

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 6th January 2016 commencing at 8.45 pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chairman), Cllrs Janet Foster, Kellie Knight, Dave Mills and Derek Seaton
ATTENDING: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), 2 members of the public
Apologies: Cllr Mick Budd

16.01 OPEN SESSION

John Cook and Richard Myers (Chairman of Alton Cricket Club) were in attendance to discuss the possibility of bringing cricket back to Four Marks. Currently Alton Cricket Club caters for children aged 6-17 and Adults, including a Ladies team, and use Jubilee Playing Fields in Alton. Due to lack of space the Colts cricket team play at the Bentworth cricket ground. Of a membership of approximately 200, 30-40 reside in Four Marks and they currently coach at Four Marks Primary School, which is funded by the Chance to Shine scheme. There are definite possibilities and potential to build a new club in Four Marks, maybe starting this season with Alton Colts, providing the square can be brought back to a playable standard. An agreement for use and maintenance needs to be prepared, fees and other issues need to be discussed and agreed.

Four Marks Cricket Club were agreeable to giving the two mowers, roller and scoreboard to the Parish Council, but have asked for a payment of £850 for the container which is owned by the former Chairman, Mr Chris Bentley.

A Sunday morning meeting had already been arranged at the container to look at the equipment and the container itself, and that a separate meeting with the Hampshire pitch adviser and our groundsman, Patrick Harms, would be organised subsequently to see what would need to be done to bring the ground up to Hampshire standards.

The Open Session was closed. The meeting commenced at 9.15pm. Standing Orders were applied.

16.02 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mick Budd.

16.03 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16.04 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2015, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Seaton, seconded by Cllr Foster, agreed and signed.
- **Matters Arising:**
 - **Hard Standing for Football Pitch.** The Clerk has received a verbal quotation for rubber mulch walkway along the length of the Football Pitch, which will be in the region of £10,000, a quotation for tarmac is awaited.
 - **Charles Church Development.** No planting has yet taken place and no fencing has been erected as agreed, but the houses near to the gap are not sold yet, confirmation

letters were sent but no response received. Once the site is back working (on shut down until 4th January 2016) further chasing will take place and letters to senior management will be sent if no response is received or action taken.

- **Barry Seward Memorial Tree.** Red Oak is not the best species, however it is what Pat Seward wanted, and if a good specimen is purchased and planted effectively it should flourish. The original was a poor specimen which is why it failed. Clerk to order a new Red Oak if all are agreed to honour Pat's wishes.

It was RESOLVED to purchase a new Red Oak tree and plant in a slightly different location, as previously agreed.

16.05 OS NEW ISSUES

- **Cricket:** It was agreed to progress the affiliation with Alton Cricket Club in a bid to bring cricket back to Four Marks, the following was proposed:
 - The preparation of the 'square' was the priority. Patrick Harms, the Parish Council's groundsman, had already confirmed that he would be able to work on the cricket 'square' and the Clerk agreed to contact him and ask him to attend an informal meeting being held at the Cricket container on Sunday morning at 9.00am. ACTION: Clerk
 - A separate meeting was to be set up with Hampshire pitch advisor to see what needs to be done to prepare the pitch, it was anticipated costs for the various tests would be in the region of £200-£300, but it was agreed that this would be a necessity. ACTION: John Cook
 - It was agreed that the Parish Council should meet the costs to prepare and maintain the pitch as a whole, but that the match preparation should be done by Alton CC.
 - It was agreed that a meeting with Alton CC should take place to discuss a mutually agreeable fee structure, once the ground was assessed for and Alton CC confirmed they would like to use it. If the Parish Council are going to be paying for ground maintenance, Alton CC should pay some kind of hire fees. It was suggested that maybe the first year was on a trial offer, and to be increased dependent upon usage. ACTION: Clerk
 - It was agreed that the ultimate aim was for it to be re-established as Four Marks Cricket Club.
 - Cllr Seaton was keen for an answer on the requested sum of £850 for the container, but it was agreed that the condition of the container should be assessed prior to agreement. ACTION: Cllrs Mills and Seaton.
- **Allotment Fencing:** Following the Allotments Committee concern over the fencing at the main entrance the Clerk confirmed that although it was not in good condition and had been 'patched up', there were currently no breakages in it. It was agreed to contact the Contractor that is going to be awarded the re-fencing of the Tennis Courts to see if the Parish Council could have the salvageable fencing to replace the older panels of the Allotment fencing. ACTION: Cllr Seaton
- **Recreation Ground:**
 - It was agreed to replace the dog waste bin by the Cemetery end of the Recreation Ground and to purchase an additional bin for the Scout Hut end of the Recreation Ground. ACTION: Clerk
 - Concern was also raised over dogs being in the children's play area, and although signs at both entrances say no dogs, the writing is small. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase some additional NO DOG signs for both inside and outside the play area. The Clerk also advised that she had asked for some 'scalpings' or wood chips to be laid at the Tennis Court entrance of the play area as it had become very muddy. ACTION: Clerk

