerning EHDC services please contact me.

Cllr Seaton asked for clarification with reference to the Grampian condition, and Cllr I Thomas confirmed that the works specified in the Condition have to have taken place prior to either construction or occupation, depending on the Condition as written and agreed.

15.141 OPEN SPACE

- **Minutes of the Open Space Committee**

The Minutes had been circulated, and Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that it had been a lengthy meeting as there were a good deal of proposed projects and matters arising

from all areas of Open Space to discuss. Cllr Tomlinson suggested that in future that each meeting should focus on one or two projects at a time.

- **Tennis Courts.** Cllr Seaton confirmed that he had received three tenders for replacing the fencing, and that a meeting was to be scheduled with the Tennis Courts Committee to ascertain what the Tennis Club actually want. No further progress had been made on the land transfer due to the original deed not yet being located. Cllr Seaton was asked to speak to the Clerk on the tendering process.
- **Oak Green.** A tender was being prepared to replace the existing sleepers of the raised flowerbeds and seating, missing bollards, address the issues with the bus shelter and the resurfacing and re-lining of the car park. Cllr Roy Pullen from Medstead Parish Council is assisting with the preparation of the tender. The refurbishment of the bus shelter will take place imminently, if only a temporary fix. A meeting has been fixed with the original landscape architect to try and ascertain what has gone wrong.
- **Open Space Committee Meetings.** It was proposed by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr I Thomas and agreed that, due to the amount of ongoing and proposed projects, the frequency of the Open Space Committee meetings should increase to monthly until such time as it was possible to reduce them back to bi-monthly, commencing January 2016.

15.142 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

- It was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr I Thomas and agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED, to enter into a new three year Long Term Agreement with our current insurers Came & Company.
- The following items were put forward for consideration in the 2016-2017 budget:
 - Teen Shelter (up to £8,000)
 - BMX track (up to £45,000)
 - Renovation of Tennis Courts (up to £36,000)
 - Café or pop up tuck shop at Recreation Ground. Cllr I Thomas informed the meeting there was a lady who lives in Lapwing Way who runs a similar Friday club in Farnham, and that it may be worth attempting to make contact to discuss.
 - More children's themed play for all ages, specifically older children
 - Lymington Bottom Village Green. Enhance with more shrubs and flower beds.
 - New Public Footpath signs.
 - Men's Shed
 - Single people's cookery classes
 - Professional website.
 - Village direction signs, eg. Brown Heritage Recreation Ground signs.
- Clerks hours and remuneration.
The Clerk left the meeting whilst this issue was discussed. Upon return the following was dictated for the Minutes.
It was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr I Thomas, and agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED, to pay the Clerk a full time wage (37 hours per week) from 1st October 2015, with a review in three months' time to see whether to consider if a part time assistant may also be required, and to budget accordingly.

15.143 PLANNING

The Planning Committee Minutes had been circulated. Cllr S Thomas highlighted the following items:

Decisions Notified.

- The Reserved Matters on the land to rear of 1-3 Gloucester Close had been refused at the Planning Committee. All involved should be congratulated as this was unprecedented.
- 70 Winchester Road. This application had been granted permission, despite a large amount of objections, as there had been no substantial planning reason to refuse it.
- Stewart Garside had refused permission to prune back the Protected Oak Tree on the Charles Church estate.
- Green Lea, The Shrave, a new dwelling had been refused on the grounds of overdevelopment of the plot, not in line with the existing street scene, and the fact that trees with a Protection Order would have to be removed.

Applications discussed:

- 2 Thorn Close. This application had been objected to on the grounds of overdevelopment of the plot and its proximity to the neighbouring property.
- Avadi. 10 Lymington Bottom Road. This application had also been objected to, due to the serious drainage issues and an Appeal won protecting the Open Space, although the Planning Officer had commented that this may be too far back in history. The Parish Council has requested that this Application is decided at Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers.

Appeals:

The decision on the SINC Appeal is still awaited, however there is reason to be hopeful as yet another Appeal (Old Odiham Road, Alton) has also been recently dismissed, on the grounds, primarily, that a 5 year housing land supply can now be demonstrated.

In addition:

The Planning Committee had raised concerns over the Hampshire Highways consultee comments on Planning Applications being late and inconsistent or lacking conviction. The members were informed that Stephen Jenkins was leaving HCC, and was not being replaced which raises even more concern for the future.

