

Four Marks Parish Council

**Minutes of the Open Space Committee
Wednesday 6th July 2016 commencing at 8.00pm
At the Benian's Pavilion, Uplands Lane, Four Marks**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chairman), Cllrs John Davis, Dave Mills and Derek Seaton
ATTENDING: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk),
APOLOGIES: Cllrs Tim Brake and Janet Foster

16.51 OPEN SESSION

The Clerk advised the members that there had been several emails from a resident who was actively pursuing re-dress over the way developers were systematically destroying the Wildlife in Four Marks and had now made a formal complaint to HBIC over their lack of assistance in protecting various species of wildlife, flora and fauna. All emails are available on request.

The Clerk also advised of Highways proposals with extensions to speed limits in the village. She mentioned a proposal was being put forward for a 30mph limit in Alton Lane. The District Councillor was of the opinion that this should not be encouraged and wanted Parish Council support. All members in attendance agreed that this could have a detrimental effect on the rural aspect of Alton Lane.

Extreme concern was raised over the parking at the junction at school drop off and pick up times and lack of bollards, stopping people parking on the junction corners. It was agreed that this should be an item on the Full Council agenda, and the school should be contacted as it was believed that they had carried out a survey which would be useful for attempting to resolve the parking issue.

The meeting commenced at 8.30pm. Standing Orders were applied.

16.52 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Tim Brake and Janet Foster.

16.53 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

16.54 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2016, previously circulated and amended as per comments received at the Full Council meeting, were then proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Seaton, seconded by Cllr Mills, and were signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising
 - Manor Colts U9s and U11s now paying an Annual Fee to use the Recreation Ground (£75 per year)
 - Rope swing has now been removed permanently.
 - New Recreation Ground/Village Hall/School sign has now been ordered.

16.55 OS ONGOING PROJECTS AND AREA UPDATES

1. **Oak Green.** Tender now in draft format (circulated), for initial discussion and comments. Rotary Club are going to try and apply for a grant to assist Parish Council with the refurbishment project.

Cllr Tomlinson queried whether the Parish Council are paying for materials or the contractors, it was assumed the Council, however this needs to be clarified. It was agreed further discussion should take place when Cllr Foster was in attendance.

2. **Recreation Ground.**

- **Cricket.** Only 3 matches played in June due to the weather, so a roller has only been hired twice. The Clerk has received a lead on a second hand roller, which is to be investigated.

The cost of hiring the roller was questioned and it was agreed that purchasing a second hand roller would be preferable, the Clerk agreed to progress. The Clerk has agreed with Alton CC that we will only be hiring once a week, and if they require additional rollings, then they will have to organize. There are only 2 or 3 matches left to play.

- **Play equipment.** Installation has now started, and 75% of grant money has been received from Tesco's for the Gym equipment. No sign, as yet, of the skate park equipment, hopefully to be received in the next couple of weeks. Date for opening needs to be agreed. Bats and balls are being supplied for the table tennis table, however a system of use needs to be agreed.
- **Tennis Courts.** Land ownership transfer has been agreed by the Charity Commission and Solicitor has been instructed to carry out the legal documentation.
- **Re-seeding of grass areas.** No action taken yet, Clerk to follow up.
- **Theft of metal rods.** The Clerk reported the theft of the metal rods from the planting area and cricket square to the police and is checking a report of several similar rods being found in the Allotments. The Saplings by the play area are struggling, and the Clerk will seek advice on further methods of protection. Other saplings seem to be thriving, despite the loss of their canes in some areas.
- **Recreation Ground Boundary breach.** Diana Tennyson is actively addressing the boundary breach, as well as other issues as a result of the Charles Church development.
- **Litter Bins.** We have now entered into a contract for weekly lifts in Four Marks, new contract has been sent for signature.
- **Gates and padlocks.** There are several gates at the Recreation ground, all with different padlocks and keys, which is not ideal. The Clerk would like to suggest looking into having the same padlock/key combination on all gates. This was agreed by all members and the Clerk agreed to purchase the required number of padlocks.

3. **Badger Close.** Issues over fly tipping and land ownership have been reported. Clerk to investigate.

