

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 15th June 2016, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs John Davis, John Hammond, David Mills, Derek Seaton, Simon Thomas, Anne Tomlinson
ATTENDING: S Goudie (Clerk), 2 members of the public
APOLOGIES: Cllrs Tim Brake and Kellie Knight

16.93 OPEN SESSION

Cllr Mills raised his concern over the state of the verge around the edge of the Lymington Bottom Green. Cllr Thomas advised that he was aware that there had been issues with the Contractor. The Clerk agreed to contact EHDC to alert them to the issues.

Mr Chris Smith, Winchester Road resident, spoke with reference to his serious concerns over the lack of consultation with reference to the Toucan Crossing proposal at Lapwing Way. He had a meeting that day with Damian Walsh, Ingrid Thomas and Mark Kemp Gee, but that although their concerns were acknowledged, those affected had not been made aware until such time as the works were about to commence.

Cllr Thomas advised Mr Smith that the proposals were initially discussed three years ago, he added that both crossings were being paid for by developer's contributions and would be of huge community benefit. This was acknowledged by Mr Smith, however he was still concerned that there had been no consultation with local properties, and no notices had been posted. The initial plans had changed and the proposed bus stop opposite Lapwing Way was worrying from a safety perspective. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had also raised concerns over this particular issue of the proposal, but had been assured that it had passed a Stage 2 safety audit.

Cllr Hammond addressed Mr Smith acknowledging that his concerns were fully understood, and that we would await HCC's response to the lack of consultation.

Mr David Edgar had applied to become a Parish Councillor, and introduced himself to the members. He was asked if he was working or retired and confirmed that he was retired. He was also asked what he thought he could bring to the Parish Council, to which he responded, he was passionate about the outdoor environment and wanted to play a part in caring for the open spaces in and around Four Marks, also adding he was a keen dog walker and hated the amount of dog mess he encountered on his daily walks, all members were in agreement on this issue.

Mr Edgar was thanked and advised on the co-option procedure.

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

16.94 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tim Brake and Cllr Kellie Knight. The Chairman accepted their apologies.

Cllr Ingrid Thomas had sent her apologies due to a meeting clash at EHDC, Cllr Jackson was also attending the same meeting, but had hoped to be able to be in attendance in due course.

16.95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16.96 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Cllr Foster asked for comments on the applicant for the role, all Councillors agreed that he would be an asset to the Parish Council and even though no further applicants had come forward at this time, Cllr Thomas proposed Mr Edgar was co-opted, this was seconded by Cllr Davis, and carried unanimously. Mr Edgar was invited back into the room and advised of his co-option and the Clerk advised that he would be asked to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting and would join the members then.

There was a query as to what point could the Council have 11 Councillors, and the Clerk agreed to check the criteria with the Local Authority.

16.97 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on **Wednesday 18th May 2016**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr J Foster, seconded by Cllr S Thomas and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising.
The Clerk confirmed she had provided Cllr Mills with the explanation of Section 137 payments to Cllr Mills following his query at the last meeting.

16.98 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2016 had been circulated.
Cllr Thomas thanked Cllr Tomlinson for changing the order of the committee meetings due to an unprecedented 17 applications to discuss.
In summary:
 - Four residents from Yarnhams Close had attended and voiced their concerns with reference to the relevant application, which the Committee took into consideration, and agreed that this application should be objected to very strongly.
 - Highfield, 32 Lymington Bottom, was on the Local Authority's Planning Committee agenda for the following evening and Cllr Foster was representing the Parish Council, which had been resubmitted for comment due to an amended application.
 - 166 Winchester Road. The Parish Council had objected to the removal of the tree, and had subsequently been notified that the Arboriculturalist had refused the application to fell the Douglas Fir. However the application for change of use to Martial Arts studio had been granted temporary permission despite some very strong objections. Although concerns had been raised subsequently of other issues that had come to light with reference to this application and Enforcement had been advised. Cllr Thomas had sent an email to the Planning Officer as there were several issues contained within the decision notice that did not appear to be consistent, or correct, and had asked for clarification.
 - Providence, Weathermore Lane. Whilst not having any objections to the proposal, the increased garden curtilage and the fact that the application lay within the SDNP boundary had raised concern and clarification from the Planning Officer had been sought.
 - Withies, The Shrave. The reserved matters had been questioned due to the inconsistency between the different plans. Other issues were still outstanding.
 - A letter of support had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate with reference to the Janelands Appeal. There was no date for the hearing as yet.
 - Cllr Thomas also advised that the developer of the 68-70 Lymington Bottom Road, Medstead, application had appealed against the refusal notice.
 - Cllr Thomas also confirmed that the application on the Land to the rear of 103 Blackberry Lane had been refused, and an Appeal to this decision was awaited.

