

Four Marks Parish Council

**Minutes of the Full Council
Wednesday 18th November 2015 commencing at 7.30pm
At the Village Hall, Four Marks**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Mick Budd, John Hammond, Kellie Knight, David Mills, Derek Seaton, Ingrid Thomas, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson

ATTENDING: Sarah Goudie (Clerk), 4 members of the public, Cllr D Jackson (part)

ABSENT: Cllr Steve Nicholson

15.153 OPEN SESSION

Mr Shakespeare updated the meeting with his investigations of land ownership with reference to the land to rear of Gloucester Close. He confirmed that the builder of Gloucester Close transferred the title deeds to each property, and that there does not appear to be any question of land ownership of the land to rear of 1-3 Gloucester Close, however what has been confirmed is that the whole area, including the area to the rear of 4 and 5 Gloucester Close, was all unfenced until 2002, ownership of that land is still (*under investigation/unknown*)

Mr Reg Pullen updated the members on the Speedwatch initiative. There are currently 11 volunteers. Since April 2014, 114 sessions have been carried out for approximately one hour, in various locations. Initially 39% of vehicles passing on a particular session were speeding. Recent sessions have only recorded around 20% so there has been an awareness and reduction in speed. Sites regularly monitored include Telegraph Lane, Lymington Bottom (by the Village Hall, near Belford House and nearer the school), the timings vary. This initiative has been supported by the Speed Limit Repeater signs moving around (and these have recorded over 12,000 exceeding the speed limit). The highest number of speeding vehicles are recorded between the early hours of the morning and between 5.00-8.00am. Requests have been made to local constables to speed trap at this time, but due to shortage of staff, it may not be possible. The average speed tends to be between 35-37mph, and appears to significantly worse at school run times.

Telegraph Lane is one of the hot spots and Mr Pullen asked is there is anything the Parish Council can do to try and alleviate the problem? There was a suggestion that maybe some pinch points may be a solution, and the Clerk agreed to contact Cllr Mark Kemp Gee and see whether this was something he could take further.

Mr Pullen asked if there was any progress on the proposed Traffic lights at both Goldcrest Way and Lymington Bottom. Cllr I Thomas confirmed that designs have been completed for the Goldcrest Way/Lapwing Way lights and were going out to consultation, but had no news on the Lymington Bottom proposals. It was suggested that maybe a proposal for a system whereby the lights turn red if the approaching car is speeding, and it was agreed that this would be made an Agenda item for discussion in the future.

Mr Pullen was questioned on the procedure and why at least four volunteers are required, he confirmed that each person records a separate piece of information as all the details are recorded manually.

There was also a query on the Calibration of the equipment, Mr Pullen confirmed that the equipment is collected from the Police already calibrated, and confirmed that there is a 10%

margin on the equipment and actual speed. Cllr Knight confirmed she was fully supportive of this initiative.

Cllr Seaton advised members that there had not been a great response to his Cricket SOS in the local paper, however John Cook from Hampshire Cricket had made contact and would like to attend an Open Space Committee meeting to talk further on this issue. As Chairman of the Open Space Committee, Cllr Tomlinson confirmed she would be happy for him to attend and speak in Open Session.

The Open Session concluded at 7.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.

15.154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

15.155 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.156 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The minutes of the Full Council held on **Wednesday 21st October 2015**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr S Thomas, seconded by Cllr Seaton, and signed by the Chairman.
Cllr Seaton asked for the reference 'and resurface the courts' under Minute 15.141 to be removed as this was incorrect. The Chairman deleted the words and signed the amendment.
- Matters arising:
Cllr S Thomas queried whether there was any confirmation on the defibrillator training, it was confirmed not, but the Clerk agreed to chase.
(Please note that subsequent to the meeting the date has now been confirmed as 27th November 2015)
Cllr S Thomas also asked if a formal request had been made for the grant request for the projector at the Pavilion, again it was confirmed there had been no formal request, however it was expected to be raised at the Benian's Committee meeting the following week.

15.157 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

District Councillors report October 15 - November 15 2015 By Cllr Ingrid Thomas

There have been many interesting and important moments this month.

The Appeal Inspector has dismissed the appeal for the site behind 131 Winchester Road (the Sinc site) so it will not now be built on. He agreed that the TPO tree was important in the landscape, that the evidence that dormice could be protected was insufficient, and that once again it would be more houses than our allocated number. We now await the decision on the land north of the telephone exchange in Lymington Bottom Road and hope that the inspector agrees with his colleagues that enough development has been permitted in our villages.