4. **Storey's Sanctuary right of way.** Concern has been raised by Diana Tennyson over the strimming carried out by the Parish Council in preparation for the application for the right of way. Tree still to be removed, then fence to be installed to rear of 9 Vectis Close.

5. **Lymington Bottom Green.** Nothing to report, Solicitor is chasing land transfer.

The Clerk however raised legal concerns of actually registering land as a Village Green and the restrictions that this would incur, and it was agreed that as it was only being applied for to protect the area, that the land ownership by the Parish Council may now be adequate for this purpose. There was also concern expressing about advertising banners on the green itself, and it was agreed that they were not appropriate at this location and the Clerk agreed to speak to those concerned when it next appears.

6. **Kingswood Copse.** Japanese knotweed to be treated, a goat willow showing signs of decay and has split, needs to be removed as danger to fencing and property. Last part of three year management plan to be carried out in the Autumn.
7. **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** Nothing to report.
8. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Nothing to report.
9. **Allotments.** Nothing to report.
10. **Queens 90th Birthday Fun Run and Village Picnic.** Fun run sweep up meeting was held prior to Open Space meeting, and it was agreed that this event would be held next year with a longer distance, and potentially in July, and if agreed, part of a 3 run programme. It was also suggested that the Children's race take place at the village picnic, and maybe a communal dog walk. The Festival Committee sweep up meeting to be held next week. The Parish Council stall was visited but perhaps was not in the best location. Decision will need to be made as to whether to have a pitch next year.
11. **Community Buildings Project.** Responses to leaflet being received, however the on-line survey appears to be performing well, will re-boost next week, responses to be collated in preparation for initial findings for Full Council meeting.
Cllr Seaton confirmed that he had dropped leaflets in numerous locations, in the hope of getting a view from across the village. The Clerk confirmed that there were some interesting comments and views for consideration.

16.56 OS NEW ISSUES

1. **RoSPA Safety Inspection.** Report received and had been forwarded to Councillor Mills, most issues were easily rectified, however there is concern over the wooden multi play equipment, it was agreed to do running repairs until such time as a grant is available to purchase new equipment. The supplier of the multi gym equipment had been contacted and these would be repaired under warranty. Concern was raised over the rusting of the new goal posts and the Clerk agreed to contact the supplier
2. **Celebration event to launch all the new equipment.** It was proposed that Saturday 30 July may be a suitable date to launch the equipment. It was agreed that a celebrity should be approached to formally open the teenage activity area with invites to all who have funded the new equipment. It was suggested that Alistair Stewart could be asked, but Cllr Seaton agreed to talk to putting club members to see if there were any other ideas. Cllr Mills agreed to talk to the Scouts about doing a barbeque. It was agreed it should be a lunchtime event, so would not encroach into football time. James Coles also to be approached to open the bar earlier, and that the barbeque should be located at the Pavilion. It was also agreed that the event be well publicised.
3. **Bowls Club.** The Parish Council have been approached by the Bowls Club for permission to erect a permanent shelter, and are applying for a Tesco's Bags of Help grant. They also require a landowner's permission form. Whilst members agreed permission in principle, the suggestion of a Perspex style bus shelter was not well received and that it should be of more rural design.
4. **Park Run.** A request has been received to hold Park Runs at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Tomlinson had spoken to Philip Scrase from Alton Runners for guidance and he advised that they require significant organization and a large volunteer overhead. There are already several local park runs already up and running, he recommended attending these rather than attempt to set up something in Four Marks. Following this advice, it was agreed not to take this further.
5. **Wildflower verges** – The Shrove. Concern has been raised over their destruction and proposed junction changes. It was agreed to leave this to Diana Tennyson to pursue as she was already actively on the case.

6. **Footpaths and Pond Signs.** The Clerk advised the members of the next grant deadline and Cllr Mills advised that he and Cllr Hammond were making good progress and hoped to have a report by Full Council.
7. **General verge cutting and overgrown hedges.** The Clerk confirmed she had received various complaints and was dealing with each one appropriately. She confirmed that the hedges at the Recreation Ground were being cut this month and the teenage area would be cut back before the launch and would be part of the ongoing annual maintenance programme.
8. **Advisory.** Church functions to be held on the Recreation Ground, 17th and 20th July.

16.57 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

16.58 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45pm

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Chairman