- The Clerk wished to raise an item detailed in Late Correspondence under this heading as it was planning related.
 - 31790/001 Detached dwelling with detached garage after demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings, pre-decision amendment.
No further comment. No objection still stands.

16.99 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT:

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2016 had been circulated. Cllr Tomlinson summarised the following issues:
 - A flyer laying out proposals for the future of Community Facilities had been handed out at the village picnic;
 - It had been agreed to increase the bin lifts to weekly during the Summer months.
 - Ideas for grant requests had been submitted to the Clerk, but the Clerk confirmed that, although she had missed the deadline, she had subsequently had been notified of an extension and had been advised to apply and confirmed that she had applied for a new wooden multi-play system to replace the old one. The tennis court fencing did not fit the criteria.
 - There were two issues raised with the Minutes under 16.47, Oak Green and the grant for Tennis Court fencing. The Clerk agreed to amend the Minutes accordingly and asked members to notify her of any other issues of concern prior to the next meeting.

16.100 FINANCE

- It was agreed to defer appointing a fourth member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee until all Council members were in attendance.
- The unreconciled Receipts and payments for May 2016 were accepted in principle. However concern was raised, again, over the Benian's Fees, and it was confirmed that they would be discussed at the next Finance & GP meeting. It was also agreed that the Archers should be re-approached to set up a meeting with Cllrs Foster and Tomlinson.
- It was RESOLVED to approve the Clerk National pay scheme increase for 2016-2017.

16.101 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Ingrid Thomas's report was circulated at the meeting, as follows:

District Councillor Report May16 to June 15th 2016

Thank you to our hard working Festival Committee and all the FM clubs for such a wonderful celebratory weekend for our Queens 90th birthday. Starting with a well-attended Quiz on Friday night, followed by a street party that sadly had to be inside but from the happy sounds in the village hall nobody minded a bit. The fun run was such a success that next years is already being spoken about. The artistic talents of the village were also on display both at the art exhibition and in the fantastic flowerpot people who have taken up residence around the village. A true weekend of community spirit culminating in the best Village Picnic I can remember, on behalf of myself and all those who enjoyed the weekend thank you to everybody who organised, joined in and worked so hard to make such a great success.

We have had the welcome news that the large housing development application behind 103 Blackberry Lane has been refused. The full report is available on the Ehdc website (www.easthants.gov.uk/planning) As we now have our Neighbourhood Plan, a Local Plan and a five year housing land supply we are in a more stable planning period. Large sites outside the settlement policy boundary will not be permitted if they are not allocated sites, all the allocated sites in Four Marks and Medstead have now been decided.

For some years the parking standards - the number of parking spaces per house, on new development has been very controversial with many people of the opinion that not enough parking spaces are provided. As part of my duties as assistant portfolio holder for planning I am doing a project to look at how the current standards work. From the evidence to consider new standards for the future, which would then be carefully considered by Officers before becoming part of Part 3 of the local plan. I have visited many local developments and taken photographs of problems with parking.

