

Four Marks Parish Council

**Minutes of the Open Space Committee
Wednesday 1st June 2016 commencing at 6.45pm
At the Benian's Pavilion, Uplands Lane, Four Marks**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chairman), Cllrs Tim Brake, John Davis, Janet Foster, Dave Mills and Derek Seaton
ATTENDING: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk),
APOLOGIES: None

16.41 OPEN SESSION

An item discussed outside of the meeting was the regular weekly hire of the football training area by the Manor Colts U9s. It was agreed that £75 per annum would be an appropriate fee, taking into consideration electricity costs for the floodlights and any additional recreation ground maintenance that will be needed.

The meeting commenced at 6.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.

16.42 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

It was noted that Cllr K Knight was still listed on the Agenda as a member of the Committee, which is incorrect. The Clerk apologised that Cllr Knight had not been removed but confirmed that this error would be corrected for the future.

16.43 OS ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

As per Standing Orders the Committee is required to elect a Chairman for the new term. Cllr Tomlinson was nominated to continue as Chair by Cllr Mills (? Or was it Tim?), Cllr Foster seconded this proposal. Cllr Tomlinson agreed to continue as Chair, there were no further nominations and her election was approved unanimously.

16.44 OS TERMS OF REFERENCE

The proposed changes were discussed and agreed, and it was RESOLVED to adopt the Committee's Terms of Reference.

16.45 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

16.46 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2016 were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Seaton, seconded by Cllr Mills, and were signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising.

16.47 OS ONGOING PROJECTS AND AREA UPDATES

- **Cemetery.** The Clerk advised the Committee that the gravediggers had come across a water pipe when digging a grave recently and were not prepared to dig until it had been confirmed that this pipe was abandoned. It was agreed to ask Scott to check but make sure appropriate

measures were in place should the water supply not have been re-directed. The Clerk also advised the committee of the blocked drain beside the Cemetery in Uplands Lane and it was agreed to put an annual maintenance programme in place to ensure that all drains on Parish Council land are checked regularly.

- **Oak Green.** No further evidence of someone sleeping rough, but this will be monitored. The reported protruding gas pipe has now been covered with a box. The damaged sleepers have been removed. Eddie Hodkin has ordered new plants, hopefully they will be planted for the Queens 90th Birthday celebration weekend.
- **Recreation Ground.**
 - **Cricket.** Two junior matches have now taken place, and three cancelled due to the weather, but seems to be working well, no issues with clashes as yet. No response to a request to a meeting with the Archers had been received as yet.
 - The Clerk reported that the roller that had been donated to the Parish Council has expired and not cost effective to repair and had agreed for the Groundsman to hire a roller once a week from Vincent Hire. The Groundsman had raised concern that he was spending more time than anticipated preparing the crease, and felt that Alton CC were rather taking advantage. It was agreed that this was not the original agreement, and although the lack of roller would address this for the immediate future, this would need to be considered prior to next season's hire. In the meantime, feelers have been put out for replacement second hand equipment.
 - **Play equipment.** Release of Developers Contributions has been approved, equipment ordered but unfortunately it is unlikely any of the equipment will be in by the 11th/12th June, so the area will be used as 'staff' car park for Village Picnic, to avoid using cricket pitch.
 - **Tennis Court Fencing.** Unfortunately the visit by the portfolio holder did not take place due to miscommunication and the grant award was deferred and it appeared that there was no option but to wait until the. However the Clerk agreed to look at other alternatives, including the Tesco's Bags of Help initiative.
 - **Re-seeding of bare areas.** The Clerk advised of two areas of concern, one by the multi gym where the hedge had been removed and the area in the play park where the goal wall had been. Cllr Mills also raised concern over the already bare patches by the new goal post area. It was suggested that the maybe the position of the goal posts could be rotated to enable one area to re-establish, but that the clerk should speak to the Contractor for advice. It was also suggested installing rubber matting or rhino mulch over the access to the multi gym from the hard core area which became very muddy in the winter, the Clerk agreed to get quotes.
 - **Newly planted trees.** The Clerk reported that following the planting initiative that some of the canes were missing and the guards damaged. Even in one area the whole tree had been removed. Simon Gray had been and checked all the planted trees and replaced the guards and canes where necessary and brush treated them, which was done in his own and time and own expense. Cllr Tomlinson acknowledged that this was above and beyond his remit and wished to thank him for all his assistance and support. The Clerk also confirmed that Pat Seward's Red Oak had to be re-staked due to concerns that it had been damaged.
 - Diana Tennyson had also raised concern over the damaged boundary between the Charles Church estate and the Recreation Ground, in that there was no current connectivity for the dormice. The Clerk also confirmed that the promised fencing had not yet materialized and that this would be raised at the Liaison meeting the following week.