The District Allocations plan was examined by the Planning Inspectorate and found to be sound. This is important because it means that the site allocations have now been agreed and so additional building sites will not be needed in the villages apart from windfall sites which would have to be inside the settlement policy boundary. The Inspector also agreed that we are not a district that has been under delivering in terms of housing numbers and that we do have a five year land supply, this is important as it

means our policies in the JCS are fully functional unlike the period when sites seemed to be allowed far too frequently.

The five year housing land supply was further bolstered by the permissions now all being granted for the Whitehill and Bordon regeneration project. This will see new houses, employment areas, schools and a new town centre being built over the next twenty years in Whitehill and Bordon.

I was invited to the Historic Buildings Trust meeting in Aldershot after which we walked around the huge development site (for 4000 new homes) and were shown the work being done to renovate the old Cambridge Hospital and convert it to homes. It is an interesting project as so many local people were born there.

Closer to home there have been several discussions and applications to do works to trees with protection orders on them (TPO trees) including some trees on the new estate. Some of these trees are very large and cast shadows on homes but they are also significant in the landscape or deemed to be valuable by the tree officer. If you have such a tree in your garden it is very important that permission is sought from the tree officer before any work is done to the tree as significant penalties can be enforced. There is a booklet available from EHDC called there's a house in my garden which offers information to householders with a TPO tree.

It was very humbling to lay a wreath on behalf of the community at the Remembrance Day Service at Four Marks memorial. There were many people joining together in remembrance and thought. Many Thanks to The Festival Committee who did a very good job in organising both the memorial itself and the service. I believe they will have a busy year next year with plans for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Being somebody who loves auction sales I enjoyed the viewing of the scout's auction in Four Marks village hall with many very interesting lots, but sadly could not make the sale itself.

We have had a return of mud from the Charles Church site this month. The road cleaning vehicle has apparently been stopped, Mark Kemp Gee and I have spoken to managers at Charles Church, our officers and are trying hard to get the Road sweeper service resumed, it is totally unacceptable for a large company to cause such a problem to so many people. The mud deposits have been all the way to the A31 and are a danger to other road users.

We have had the first of several meetings with officers from both EHDC and HCC to try to work out how developers for the four sites which could shortly begin work can work together with officers to ensure that road chaos does not happen and that our lives are disrupted as little as possible. We feel planning how to install services and working with the companies will benefit us all. There are no dates yet for any of these sites to begin work.

As we race through November it seems this year has passed even faster than last year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our residents in both Four Marks and Medstead the happiest of Christmases. I also hope that the New Year will be healthy, happy and fulfilling for us all as we continue to work together to benefit our whole community.

District Councillor's Report for Parish Council Meetings, November 2015

By Cllr Deborah Jackson

It has been an interesting month for me as your ward councillor, with the first two Community Grants approved and the requested funds now with their recipients. As I write a third grant application, this time for Medstead Bowls Club is being processed. Over the next couple of weeks I am looking forward to meeting with pupils at Four Marks school, to identify ways in which funding might support some of the younger members of our community.

Much of my time this month has been spent within the Medstead Parish. This has included working with residents of Homestead Road on a local land use issue, together with liaising with EHDC officers on a number of minor planning enforcement issues. The Enforcement Notice for the steel fabrication and welding works at the junction of Hattingley and Wield Roads expired at the end of October; the Enforcement Officer has granted an additional four week grace period to enable the business to transfer to an alternative site, after which all works must cease.

Away from the Ward, I have attended a number of EHDC meetings at Penns Place: As a member of the Environmental Services Committee (a joint committee with members of Winchester City Council) reviewing the performance of the district's waste disposal service provider, Biffa; and as a member of the Development Policy Panel reviewing a draft Supplementary Planning Document to support the implementation of the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – surely a topic for a future “jargon buster”!

I have recently made three representations from the Ward Councillor's seat to the Planning Committee of EHDC, supporting the Parish Councils' views in relation to developments in Boyneswood Lane and Windsor Road and against a significant proposal in Station Approach to enable the building of nine new dwellings amongst the business units. Decision on the latter has been postponed to enable further evidence to be gathered to demonstrate the site's viability for business. There are few locations within Four Marks and Medstead that can properly accommodate sustainable business and employment – this is one of them and it is therefore important that we fight this application.

Hot on EHDC's success with the planning appeals at Noah's Ark and Winchester Road (neither of which I can claim the credit for), I come to this report having just compiled my district councillor's submission for the latest appeal in the ward, this time north of the railway line at the “Pig Farm” in Lymington Bottom Road. I remain optimistic of a good outcome on this appeal.

