

## **Four Marks Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 commencing at 8.35pm 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), 1 member of the public

**APOLOGIES:** None

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#### **16.10 OPEN SESSION**

Mr David Allen-Rogers from Gloucester Close was in attendance and expressed his concerns over the Storey's Sanctuary Protection Group, and after giving a brief history of the situations from his perspective, he then asked the Parish Council what their current involvement was. The Chairman, Cllr Tomlinson, confirmed that the Parish Council were not involved with the group or responsible for their actions.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a formal contract from the Landscape Group, with a proposed increase in lifts of 40% and that she had already been in contact with other parishes for their advice. It was agreed to respond with a view to negotiating the increase, and look at alternative suppliers for comparison.

The Clerk also advised the Committee that she had received a request for the installation of a memorial bench at the Cemetery. The idea was agreed in principle, but design, material and location must be agreed by the Parish Council prior to installation.

**The Open Session was closed. The meeting commenced at 8.45pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **16.11 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence, however the Clerk confirmed Cllr Budd's resignation and although the Committee was now reduced to 5 members, the quorum is still 3, the meeting was quorate.

#### **16.12 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Knight declared an interest in the discussions with reference to Oak Green, being the potential supplier of a material being considered for the new seating area, and would withdraw from the discussions, but would participate if required on an advisory basis only.

#### **16.13 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Tomlinson seconded by Cllr Mills, agreed and signed.
- **Matters Arising:**
  - **Barry Seward Memorial Tree.** The tree has arrived and will be planted in due course.
  - **Recreation Ground.** Two new 50L dog waste bins have been ordered. The Landscape Group will be instructed to empty fortnightly once they are installed. Two 'no dog' signs and 2 new 5mph speed restriction signs have been ordered as well.

5mph (as opposed to 10 mph) signs have been ordered to correspond with the main round signs. *These bins and signs have now been received and are awaiting installation.*

#### 16.14 OS ONGOING PROJECTS AND AREA UPDATES

##### - Oak Green.

- **Resurfacing of car park.** Cllr Foster advised the Committee that she had received an approximate price to resurface the central area, which would include having the top removed and re-covered of £8,500. To take off all the top, including bays, re-surface and new markings would be in the region of £11,000. The proposal would be to hatch the area near the edge that keeps getting driven over and turn that space into a second disabled bay, it would mean losing one space, however this should solve the problem of the mud and tyre ruts on the grass.
- **Sleepers and seating.** After much discussion and a 'round the table' vote, the majority agreed that the beds should be replaced with a light brick and Hampshire flint, exact colour to be specified, and have the seats integrated with the beds, as currently, but with a different material, rather than separate seats, which was also proposed. Once the brick colour was chosen the tender could be prepared and sent to EHDC for release as part of the EU procurement procedure. The choice of material for the seating was presented, and although it was proposed to have the base and back of the seat in "Dekton" which is purported to be virtually indestructible, there was concern over whether it would be cold to sit on. It was also suggested that you may only need the seat itself to be in the hard material, the back would remain the brick of the flower bed. The footprint would remain the same, and now this was agreed, accurate drawings could be prepared ready for submission.

It was agreed that the refurbishment programme should be broken down into three phases for expenditure purposes. Phase I, the car park, Phase II the flower beds and seating and Phase III, replacement of the wooden bollards, although the material of the new bollards was yet to be agreed

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council could apply for up to £64,000 held for environmental improvements in Developers Contributions.

Cllr Seaton expressed concern over spending so much on this project, but it was agreed that Oak Green was Four Marks's flagship and the Parish Council should ensure that it is improved, following the very disappointing longevity of the materials used originally.

- **Cricket Pitch:** Following the Full Council's agreement, work is to start on the preparation of the Square. The service of the machinery has been quoted at £500, and it was agreed to go ahead with the servicing once the transfer had taken place. The Clerk has tried to contact Richard Myers, at Alton Cricket Club, to discuss hiring fees, he had not responded to date. The Archery schedule has also been sent so they can prepare their fixture list. Cllr Seaton has agreed to contact Chris Bentley, to prepare an invoice for payment for the container, and formal handover of the equipment. It was confirmed that the cricket club are handing over the equipment to the Parish Council on the proviso that all Four Marks sports clubs can use it, however there was great concern over the problems that may occur with different people using the equipment, and if the Parish Council are carrying out the maintenance work and upkeep, then there would need to be some control over its usage. It was agreed that all clubs could request its use but it would be under the control of the Groundsman. There was also concern over the lack of support of the new cricket initiative by the Benian's Committee and the Clerk confirmed that the Benian's Pavilion would be a formal Agenda item for the February meeting, as there were several issues that needed discussing.
- **Skate Park:** The Clerk presented the proposals with reference to the replacement skate park equipment, and confirmed that the Developers Contributions were available, after this was queried with the EHDC Officer concerned. Two options on the skate park equipment itself

were discussed and it was agreed that a higher, more challenging, piece of equipment should be provided at one end, and one of the other pieces be sacrificed if necessary. The Clerk agreed to contact the contractor for a different proposal. All agreed the new design of teen shelter (following the discontinuation of the original one), and that the Cantilever swing should be provided as part of the project as this was clearly a popular piece of equipment. The Clerk also confirmed that she was expecting a decision on the Tesco grant for the teenage assault course imminently and was confident of a positive outcome.