There is still no decision on how to cope with the cumulative traffic problems that will happen when all the developments in Four Marks and Medstead are both being built and occupied. The report on traffic undertaken by Hampshire Highways should be available soon. Mark Kemp Gee, Roy Pullen and I backed by both Parish Councils continue to push for a separate pedestrian bridge at Boyneswood Road. We are also totally opposed to the option that has been put forward of restricting turning right from Boyneswood Road onto the A31.

The Devolution debate rumbles on with no clear guidance from the Government as to what they are trying to achieve or what the benefits to us all are. There have been considerable Officer hours spent on putting together plans which are then rejected by Government Ministers. Great unrest has been caused and a great deal of unnecessary angst, With some clear guidelines I am sure that the eventual plan would be better because we would all be working towards the same goal and cost us all less.

The current state of affairs (which may have changed when you read this) is that we could go down a route of a Combined Authority which would have a constrained Mayor but keep the tiers of government that we have now. This would be a partnership way of working with other Councils including EHDC, Havant, Eastleigh Southampton and Portsmouth.

We could become part of a Unitary Authority which would abolish both EHDC and HCC and be reborn as Hampshire Council covering the whole of Hampshire, possibly with Portsmouth, Southampton and the IOW. HCC are organising a consultation document at the moment on the Unitary Authority. The Combined Authority will organise a consultation when the Government has looked at the proposals.

I sincerely hope that much more information is provided before any consultation begins.

Ingrid Thomas, East Hampshire District Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead

Cllr Deborah Jackson entered the meeting at 9.00pm.

- Cllr Jackson confirmed that devolution still a big topic, and EHDC leaders had grave concerns that there were too many options. Cllr Andrew Joy (Alton County Councillor) had been asked to clarify that the current housing allocations plans will stand at a recent cabinet meeting, as this was of huge concern, and appeared to get confirmation that they would. However warned that a caveat elected mayor may choose to review. The proposed loss of the middle tier is also of grave concern, with more and more service provision likely to be passed down to Parish level and joint contracts may be called into question, particularly waste services. It was agreed that a proper consultation must take place.
- Following the previous meeting when the Clerk advised that EHDC had deferred the Tennis court fencing grant application, Cllr Jackson had gone back to the cabinet in an attempt to get the decision reversed, however it appeared that the delay in transfer of the land was the issue, but for this, would have been approved.

- Cllr Jackson had an informative meeting with Stewart Garside to understand the TPO procedure, and how one is able to request a protection order. He confirmed that the trees must be of community value and be threatened. She also questioned the fine for removing a tree with a TPO, and asked for examples but was disappointed to find that they are not really large enough to be enough of a deterrent.
- She confirmed she had attended the resilience planning forum with Cllr Foster, who would be reporting further.
- Finally she reported that she had been on a tour round the waste management site, which had been a fascinating experience and was organising a Medstead Parish Council site visit and would like to extend the invite to Four Marks Councillors, which proved to be popular.

Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Jackson for an update on the Cala development situation, as works appeared to have been started with no traffic management plan in place. She confirmed that a meeting was being held on Friday and early the following week. A member of Enforcement had been on site following complaints and had advised that no work would commence until the conditions had been discharged.

16.102 COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS PROJECT

The flyer had been handed out at the Picnic and will be published in the Four Marks News. Responses will be amalgamated and reported to Full Council. Cllr Seaton felt that there should be a much wider circulation particularly to include Lymington Bottom residents, and agreed to contact members of all clubs that use the facilities for their input. There is also the option of an on line survey, which would be posted on the website and social media. The responses will frame the broader consultation.

Cllr Mills, however, raised serious concerns over the report issued by Cllr Seaton and wanted clarification that the report was a committee report. He also questioned an outside person coming on board at this early stage. He felt that this was moving ahead without important background information and that decisions need to be made on an evidence led basis. He also had strong views on the Village Hall proposals.

It was agreed that an inventory of what we have should be made, with a projection for the next 3/5 year period. An audit of use should take place and that Options 1 and 2, referred to in the report should be carried out before Option 3 is taken further.

