

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 3rd August 2016 commencing at 8.50pm At the Benian's Pavilion, Uplands Lane, Four Marks

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

16.59 OPEN SESSION

The Clerk advised the members that she was looking into participating in the Parish Lengthsman scheme run by Hampshire County Council, and is awaiting details on joining, and what services would be provided.

The Clerk also asked for a future agenda item giving consideration to the type services that may be passed down from the District Council in the event of devolution eg. Grass cutting and bin emptying, and the issues this would entail.

The meeting commenced at 9.00pm. Standing Orders were applied.

16.60 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

16.61 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

16.62 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th July 2016, previously circulated were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr Mills, and were signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising
 - New padlocks have been purchased and being replaced.
 - RoSPA Report. Multi gym has been repaired under warranty, and company are also looking at the goal posts following rust reports.
 - Overgrown hedge adjacent to 1 Thorn Lane has been cut back, and a thank note from a local resident has already been received, with many appreciative comments and thank you emails. Cllr Foster was concerned over the cost and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Social Services in an attempt to try and recoup some of the costs.

16.63 OS ONGOING PROJECTS AND AREA UPDATES

1. Oak Green:

Cllr Foster had previously circulated the tender and the proposed amendments were discussed. Cllr Tomlinson had queried whether the Parish Council would be purchasing the materials and the VAT implications that would need to be looked at. Cllr Foster agreed to make further amendments and send to the Clerk in preparation for the procurement process. The final draft to be circulated for comment prior to release.

2. Recreation Ground.

- **Cricket.** No further progress on new roller, however it was agreed to get someone to else to look at the roller as would be more beneficial than hiring one or purchasing a second hand one. Alton Cricket Club have indicated that they wish to carry on this arrangement next year and a meeting would be held to discuss dates and prices. **Tennis Courts.** Grant application event being held in September, place provisionally booked to pitch for the fencing. No further update on land transfer.
- **Re-seeding of grass areas.** The Clerk had circulated details of supplying an artificial surface in the goal mouths, however it was agreed not to take this further and if necessary the goal posts would be moved to allow the grass to recover.
- **Theft of metal rods.** The orange netting has now been removed from around the Saplings by the play area, although a bit battered seem to still be growing. Will need to replace the rods removed from the cricket square once the season has finished, but would suggest a different material, that is no so sought after.
- **Recreation Ground Boundary breach.** Diana Tennyson is still awaiting a response to her concerns. No response has been received from Charles Church. A stronger threatening letter is being prepared together with one asking them to remove their building debris from the Recreation Ground.

Diana Tennyson has suggested that a 2.4m chain link style of protection fencing would be the most appropriate. The hedgerow would grow around it and dormice and other mammals can climb through it, and may also add as a preventative measure for stray footballs. The Clerk would like to suggest that as the house on the boundary is not yet complete, that the fence should not be erected until their boundary fence is erected, and the alignment to that can be used, and as there is so much weed cover at the moment that erecting a fence may be harmful to the saplings currently being shielded by the weeds.

The Clerk reported that due to branch damage and dropped debris, the Ash Tree has now been checked by Stewart Garside from EHDC and he has agreed for some essential maintenance to be carried out under the 5 day notice agreement. There is now evidence of honey fungus so this tree is now on watch for further deterioration in the future.

The boundary hedgerow needs maintenance and the Clerk agreed to look into the costs of carrying out a two to three year management programme which would entail cutting the hedgerow back, weed killing in the Spring followed by some additional replanting the following Autumn, and look at appropriate grants to carry out the works. .

- **Vandalism of the Table Tennis table.** The police have now spoken to the suspects, but because the witnesses are not prepared to give statements, no action can be taken. Hopefully the visit will be a deterrent to similar behaviour in the future. The proposed moving of the table tennis table has been postponed, until such time as concrete footings can be placed on the grass area beside the Pavilion.
- **New equipment.** Unfortunately there were too many parts missing from the skate ramps to open them at the event. The opening event was relatively successful, although the turn out disappointing. The hedges have been cut back and the Clerk informed the members that SSE were going to cut the whole hedgerow on the South side of the skate park area, with a 3 to 4 meter clearance.
- **Children's play area.** The Clerk reported that the works were being carried out on the maintenance of the play park, following the RoSPA report and advised that the picnic table is repairable, but it was agreed that the purchase of a new piece of equipment would be preferable, and Cllr Mills offered to ask the Four Marks Beer Festival Committee if they would be prepared to donate some funds towards a replacement.

3. **Badger Close.** Nothing further to report.

4. **Storey's Sanctuary 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 on land transfer. See new issues for other works.
6. **Kingswood Copse.** Nothing to report.
7. **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** Once HCC begin the crossing works, they will be instructed to reposition notice board and bench.
8. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Nothing to report.
9. **Allotments.** Nothing to report.
10. **Footpaths.** New signage is not a criteria for grant application, however rights of way think they can help, once Cllr Mills report is complete, the Clerk will liaise with the officers. One of the concrete bollards on Footpath 6 is down and the Clerk agreed to talk to the Rights of Ways officer to find out if it can be removed or replaced.

16.64 OS NEW ISSUES

- The Green, Lymington Bottom. Following an email concern over the trees on the green, the Clerk had the trees inspected to ensure that, as they are all relatively young trees, they are maintained appropriately. The Clerk reported on the findings and detailed the trees that required some routine maintenance and confirmed that the removal of the horse chestnut was necessary due to disease, and proposal to replace it with another species in due course. Concerns were expressed over the Lime tree and its proximity to the War Memorial, and would it be possible to prune the tree, the Clerk agreed to enquire further.
- Improvements to the Benians Pavilion. The three proposed options were discussed, and the general consensus was that Option C was the most suitable proposal. The comments on this preferred option were as follows:
 - It was felt that the proposed position of the billiard/snooker table was inhibiting the space and that if a table is to be provided, it should be a movable table that can be put away as necessary.
 - Open up the area as much as possible, and ensure the walls are flush and not jutting into the open area restricting space
 - Should there be provision for a second officials changing room (male and female)?

The members were informed that the Benians Committee would be having an extraordinary meeting for all clubs to put their views forward and agree the preferred option before presenting to the Parish Council for approval, and submission to Sport England. Cllr Seaton would attend that meeting as Parish Council representative to add the Open Space Committee's comments to the discussions.

16.65 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Wednesday 7th September 2016, 8.30pm, at the Village Hall, unless advised otherwise, to follow Planning.

A site meeting will take place at 7.00pm, Lymington Bottom Green, to discuss tree maintenance programme and a site meeting at the Recreation Ground will take place prior to the October meeting, as agreed.

16.66 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.15pm

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Chairman