

## **Four Marks Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Tim Brake, Davie Edgar, John Davis, David Mills, Derek Seaton  
**ATTENDING:** S Goudie (Clerk), 10 members of the public  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs John Hammond, Kellie Knight, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson  
District Councillors Thomas and Jackson, for part

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#### **16.108 OPEN SESSION**

Cllr Foster welcomed Stuart Turner and Richard McManus, who gave a short presentation on their proposals for a small development of five houses, at 115 Lymington Bottom. They have had one initial discussion with EHDC and will, following this presentation, consult directly with residents prior to submitting the application, sometime in August. The site is currently a bungalow on a large, but sloping, plot. The development will be in line with the existing building line in this area, however the design will be of a less conventional format. The proposal is for 5 detached, energy efficient, new technology two storey dwellings of 2 three bedroomed and 3 four bedroomed dwellings, which will be terraced into the slope with south facing principle elevations.

Existing trees will be retained, and there is a proposed turning circle for larger vehicles, such as food delivery vehicles and claimed to have taken the Village Design Statement into consideration within their proposals.

Cllr Brake asked about drainage proposals, raising concern over the water run-off and the proneness of the area to flooding after heavy rainfall, and it was confirmed that all drainage would be on site, which will retain all the run off.

Cllr Brake also questioned refuse collection proposals as this area becomes extremely congested at school drop off and collection times. Mr McManus assured the Parish Council that this would be taken into consideration and refuse collection points could be provided on site.

Concern was expressed over access and the aforementioned daily school traffic congestion, and the current limited visibility splay. They confirmed they would be submitting a detailed design and access statement. All parking would be on site, so there would be no additional parked cars adding to the daily problems.

Mr Turner and Mr McManus were thanked by the Chairman for contacting the Parish Council and taking the time to come and discuss their proposals prior to submitting their application.

Mr Simon Gray spoke with reference to the two applications to be discussed during the meeting at Westwood, 119 Lymington Bottom. He informed the members that he was the former owner of Westwood, and had discussed similar proposals in the Spring of 2010 with Mary Bird, EHDC's planning advisor.

He had been advised that, as the area between Belford House and Lymington Bottom was all bungalows, that no two storey proposals would be acceptable, and if he wished to add an additional dwelling, the original dwelling would need to be demolished and the two new dwellings sited in alignment with the other properties in this area. He was also advised that each new dwelling would

need their own access to the highway and he would need to provide a full and detailed Design and Access statement.

Mr Gray had studied both applications in detail particularly as they were very similar to what he was intending to propose. He also confirmed that the site plan was showing the access point out of alignment, giving an incorrect position of the actual access point. He was also concerned about the considerable congestion problems at the school which, six years later, is greatly exacerbated with all the new development in the village, and that there was no detail in the access statement, and whilst acknowledging that this was not a relevant planning point as they are not protected was very disturbed at the amount of tree removal, prior to the submission of these applications.

Mr Gray was thanked for his background information which would be helpful in the Council's deliberations.

Cllr Seaton raised concern over the potential expansion in due course of the Cala site in 'South Medstead' and how can this area be protected to avoid another Meadowbrook/Charles Church scenario. It was agreed to defer this to Planning Committee, however Mr Frank Maloney, Secretary of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, confirmed that the Settlement Policy Boundary line had been drawn closely around the site and part of the site was still excluded in an effort to protect this area under Policy CP19.

**The Open Session concluded at 8.00pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **16.109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs John Hammond, Kellie Knight, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson. 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, they both hoped to be in attendance in due course.

#### **16.110 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr Davie Edgar signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting. The Chairman welcomed him on board.

#### **16.111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **16.112 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Mills and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising.
  - A consultation with reference to the proposed Toucan Crossing on the A31 at Lapwing Way area of the A31 was held at the request of the residents, which took place the previous evening. Cllr Foster had the plans displayed at the meeting, together with the safety audit. There was still concern over the proposed new location of the bus stop, however the safety audit had shown that this was the best location. This was the major concern of both comments from residents and the Parish Council, initially, but following the safety audit, the Parish Council would be prepared to support the Toucan Crossing proposal.
  - The Clerk confirmed that the Council Commission brief had been missed due to a lack of communication, but had asked the organisers for any follow up information.