- **Litter bins.** Following several complaints of overflowing bins it was agreed to increase the lifts to weekly for the parish emptied bins during the Summer months, with immediate effect, to be reviewed in September.
- **Gates.** The gate beside the bowls club was now unlocked, and was due to be relocated to the Cemetery end of the Recreation Ground, replacing the telegraph pole and collapsible bollards are to be installed in its place. The Clerk also agreed to chase the contractor to get the padlock off the other gate beside the Scout hut for the Village Picnic.
- **Rope Swing.** A rope swing had been attached to a tree on the boundary between the Charles Church estate and the Recreation ground and whilst not wanting to be killjoys, the Chairman had agreed for its removal for health and safety reasons. (Although it had been put back up in the meantime). It was agreed to remove it and retain it until the owner comes forward.
- **Queens 90th Birthday Fun Run and Village Picnic.**
No success making contact re additional car parking, it was agreed that as the skate park equipment had not yet arrived, this area would be used for exhibitor parking only. Entries for the fun run a bit low at the moment, hope to do a big push next week, please promote.
- **Badger Close**
 - Rats. The rats were found to be nesting under the shed of N0.10 Badger Close, environmental health are now dealing with this in association with the residents.
 - Ash Tree. Damian Hinds responded to the resident and agreed that the Parish Council were acting appropriately. It has been agreed to instruct a third party to assess the tree for any remedial work in due course.
- **Storey's Sanctuary right of way.** Meeting took place and agreement reached over fencing, however the removal of the Cherry Tree in the proposed footpath area will mean dismantling the fence panel on No. 8 Vectis Close's boundary. The Clerk to write to the occupants.
- **Lymington Bottom Green.** Nothing to report.
- **Kingswood Copse.** *Some new shoots of Japanese Knotweed were reported after the meeting, these would be sprayed at the appropriate time.*
- **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** Nothing further to report at this stage.
- **Swelling Hill Pond.** Complaints have been made about a large pot hole in the car park area and one of the picnic benches is broken. There is also a blocked drainage pipe. The Contractor has been instructed to carry out remedial works on his return from holiday. Bryan Timms kindly sent someone up to temporarily fill in Scott Stewart's absence.
- **Allotments.** Nothing to report.

16.48 OS NEW ISSUES

- **Community Building project.** The first meeting of the sub-committee had taken place and agreement and been reached for an initial public consultation exercise and production of an A5 flyer for handing out at the Village Picnic, which would also be published in July's Four Marks News. Feedback would be requested, for collation by the Clerk, with an initial deadline of 16th July. Comments on the initial version of the leaflet was that it was too 'wordy' and needed clearer definition and not to give the impression that although it would be co-ordinated by the Parish Council, it would be Community led.
- **Bowls Club.** The Clerk reported a police incident that had resulted in damage to the Bowls Club fencing. The fencing was to be repaired the offenders. Cllr Brake asked the Clerk to check if they had been issued with a Restoration Order to ensure that this would be carried out. The Clerk also agreed to check that they now wished the fence to be repaired on the play park side of the green.

- **Grant ideas.** The Clerk had asked for ideas for the next round of grants from the Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, which were noted as follows; picnic bench, replacement or reparation of the wooden play equipment, help for the community to acquire the SINC wildlife meadow, and tennis court fencing.
- **Road signs to Recreation Ground.** It was agreed to purchase the proposed combined road sign for the School, Village Hall and Recreation Ground from EHDC, as quoted.
- **Proposals for wildflower planting** (email Diana Tennyson). To be deferred to a later date.
- **New Public Footpath signing.** Cllr Tomlinson agreed to contact former Cllr Budd for the footpath officer's paperwork. Cllrs Mills and Hammond had agreed to walk the various routes and identify the signs that need replacing to enable the Clerk to prepared the grant request.

16.49 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Wednesday 6th July, 8.00pm, at the Benian's Pavilion, unless advised otherwise, to follow Planning.

16.50 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.00pm

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Chairman