16.06 OS AREA UPDATES

- **Badger Close.** The resident is not happy about the Committee's decision and is doing separate investigations about safety of Ash Trees in proximity to dwellings. **Following discussions it was agreed that the Clerk should check the Parish Council's legal position, should there be further repercussions. ACTION: The Clerk**
- **Footpaths.** Nothing to report on current footpaths. However, there is a proposal for a footpath from the new development to the rear of 1-3 Gloucester Close through Storey's Sanctuary to Lymington Bottom and a meeting with Rights of Way will need to take place following approval of Reserved Matters.
- **Lymington Bottom Green.** No progress to report.
- **Storey's Sanctuary.** Proof that the Parish Council has been maintaining the area as Informal Open Space since 2009 has been sent to EHDC. Storey's Sanctuary protection group is progressing well and Enforcement should now have enough evidence to request removal of newly erected fence.
- **Kingswood Copse.** Nothing further to report.
- **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** No further progress has been made on this, Clerk to keep chasing Highways.
- **Oak Green.** The missing flag has been recovered, however the affixing chain and halyard are still missing/broken. Information on materials is still awaited with reference to the seating and flower bed tender and Cllr Roy Pullen has been away, but hopefully there will be progress on the tender preparation made by the next Open Space meeting.

16.07 OS ONGOING PROJECTS

- **RECREATION GROUND:**

- **Skate Park**

The Clerk presented the first visual of the proposed layout and detail of equipment, which was well received. There was concern over the height of the skate park equipment, and the Clerk agreed to get the specifications to ensure that it was suitable for the older children. It was agreed that the Skate Park equipment and teen shelter should take priority. The Clerk agreed to get costings as soon as possible.

- **Tennis Courts**

Following the update report circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting, the following was discussed and agreed:

- An email to Frauke Golding would be sent confirming that the Parish Council would be preparing the lease for the hire of two of the three courts, which will enable the Tennis Club to prepare a grant application for the re-fencing of the two courts.
- Concern was expressed over the figures given by the preferred contractor to do the third court, and as the condition of the fencing around the third court was not in a bad condition, it was agreed not to go with the proposal at this time to re-fence Court 3, however the Clerk did point out that the practice area fencing would need replacing in due course. It was agreed that the Clerk would continue with the application for a grant through Sport England for the third court and practice area.
- The Clerk confirmed that, following an email from Chris Lake, there had been confusion over the land transfer and all that is actually required is consent from the Charity Commission for the Village Hall Trust to transfer the ownership and management to the Parish Council, which would now be progressed with

urgency. The Clerk will be preparing a lease for the Tennis Club in preparation for receiving the aforementioned consent.

16.08 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd February 2016, 8.30pm, at the Benian's Pavilion, unless advised otherwise, to follow Planning.

16.09 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.20pm

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Chairman