#### **16.113 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 had been circulated. Due to the fact that the meeting had been inquorate a number of items had been

deferred to this meeting for discussion. As neither the Planning Committee Chairman nor Cllr Anne Tomlinson, who chaired the meeting in his absence, were present, there was no further report.

- Planning Applications:

1 Reference: 27410/008  
Location: Cunningham, Willis Lane, Four Marks, GU34 5AP  
Proposal: Two storey side extension to side and conservatory to rear  
No objection.

2. Reference: 34918/005  
Location: 70 Winchester Road, Four Marks, GU34 5HR  
Proposal: Single storey detached dwelling & detached car port with associated access

Four Marks Parish Council strongly object to this application. This is a re-submission of 34918/003 which was granted permission on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015, and it appears that works have already started, the garage has already been demolished in preparation, and security gates erected, so would question the appropriateness of this re-submission.

The application is for a new dwelling and all the Parish Council's former objections stand together with additional concerns, in particular with the adoption of the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan:

- This is 'inappropriate back garden development' and against Policy 1 **A Spatial Plan for the Parishes** of the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed dwelling is not in keeping with the surrounding properties and is over development of the plot;
- The access is off a turning arc of the cul-de-sac, Blenheim Close, and this will lead to problems with construction traffic and delivery vehicles;
- The loss of parking for the adjacent property 5 Blenheim Close will also lead to on street parking;
- There appears to be a discrepancy over the levels of the site, and potential water run-off issues. This is now actually visible, and of concern, following the removal of the garage to provide access to the site.
- The proposal has not taken into account the recommendations contained within the Village Design Statement and newly adopted Neighbourhood Plan.
- The application is for a single storey dwelling, but has two floors.
- Potential concern over damage to the Root Protection Area of the protected Oak Tree adjacent to the site.
- Agreement to this proposal will inevitably set a precedent for further development in neighbouring properties back gardens, as has been seen in other areas of the Village.

Four Marks Parish Council would respectfully ask the planning officer to take all the objections, both Parish Council and local residents, into consideration, and the actions carried out by the applicant to date, when making their deliberations, and request refusal of this application.

In light of the fact that this application has caused such consternation the Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, would like to request that this application is decided at Committee rather than under delegated powers.

3. Reference: 21763/002  
Location: Westwood, 119 Lymington Bottom, GU34 5AH  
Proposal: Increase in roof height to provide accommodation at first floor level

Four Marks Parish Council objects to this application. The proposal is to increase the height of the dwelling to two storey. The property is in a line of similar style bungalows set back from the road in a linear style. To increase the height of this property, which is already visible due to the sloping aspect of the plot, would change the existing street scene rendering the property out of character with the surrounding properties. The plot size has been reduced to encompass a proposal for an additional dwelling, and as such by increasing the size of the property by this amount, would lead to overdevelopment of the reduced size plot.

The site plan shows a proposal for a new access, subject to the new dwelling being granted permission, but other than reference to this new access in the Design and Access Statement, no application for a new access has been submitted, and as this is in the very close proximity to the ever increasing in size primary school and daily congestion directly outside this property and existing access, there are safety implications that do not appear to have been considered and Highways do not appear to have been consulted on this application.

It was also brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the former owner of the property sought pre-application advice in 2010 on a similar proposal and was told by your planning advisor, Mary Bird, that (a) no property between Belford House and the school should be higher than one storey (b) a second dwelling would not be feasible unless the original was demolished and the two new dwellings could be built adjacent to each other within the building line of the existing properties, (c) a new access for a second dwelling would need to be provided and a full design and access statement prepared before submission. The applicant states they sought pre-application advice, and if this is the case, then why have all the former criteria been lifted?