November 8th saw our community coming together to remember the fallen of our villages. The commemoration in Medstead was, as ever both well attended and moving, with wreaths being laid on behalf of local groups and organisations including the Scout and Guide movement, WI, Church, Police, the military and the local government authorities. For me the moment was made even more poignant by the reading of the names on the memorial by my predecessor, Maurice Johnson.

Following a number of requests from residents, I have started to use some of my space within the local publications (the Medstead Times, Four Marks News and The Villager) to “jargon bust” some of the frequently used terms. Following some positive feedback on my efforts to explain the calculation of a five year land supply (Liverpool and Sedgefield methods), I propose

alternating monthly updates of my activities with short information articles. Please forward any suggestions for subjects that you would like to see covered.

There were no questions for either District Councillor on the reports, however Cllr I Thomas confirmed that two of the Lymington Barn Reserved Matters applications were to be heard at Planning Committee the following evening.

Cllr Jackson reminded everyone about the District Councillor Grants.

Cllr Hammond also took the opportunity to remind everyone about the Festival Committee meeting to be held on Monday 7th December for all those who wished to hold an event on the Queens 90th birthday celebration weekend in June next year.

15.158 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 28th October 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Mills raised his concern over the Benian's Pavilion premises licence and whether they had the correct licence for the events taking place. The Clerk confirmed that she had checked and had been assured they had, but as this was of concern to more than one member, the Clerk agreed to speak again to the Licencing department at EHDC to clarify. Cllr Mills also queried the reported deficit on the Pavilion running costs. The Clerk agreed to send him a report, but confirmed that the income was approximately £2,000 per annum and the expenditure was in the region of £4,000.

- The Clerk presented the proposed budget figures against potential income that had been discussed in detail at the budget preparation meeting. It had been agreed that the Benian's fees, would be increased proportionately, ad hoc hire would remain at £5 per hour, but that there would be no increase in burial fees, which were in line with Medstead Parish Council. The Clerk explained the procedure of transfer to reserves of budgeted funds not spent (ie. Election provision and the Youth project) and that the headings for expenditure would be simplified and headings for each cost centre would be added. Following the inception of the new accounts software, there were amendments to be made for next year and it had been proposed to add a budget expenditure for pension (separated out of Salaries and PAYE) and professional and legal fees following this year's unexpected expenditure. There was also an overspend on bins, due to the increase of bins and lifts, and administration, both had been increased accordingly, other areas increased to incorporate proposed increases from third parties. The Clerk asked for an additional £1,000 to be allocated to open spaces from the proposed £34,000, to £35,000, which increased the proposed expenditure budget to £86,000.

There being no further questions, it was proposed to approve the budget as presented and request for precept of £85,000 by Cllr S Thomas, seconded by Cllr Mills, and agreed.

15.159 PLANNING

The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 4th November 2015 had been circulated.

There were several residents in attendance at that meeting to raise their concerns over Application 52593/004,166 Winchester Road, Change of Use from Photographic Studio to a Martial Arts academy. They presented a good argument, and the Chairman of the Planning Committee complimented them on their articulate presentation.

Cllr S Thomas highlighted some of the applications discussed in detail, the first being a new dwelling at 165 Winchester Road, this being the second of two applications, the Committee commented on the first application in that any Application for an additional dwelling within the garden curtilage would be strongly objected to, and it was. The Clerk advised the members that this application had subsequently been withdrawn.

Wild Acres, Station Approach, had applied to change roof pitches and location of chimney breast on the existing planning approved application.

166 Winchester Road, whilst it was agreed that the introduction of a Martial arts academy into Four Marks should be encouraged, there were better locations available.

Two new dwellings at Avadi, 10 Lymington Bottom Road, had come back again, this application was not at all popular and numerous objections had been received, but apparently satisfactory drainage reports had been received confirming that there were no drainage problems in that location, and it was unlikely that this would be refused.

2 Thorn Lane had applied for an extension which was thought to be too large for the plot, and a new dwelling at Cardinals, the bungalow on the corner of Station Approach and Winston Rise had been objected to for numerous reasons.

There was an unusual case where a change of use application from storage to distribution units to residential had come back after refusal, but neither the Parish Council nor the District Councillor had been advised of the resubmitted Application. The Clerk read out an email from the Planning Officer explaining why the Parish Council had not been consulted, as follows:

“The PC weren’t consulted as it is a Prior Approval whereby the applicant notifies the Local Planning Authority of works they intend to carry out under permitted development as Class P of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 allows for the conversion of storage and distribution buildings to residential without the need for a planning application. We can only assess the application against certain criteria. We had previously refused an application for this site but will have to consider the new information they have submitted in this application”

The Planning Authority are looking at this application in detail as they have not had this kind of application previously, it appears that this will be a test case.