15.144 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- **Allotments;** nothing to report.
- **Festival Committee;**
 - Remembrance Service. Sunday 8th November 2015, 10.35 am gathering at the church for the procession to the War Memorial for Service.
 - Carol Singing. Wednesday 16th December, 6.00pm at Lymington Barns.
 - Village Signs. The Village entrance signs are to be put on hold. A pub style village sign is to take priority. Proposed designs will be based on local history, for example; a beacon, semaphore or steam train. Proposals are to be put together and presented to the Parish Council in due course. Location is also to be agreed.
 - Community Involvement Weekend (11th/12th June 2016). A 'representatives of local groups' meeting is to be held on Monday 7th December at COGS, where initial ideas will be discussed and a co-ordination plan put in place. Current activities suggested are a street party, and a music festival and vintage car rally. The Village Picnic date was yet to be decided. Anyone who has in idea for an event should attend this meeting.
 - Date of next meeting Monday 18th January 2016, at COGS.

- **Footpaths**, Cllr Budd confirmed that there had been some confusion over emails in that two contacts named Rob (Parker and Hannah) had made contact with reference to replacing stiles with kissing gates. However it transpires that none of the proposed stiles are actually situated in Four Marks. The Ramblers had asked if they could be present when our kissing gate is installed as a learning experience. If anyone is aware of any stiles that could be replaced with kissing gates, please let Cllr Budd know so this can be progressed, as there is grant money available, and it would make sense to take advantage of this opportunity.
- **Village Hall**, no meeting, nothing to report.

15.145 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- It was RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report detailing the year to date results at the first quarter ending 30th September 2015, following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Mills and agreed by all members.
- The current figures to date were also circulated, together with a verbal report on the provisional budget year to date. The Clerk confirmed that some input errors the existing budget on the new system had come to light during a recent training session, which hopefully would be resolved prior to the budget meeting on 28th October 2015.

15.146 HALC AGM

Cllr Foster and Cllr I Thomas, together with the Clerk, had attended the recent HALC AGM. Speakers included John Connell from DCLG who spoke on Devolution and Neighbourhood Planning and Roy Perry, leader of Hampshire County Council, who spoke again on devolution and how it may affect Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Copies of all the presentations are available from the Clerk.

The Clerk also reported that the proposal by HALC to disaffiliate from NALC had been withdrawn due to lack of support.

15.147 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Tomlinson advised the members that the Alton Neighbourhood Plan had passed examination with minor modifications. The Examiner for the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan had now been appointed.

- Cllr Foster proposed, Cllr I Thomas seconded, and all members agreed to Cllr Tomlinson's request to release a further draw down of £1,500 for the Steering Group. It was agreed that Cllr Tomlinson should circulate a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan accounts.
- Katie Knowles (Medstead Clerk) had raised concern over the insurance cover for the Steering Group, and it had been suggested that they should have stand-alone cover. It was proposed by Cllr I Thomas, seconded by Cllr S Thomas, and agreed by all members that this should be the case and were willing to split the cost the policy 50/50 with Medstead Parish Council.

15.148 FOUR MARKS PROJECTS FOR S.106 FUNDING

- A list of S.106 projects had been compiled by the Clerk and submitted to East Hampshire District Council as requested for both smaller and larger projects. It was suggested by EHDC that this list is a rolling list and is discussed at Full Council monthly to update as appropriate, and submit. The list is attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes, and it was agreed that new Village facility directional signs should be added to the list.
- **Community Facilities Project:**
No further meeting of the working group had taken place, however the Clerk advised the members that, although the Village Hall Trust Deeds had not yet been located, it is believed that there may be a clause that states that the facility cannot be removed

unless there is a replacement facility available. The Clerk also confirmed that, as far as she had ascertained to date, there was no such restriction on the Benian's Pavilion providing that it remained a sports centre of some description. It was agreed that the working party should meet again and report back in due course.

15.149 CONSECRATION OF NEW CEMETERY AREA

The Clerk was in the process of applying to get the new area of the Cemetery consecrated, however it had been suggested that it may be an option to keep a portion of the Cemetery un-consecrated. As members were split on this issue, and not suitably appraised of the pros and cons, it was agreed to defer this item until both Rev Howard Wright had been consulted for his opinion, and local Funeral Directors, and report back at a future meeting with more information.

15.150 CORRESPONDENCE/PARISH NOTICES:

- Correspondence. The list of Council correspondence was noted.
 - Speedwatch requests.
 - The purchase of two new sets of hi-viz clothing was agreed.
 - The purchase of an additional speed gun, however, was not agreed as concern was raised as to its accuracy.
- The members asked for a report on the progress of Speedwatch to date. Had there been a noticeable difference in the speeding in the village since its inception and how many warning letters had been issued. Mr Reg Pullen was to be asked to report to Full Council in due course.
- Village Hall Grant. It was RESOLVED to agree the Annual Village Hall Grant, however it was suggested that a copy of the annual accounts be circulated to see how the grant money is spent. Cllr Mills would ask for this information at the next meeting.