The location of this property is on the edge of the Settlement Policy Boundary and to increase the size and aspect of the property would be harmful to the character of the area therefore not complying with the guidelines laid out in the NPPF and East Hampshire District Council's Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy Policy CP19 (Development in the Countryside), CP20 (Landscape) and the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, Policy 1.

4. Reference: 21763/003  
Location: Westwood, 119 Lymington Bottom, GU34 5AH  
Proposal: Detached dwelling

Four Marks Parish Council strongly objects to this application, as follows:

- This is back garden development, which is contrary to Policy 1 of the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan.
- The location of the proposed dwelling is directly on the border of the Settlement Policy Boundary, therefore in the countryside on the edge of the settlement and subsequently not compliant with Policy CP19 and CP20 of EHDC's Local Plan JCS, or with guidelines laid out in the NPPF.
- It is a two storey property, on a sloping plot, therefore will have a high visual impact on the local residents' amenity.
- This is over-development on a reduced size plot.
- The proposed dwelling is out of character with the current linear situation of bungalows.
- This area is already prone to flooding due to water run-off, an additional property will only exacerbate the situation
- Access. The proposed dwelling is close to the primary school, this area is extremely congested at peak times, and a new access will add to this already highly concerning situation, including the fact that this is the main pedestrian access to the school. The plans are not clear, or accurate, and there does not appear to have been any consideration given to the implications of a new

access on the adjacent property. There is only a brief mention in the Design & Access statement on access, when this is a fundamental concern and there does not appear to have been a traffic survey carried out.

In addition, it was also brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the former owner of the property sought pre-application advice in 2010 on a similar proposal and was told by your planning advisor, Mary Bird, that (a) no property between Belford House and the school should be higher than one storey (b) a second dwelling would not be feasible unless the original was demolished and the two new dwellings could be built adjacent to each other within the building line of the existing properties, (c) a new access for a second dwelling would need to be provided and a full design and access statement prepared before submission. The applicant states they sought pre-application advice, and if this is the case, then why are all the former criteria no longer applicable?

In summary, the location of this property is on the edge of the Settlement Policy Boundary and the NPPF has a core principle that states that planning should recognize the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This development's harm far exceeds any benefits and so the development would not amount to Sustainable Development and against East Hampshire District Council's Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy Policy CP19 (Development in the Countryside), CP20 (Landscape) and the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, Policy 1, and as such respectfully asks the Planning Officer to refuse this application.

- In the absence of Cllr S Thomas it was agreed to defer the discussions over preparation of a letter to DCLG requesting a full public consultation on devolution options for Hampshire to the next Planning Committee meeting.

#### **16.114 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 had been circulated. As Cllr Tomlinson was absent from the meeting, there was no summary report, and no further matters arising.
- Charles Church boundary breach and non-compliance with request. The Clerk confirmed that no action had been taken, and therefore it was agreed that the Parish Council would give them no more than 14 days to carry out the fencing or they would instruct their own contractor to put up a fence of their choice and charge them directly. It was agreed that this letter should be sent by recorded delivery. It was agreed that advice should be sort on the type of fencing that would deter humans but be safe for wildlife.
- Teenage activity area. The Clerk reported on the course of action following the vandalism and details of the launch event were discussed. It was agreed to move the table tennis table to outside the Benians Pavilion parallel to the building, tennis court side. The offer of use of a telehandler had been received via social media which the Clerk was following up. It was suggested the Parish Council should provide the teas and coffees and if anyone from the WI was available to assist it would be gratefully received, however it was agreed that no charges should be made for refreshments. Cllr Mills confirmed that the Scouts would still be happy to provide burgers, on a small scale, for a small charge, and this was welcomed. The refreshments would be provided outside the pavilion, indoors if the weather is inclement. The Clerk advised that the ramps would be going in next week.

#### **16.115 FINANCE**

- Cllr Foster proposed that Cllr J Davis would be a good asset to the Finance & General Purposes Committee with his financial background, and asked if he would be prepared to join, to which he agreed. No other member had expressed a wish to fill the vacancy. The Clerk confirmed that if he remained a non-signatory on the account, he should still be able to carry out the bank reconciliation check for the Clerk, if the Financial Regulations were amended accordingly.