Cllr S Thomas asked the members to read the SINC Appeal decision notice carefully, as although the Appeal was dismissed based on the loss of a significant tree, harm to wildlife and would be out of character with the existing neighbourhood, the Appellant had managed to convince the Inspector that the numbers produced for the 5 year housing land supply by the Planning Authority were unfounded.

Cllr I Thomas advised the meeting that the Inspector was incorrect, and confirmed that as the S106s were now approved on both the Whitehill and Bordon and Horndean sites (approximately 3,000 houses) the target was met. Cllr I Thomas also confirmed that the Allocations Plan had been given the green light by the Inspector, and that this would all be confirmed in detail in the October statement.

Cllr S Thomas also confirmed receipt of an email from the Chairman of Medstead Parish Council, thanking the Parish Council for their support on the Appeal for the pig farm application.

15.160 OPEN SPACE

- **Open Space Committee Report**

There had been no meeting since the last Parish Council meeting, however the Clerk confirmed that the outdoor multi gym equipment was now installed, and confirmed that we had received confirmation from the District Council that S106 funds would be released for this project.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her perseverance.

Cllr I Thomas proposed that the hedgerow shielding the multi gym should be removed to ensure that it was not hidden, this was agreed.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received positive comments about the company who installed the equipment, and it was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent.

- **Allotments.** The Clerk confirmed that she had received an email from the Allotments Chairman expressing concern that the fencing had not been repaired satisfactorily. It was agreed to defer this to the Open Space Committee for discussion.
- **Footpaths.** Cllr Budd had been back in touch with Rob from the Alton Ramblers, and that they had agreed to install a kissing gate on Footpath 4 from Telegraph Lane to Weathermore Lane, as this was constantly being accessed by bikes. It was agreed that the installation of the kissing gate at Kitwood Lane should be delayed until it is less muddy.
- **Oak Green.** Cllr Foster confirmed she is working with Cllr R Pullen preparing a tender for replacement beds and seating. She confirmed that, following a meeting with the original design architect, it had been established that the main contractor Swanick Engineering had ceased to exist, so there would be no recompense. The Christmas tree would be installed week commencing 30th November, Cllr Foster asked for volunteers to help with installation and decoration. The works to the bus shelter should be completed by the end of November.
- **Community Facility Project.** No meeting had taken place since the first one as they are still awaiting queries to be answered from the first one. It was confirmed that a meeting would be held in January 2016 and an update would follow.

15.161 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- **Village Hall;** no meeting, nothing to report.
- **HCC Event;** a report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllr Seaton expressed his concern over the eye-watering savings on transport and environment, that were going to have to be made and was going to be a real problem. There will be another meeting scheduled January/February time and Cllr Seaton agreed to attend this follow up meeting. Cllr Foster thanked Cllr Seaton for attending.
- **Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that the Village Design Statement Addendum had been approved at the Planning Committee meeting, following some amendments which had been notified prior to the meeting.
It was also reported that the document had been returned by the Inspector to the District Council the previous day, with a few small amendments. These amendments would probably have to be approved at Full Council and a steering group meeting will take place imminently to discuss. It was looking promising for a referendum in January. The cost of the referendum was raised and it was thought that this would be funded by either grant or the District Council, confirmation would be sought.

15.162 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- It was RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report for the month ending 31st October 2015 following proposal by Cllr Knight, seconded by Cllr Budd and agreed by all members.

Cllr Foster confirmed that the Christmas Lights expenditure had been funded the previous year by the Festival Committee via a grant from the District Councillor, and offered both parties thanks on behalf of the Parish Council

- The current figures to date were also circulated. There were no questions.

15.163 CHARLES CHURCH ENCROACHMENT

The Clerk reported her concern following a potential encroachment by Charles Church onto the Recreation Ground to install a soak away, with no permission sought to cross the boundary, and in the process the hedgerow has been destroyed.

It has now been ascertained that the soak away itself is on the Charles Church side of the boundary, however the concerns over the hedgerow have already been raised with the site manager, Guy Gilbert. He has confirmed verbally that the hedgerow will be replanted and that a fence will be erected the length of the hedgerow to protect it from damage due to any unauthorised entry from the development to the Recreation Ground.

It was agreed that a letter confirming the agreement to the re-planting of the hedgerow and the proposed erection of the protective fence should be sent to Guy Gilbert and Charles Church South Coast, to ensure that they do not renege on yet another promise.