15.151 NEXT MEETING:

Finance & GP Meeting	Wednesday 28 th October 2015, 7.30pm
Planning Committee Meeting	Wednesday 4 th November 2015, 7.30pm
Full Council Meeting	Wednesday 18 th November 2015, 7.30pm

15.152 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

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Chairman

APPENDIX 1

Timeline for New Scout Hut

- Early 2012 – plan for large combined Scout and Youth Centre on the site of the existing Scout hut and Old Pavilion devised by Group Scout Leader Mark Hughes and Councillor Terry Taggart.
- 9th March 2012 – Scout Executive Committee agrees to support the plan.
- 30th March 2012 – meeting between Mark Hughes (now District Commissioner), 5 Four Marks Scout Group committee members and 4 Parish Councillors, to progress plans.
- Further meetings in April, July, etc. Fund raising events and Newbury Building Society account started by Scouts. Terry Taggart also running fund raising events.
- August 2012 – outline planning permission application by the Parish Council.
- December 2012 - outline planning permission granted.
- January 2013 – a quote obtained by the Parish Council suggests a cost of £2.1-2.2 million, *not including* site clearance and demolitions, planning and consultants, car parking and landscaping, and all internal services such as fire, security, PA and telecoms. These were likely to put the total cost at £2.5-3 million.
- October 2013 – joint meeting (5 Scouts, 5 Parish Council) where Bryan Timms (chair of Parish Council) confirms that the New Homes Bonus (~£125) earmarked for the project has been taken away by EHDC “to keep Council Tax down”, and Section 106 funds are likely to go the same way. It was agreed that the project would be phased; phase 1 would be a smaller Scout building, tailored to Scouting needs, but also suitable for other village organisations. Scouts would be entirely responsible for organising and running this project, with only very limited support from the Parish Council.
- Phase 2 would be a larger hall at a later date if and when Parish Council funds became available. This might be alongside the Scout building, as originally envisaged, or elsewhere on the rec., perhaps beside or instead of the Benian pavilion. These proposals were passed unanimously. Money raised by Terry Taggart *et al* would be held by the Parish Council and used to fund planning applications.
- January 2014 – Scout committee agrees to revised plan of a smaller new Scout hut, tailored to Scout needs.
- 29th July 2014 – Barratts held a meeting with Scouts; the Parish Council did not attend to avoid compromise, but sent the Parish Clerk as an observer only. Barratts proposed that, as part of a major planning application for a new estate between Chaffinch Road and Barn Lane, they would build a large community building in place of the existing projects. However, it would be one of their standard designs, not necessarily what the village wanted. This was viewed by many as bribery to gain planning consents, and was rejected. Their planning application was later withdrawn.

- November 2014 – after consideration of various quotes, the Scout committee appoint Leigh Holt of etc Design as architect.
- February 2015 – initial plans (with tall pitched roof) supplied, with cost estimates (based on floor area of similar buildings) of £1.1-1.3 million. Various alterations and modifications requested by Scout committee.
- March 2015 – revised plans, now with barrel roof to lower roofline, supplied; essentially the current plans.
- April 2015 – pre-application meeting with Principal Planning Officer Mary Bird at EHDC.
- June 2015 – full planning permission application via the Parish Council, funded by the retained moneys held by them.
- 25 September 2015 – planning permission granted.

2012-2015 – Scouts have vigorously fund-raised in many and varied ways. Total raised to date (October 2015) is £78,000, not including funds held by the Parish Council.

APPENDIX 2

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

PROJECT LIST/PROJECTED COSTS

1. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

- Provision of a sunshade for Summer days £1,200-£1,500
- Standard swings (4+) £1,620-£1,800
- Activity equipment (8+) £6,570-£13,470
- Aerial runway and platform £7,500-£8,000
- Themed story telling multi play unit £15,000-£25,000

2. RECREATION GROUND

- Practice Goal Posts x 2 £1,000

3. SKATE PARK

- Youth seating Shelter £6,598
- Replacement equipment:
 - Ramp £1,000
 - Grinding Steps £3,806
 - Fun box with grind bars £5,823
 - Half Pipe £27,000

4. TENNIS COURTS

- New fencing £19,000-£25,000
- New surface, lining and nets £14,000-£16,000
- Additional floodlighting for 3rd court £1,000+

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5. OAK GREEN

- Replacement Safety bollards £1,500-£2,000
- New planting scheme for flower beds £5,000-£7,500
- Car Park Resurfacing and relining £10,000-£15,000
- Flower bed and seating refurbishment £25,000-£30,000

6. CEMETERY

- Replacement Cemetery gates (wooden) £500-£1,000

NEW:

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Heritage (brown) local amenity road signs