- The Clerk presented the Receipts and Payments and balances as at 30 June 2016, there were no questions, and it was RESOLVED to approve both these accounts and receipts and payments to date.
- Cllr John Davis had carried out his first bank reconciliation check as agreed and reported as follows:
  - April and May records were checked. April's reconciliation was straightforward, however May's reconciliation did not balance. This was quickly explained as the reconciliation had picked up the June entries.
  - It would be far more appropriate to receive the statements at month end, and the Clerk had already instigated this recommendation.
  - Recommendation for Internet Banking, which would make keeping track of directly paid receipts much easier, and deposit account balances. This was now being progressed, together with opening a new deposit account with a new provider to alleviate the risk of having too much money in one bank.
  - Cllr Davis had also recommended claiming VAT back quarterly rather than annually and the feasibility of this would be looked into.
  - Cllr Davis had requested a copy of the bank mandate that stipulates the three signature rule, however the Clerk does not have one on file and advised that this was held at the bank, and is stipulated in the Financial Regulations.

## **16.116 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

### **District Councillors Report 15th June to 15th July 2016,**

#### **Ingrid Thomas, Cllr for Four Marks and Medstead**

*Diana Tennyson and the wildlife group have come up with a fantastic plan to try to save the Four Marks Dormice. These lovely creatures have special protection status as they are an endangered species. We are lucky enough to have a colony of them living here. They used to have interconnecting hedgerows but sadly due to the huge scale of development in the village some groups have become isolated, of course they are also attacked by predators like cats and foxes. Diana and her group are attempting to buy the SINC site which has now been surrounded by building as a sanctuary for these special creatures, if you have any ideas on how to help please contact Diana.*

*There continue to be problems with people pushing through the very young hedgerow from the Meadowbrook Estate onto the Recreation ground, this hedgerow must be allowed to grow as it provides essential connectivity for the dormice and other wildlife. If you are using this unauthorised access please could you change your route to avoid damaging the hedgerow further. The hedgerow was planted by volunteers earlier in the year as part of our 90 trees for 90 years programme to celebrate the Queens birthday.*

*Medstead Pond open day was a lovely affair with lots of villagers supporting the huge amount of work done by members of the Parish Council, some of the work was done with EHDC grant money as part of one of the early projects to come from our Neighbourhood Plan. The ceremony was followed by Medstead Fete which was as ever a good afternoon with great cakes.*

*On a rather less fun note my planning duties continue to take up a huge amount of time. This month I was very much angered by false written comments made to the Planning Committee about myself, Deborah Brooks Jackson and the Parish Council by a very local planning consultant, such comments will not be tolerated and legal steps are being taken.*

*I have attended a meeting with Cala homes representatives to arrange that the traffic management plans for each of our large building sites operate in such a way as to cause least chaos. I am very grateful to Cllrs Roy Pullen and Mark Kemp Gee for all their help. The Cala site in Lymington Bottom Road could begin working in late July. Friars Oak site off Boyneswood Road is expected to begin at a similar time.*

*Thankfully the work at Meadowbrook is almost finished.*

*So we will have lorries following the agreed routes and showing due respect as has been promised by the development companies to the neighbours. We also face the prospect of road closures.*

*Miller homes who are building on Lymington Bottom Road need to bring a sewerage pipe through the bridge, I have been told this could take six weeks of road closure but hope for less they would like to close the road from the 25th of July.*

*Mark Kemp Gee and I have been meeting people, showing them the problems and trying to ensure that passing places are put along Five Ash Road before the first road closure happens. Having seen the terrible state caused to Gradwell Lane when that was used as a diversion route we are trying everything we can to try to prevent the same thing happening again in Five Ash Road. EHDC Officers are making concerted efforts to ensure least disruption possible and have been in constant contact with Hampshire Highways.*

*Once the sewerage pipe is installed in Lymington Bottom Road we will next face the closure of Boyneswood Road Bridge as sewerage pipes also have to be brought through there to the Friars Oak site. So the diversion route could go on being used for a considerable time.*