Concerns had also been raised over the mud on the road, the District Councillor confirmed that Highways Enforcement had been notified and that they were going to visit the site. The road washer service had been discontinued and this had not been helped by the broken wheel washer. The road cleaner returned for one day, and the site manager reassured us that the wheel washer had been fixed and would return to the construction traffic entrance without delay. It was agreed that this should be checked.

All of these issues would be raised again at the Liaison meeting on Monday 30th November 2015, 7.00pm at the Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend.

15.164 TENNIS COURTS

Cllr Seaton had sent out a report together with prices of various options for replacement fencing.

The following queries were raised:

1. Will the better quality fencing require less maintenance, and how long is it anticipated to last?
2. Will the additional cost for the better quality fencing (twin wire system) be cost effective, see queries raised in point 1.
3. What will the maintenance costs be over 10 years for both options.

Cllr Mills queried whether the two courts and one court division would remain, and it was agreed that it should. However the general consensus was that the two courts should remain just for tennis and therefore replacement fencing should be like for like, and the third court (and practice area) should be fenced with the twin wire system to enable multi sports use.

It was agreed that Cllr Seaton should go back to the various tender parties and get updated quotations and a response to the queries raised.

There appeared to be some confusion over the payment for the new fencing. It was assumed by most members that the Tennis Club would be applying for a LTA grant, but Cllr Seaton had assumed that the money would be coming from Developers Contributions.

There was concern raised over applying to the LTA and it was noted that the Parish Council could not apply, it had to be an affiliated tennis club, and that they would have to put a good case forward to get the funds. However if the Parish Council were minded to fence the third court for multi sports then it was agreed there should be some funds towards this from the Parish Council.

It was agreed that a meeting should be held, as a matter of urgency, between Cllr Seaton, Cllr Tomlinson and Frauke Golding to discuss the application of grant and the tennis club's preferred considerations on the future of the courts.

15.165 CONSECRATION OF CEMETERY

Following the deferral from last month of the decision to whether to consecrate the new portion of the Cemetery, the Clerk had now spoken at length to local undertakers and Reverend Howard Wright as requested.

Both the local undertakers confirmed that they had never had a request for a burial to take place on either consecrated or un-consecrated ground, and that it was more about location. This was confirmed by Cllr I Thomas, with experience in her former role as a Registrar. It was also noted that un-consecrated Woodland burial areas were now becoming more popular.

Reverend Howard Wright confirmed that he could bury people on either types of ground, and that he could just bless the grave, if required, if the ground was un-consecrated.

He also raised caution in that if the whole Cemetery was consecrated then the Diocese effectively has complete control, and any type of works to the Cemetery the Parish Council would need to apply for a faculty from the Diocese, which would not be necessary if a portion remained un-consecrated, leaving the Parish Council with some flexibility.

It was also mentioned that historically certain causes of death prohibited certain persons from being buried in consecrated ground, and this is one of the reasons why graveyards and cemetery's leave small areas of un-consecrated ground so as not to discriminate. Although the Coroners now tend to record a different cause of death to avoid stigma.

Reverend Wright felt that it may be worth ascertaining how the Village felt as a whole, but the members were concerned over the practicality of this. His view was obviously impartial. However, both undertakers recommended not consecrating.

Despite the recommendations against, and after much deliberation, the decision was put the vote. Five members voted to Consecrate the remainder of the Cemetery, and four members abstained from voting. Cllr Seaton asked to be recorded as an abstention.

Therefore with 5 votes being a majority, the motion to Consecrate the remainder of the Cemetery was carried.

15.166 FOUR MARKS PROJECTS FOR S.106 FUNDING

The Clerk had added a few items to the rolling list as circulated. There were no comments or further additions at this time.

15.167 CORRESPONDENCE/PARISH NOTICES:

- The draft letter prepared to send to the Chief Executive of the CAA was approved.
- The permission sought by Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal to collect at Oak Green on 5th March 2016, was granted
- Cllr I Thomas agreed to attend the next EHAPTC meeting subject to confirmation.
- Mr Chris Lake's request for permission from the Parish Council to put a rainwater soak away on the Recreation Ground in front of the proposed scout hut, was granted.

The Clerk agreed to circulate emails on various consultations as per details provided on the late correspondence sheet.

15.168 NEXT MEETING:

Open Space Committee Meeting	Wednesday 2 nd December 2015, 7.30pm
Planning Committee Meeting	Wednesday 2 nd December 2015, 7.30pm
Full Council Meeting	Wednesday 20 th January 2016, 7.30pm

15.169 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

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Chairman