- **Tennis Courts.** Cllr Seaton had expressed his concern that the Council had already agreed to fence all three tennis courts and was not happy about the reverse decision not to fence Court 3. He felt that as the Council had already made the decision to fence all three Courts, that this further decision to not do it was wrong. Following further discussion, all Councillors in attendance stood by the decision not to re-fence Court 3 at this time, but were in agreement that the Parish Council, once they had received notification from the Tennis Club that there were in a position to re-fence Courts 1 and 2, would re-address this issue then. Cllr Seaton agreed to write to the companies that tendered for the re-fencing and advise them they had been unsuccessful at this time.

The members were also keen that the third court should be unlocked and available for all to use, and it was suggested that the locked gate be removed completely and used to separate Courts 1 and 2 from 3. The Clerk agreed to look at the feasibility of this action, and liaise with the Tennis Club on their progress with grant applications.

- **Goal Posts.** Following the requests from the cricket representatives not to put the goal posts on the cricket ground for the time being, it was agreed a new location needs to be found. Cllr Mills proposed having them where they are now but at an angle, he agreed to measure the area out to see if it would work, and then it was agreed that Cllr Mills and Cllr Seaton would meet with the football club to discuss the proposal. It was agreed that one of the original practice posts would remain but the one near the housing estate would be removed. It was also agreed to erect the new posts with the nets on, and if they were vandalised they would not be replaced.

- Other area updates:

1. **Badger Close.** A new query has been received about maintenance in the north badger run, by the new occupant of 35 Badger Close. They have been responded to, and advised of the situation with reference to the Wildlife Corridors. Nothing further has been received on the Ash tree in the South Badger run, the Parish Council has complied and is covered by the Insurance policy by ensuring the tree is safe with regular checks and surveys. We are back to square one with the land transfer as the original contact at Antler Homes has retired and it appears he neglected to hand this particularly issue over to anyone. The new contact has been proactive in getting things moving again.

2. **Footpaths.**

- A very positive meeting was held with Rights of Way, confirming that the footpath through Storey's Sanctuary meets all criteria and the Clerk will progress its designation. The first task is to advise the residents of 8 and 9 Vectis Close and 4 Gloucester Close, as they will need to be in agreement. Witness statements will be required by villagers that have used the access for more than 20 years. The developer has agreed to move the proposed footpath to between plots 2 and 3, however the crime prevention officer has raised concerns which have been responded to by the Clerk, *and subsequently by the District Councillor.*
- An email has been received about the footpath from Gradwell Lane to Lymington Bottom, in that the stile has been removed by 'council workers'. The Clerk agreed to write to Rights of Way to find out why it was removed, as it does not appear to have been by the land owner.

- Following the resignation of Cllr Budd, a new footpaths officer needs to be appointed. Cllr A Tomlinson agreed to take on the role temporarily until a new representative can be appointed.
3. **Lymington Bottom Green.** Still awaiting a site visit by HCC to enable them to instruct the transfer of land.
  4. **Storey's Sanctuary.** Nothing further to report.
  5. **Kingswood Copse.** Nothing to report.
  6. **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** Nothing to report.
  7. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Nothing to report

**16.15 OS NEW ISSUES**

- **Swelling Hill.** Following a visit to the Parish Office by a concerned Swelling Hill resident it transpired that fly tipping that had been reported at the entrance to a local by-way, had still not yet been removed. However it transpires, following a chasing telephone call, that it had been and this was a new dump and the case was re-opened. The same complainant also raised concern over the mud on the road following hedge flaying and pot holes and pot holes to the side of the road. Unfortunately the Parish Council has no power to do anything about mud on the road, but the pot holes have been reported via the website system.
- **Planting of Trees awarded by the Woodland Trust.** The Clerk asked for proposals for locations to plant the 105 trees. Charles Church had replanted the destroyed hedgerow but sadly had chosen not to plant it in the correct position, so additional planting may well be required here. Other suggestions, together with a proposal for the official planting ceremony need to be discussed and agreed. It was also suggested that Simon Gray from Hampshire Woodlands should be approached for advice on location and planting.
- **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations.** The Clerk asked the members if the Parish Council could provide additional toilets for the Recreation Ground for the Sunday event, Cllr Tomlinson proposed this motion, which was seconded by Cllr Foster and unanimously agreed. It was also agreed to approach the land owner of the field opposite the Recreation Ground for car parking and that the fun fair would need to be located at the Cemetery end of the Recreation Ground this year.
- **Notice Boards.** The Clerk raised concern over the condition of some of the notice boards, it was agreed to remove the Telegraph Lane board as this had become beyond repair due to its new location and being totally exposed to all the elements and passing traffic and bus spray, and others should be refurbished as necessary. It was also agreed that the Village Hall notice board could also potentially be removed. The Village Hall Committee should be advised however as the wall would be a different colour underneath it.

**16.16 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that there would be a meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, 8.30pm, at the Benian's Pavilion, unless advised otherwise, to follow Planning.

**16.17 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.55pm**

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**Chairman**