Cllr Tomlinson felt that a broader view should be taken, and agreement made on the best option and whether there is a path to reach that option, both financially and suitability, and if not, move onto alternative options that would be more viable.

In summary, it was agreed that a wider circulation would take place, an inventory and audit of use carried out, comments amalgamated, and discussed in detail at Full Council, with a view to then moving forward with the most suitable and appropriate proposal for full consultation in due course.

16.103 EVENT/MEETINGS REPORT

- EHAPTC Meeting, Cllr Foster. John Coughlan from HCC gave a presentation on Devolution, which has been circulated, but it was felt that there was little difference to what was presented at the APM. There had been a good deal of concern expressed throughout the attendees over the lack of consultation. Cllr Foster also advised of a new Chairman and Secretary of the EHAPTC, following the retirement of Cllr Sue Halstead.
- Community resilience meeting. Cllr Foster attended this meeting at Penns Place which covered flooding, snow and electricity issues, and highlighted the importance of having a connection of contacts for emergency procedures, and both Cllr Foster and Cllr Jackson agreed that a resilience plan should be put in place and work should be carried out on this, suggested a joint document with Medstead Parish Council.

- Queens 90th Birthday celebrations. The quiz had gone very well, been very well attended and apparently great fun. The art exhibition had been very well received and confirmed there was a huge amount of talent in the village. The 'off street' tea party had also been a great success but due to inclement weather had moved into the Village Hall. There was a good mix of ages which had worked very well. The Clerk confirmed that the fun run had gone well and that due to the positive response would be held again, but not on the same day as the Village Picnic. The Picnic had also been well attended despite the weather but that it would have been useful to have comments from James Coles on the car show and live music, both seemed popular but it was felt that the two didn't integrate. There was discussion on future events, and whether to have a stand-alone event with the fun fair, fun run and car show, but would await feedback from James Coles before progressing further. It was agreed however that the flower pot people were a huge success and should be an annual event from now on.
- Passenger Transport Forum, Cllr Seaton. A point of note from the forum was that due to a change in legislation, bus routes can be set up anywhere, except in London. The Local Authority is empowered to franchise out bus arrangements.

16.104 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- Allotments; Cllr Davis, nothing to report.
- Benian's Committee, Cllr Seaton, nothing to report, next meeting 14th July.
- Festival Committee; Cllr Hammond confirmed the Queens birthday events had been covered already and the next project was to progress the Village Sign.
- Footpaths; Cllr Mills had now received copies of the footpath paperwork from the Clerk.
- Oak Green; nothing to report.
- Village Hall; nothing to report.
- Website; work has started but was slow progress, the Clerk hoped to have a draft to present at the July meeting.

16.105 CHAIRMAN AND CLERK'S NOTICES:

- Chairman's notifications;
 - The Clerk's assistant, Lesley Chandler, had been appointed and has started.
 - The Chairman raised the issue of the Council Commission brief and felt it was imperative that this was attended. Cllr Mills and Cllr Davis were both available to attend, but felt that a more experienced Councillor would be better placed to attend but would attend if no-one else was available. The venue had not yet been advised and the Clerk agreed to forward on any further information when received.
 - The Chairman reminded councillors that when they make statements to the public outside meetings, they must be quite clear whether they are expressing their personal opinions or stating formal FMPC decisions or policy. All councillors need to be very careful to make the distinction and it is easy to make mistakes that can result in serious misunderstandings.
- Clerk notifications
 - The Clerk advised members of salient points that were raised from the recent SLCC meeting, particularly the legal update. A summary of which was available upon request.

16.106 NEXT MEETING:

Planning Committee	Wednesday 6 th July 2016, 7.30pm, Benian's Pavilion
Open Space Committee	Wednesday 6 th July 2016, 8.30pm, Benian's Pavilion
Full Council Meeting	Wednesday 20 th July 2016, 7.30pm, Village Hall

16.107 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

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Chairman