*Mark and I are continuing to push for a separate pedestrian bridge as we both believe that more cars and more people on such a restricted bridge are not safe. We continue to battle against Hampshire Highways who still contend that a virtual footpath is sufficient, we believe they are wrong.*

*I truly hope that all our local residents and businesses are not too much inconvenienced by these closures, and that our fears are unjustified.*

*EHDC Officer Nick Upton is trying to arrange the first of the residents liaison meetings so that residents can talk directly to the developers. These meetings will be held in the village hall and will be minuted so that everybody can see what has been discussed, if you live near any of the sites you are invited to attend the date and time will be publicised in advance.*

*There will be a public consultation about the toucan crossing to help children cross the A31 near Lapwing Way at the village hall on the 19th July, I am very much looking forward to a safer place to cross our increasingly busy road being installed.*

*As ever if I can be of assistance to you over any EHDC matters please contact me.*

District Councillor Thomas entered the meeting at 9.10pm and advised the members that you can now apply for details of monies in the CIL account, and bid for extra money. The 5 year housing land supply is now at 7.4 years so in a very strong position to resist housing.

She also confirmed that there is no update on the Boyneswood Bridge proposals, and that the Lymington Bottom Road proposed road closure would be carried out in stages. She had also found out that Highways owned a drainage ditch at the Five Ash crossroads, and made

them aware, and it was hoped that they would clear these ditches in the hope that this would improve the flooding issues at the crossroads.

### District Councillor Jackson's Report to Four Marks PC (20 July 2016)

Over the past month I have attended one meeting of the Planning Committee (a proposed extension in Four Marks) and a site meeting at Cedar Stables in Medstead. (Since the Medstead PC had made no objection to this application, it did not seem necessary to call this application to Committee.)

I recently attended an interesting Planning Legislation update session. Some of the key points that I picked up on were:

- Some changes to the “general permitted development order”, which should allow more flexibility for changes of use, subject to meeting the criteria for certain key areas of consideration.
- The provision of “Starter Homes”, which must be sold at least 20% below the market value (or at less than £250k) to buyers who meet certain criteria and must live in these properties for a specified length of time before being able to re-sell at the full market value.
- There is better guidance on self-build (or customer-designed build), and the identification of suitable land for this purpose.
- Neighbourhood Plans are to be encouraged and acted upon by the local planning authorities (good news for us as the Medstead & Four Marks NP is already approved and a legal document), Likewise, local development plans need to be in place – again another tick in the box, with EHDC currently working on Part 3 of its Housing and Allocations Plan.
- The concept of “Permission in Principle” was one that led to much discussion. This can apply to allocated sites within a Local or Neighbourhood Plan and registered brownfield sites.
- In addition, there is scope for the compulsory purchase of building land by a Local Authority, although this is intended as a means of speeding up, rather than delaying (or preventing) construction taking place.

Whilst it appears that the purpose of these changes is to streamline the planning process to enable greater housing provision, I think, just for the moment at least, I will remain sceptical!

In June, together with Cllr Roy Pullen (Medstead Parish Council), Ingrid, and County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee, I attended a meeting at HCC to discuss the latest proposals for the Boyneswood Road railway bridge. Whilst Highways have commissioned a detailed independent report and evaluation of the options, the report contains a number of inaccuracies and errors, which much to our frustration it appears that they are happy to accept. Highways still seem reluctant to accept that the virtual footway is quite simply not even a suitable temporary solution – I sincerely hope that it does not take an accident involving a pedestrian and a lorry to get this message across. On a brighter note, it appears that the costs for building a separate footbridge may be significantly less than quoted in the aforementioned report; this is being investigated further. Obviously whilst the building of such a bridge would enhance pedestrian safety, it will need the support of the Mid Hants Railway across whose land it must pass.

Whilst it appears that Highways have now been notified of the proposed closure, it is uncertain that local businesses were given much notice. No actions are proposed to protect

the verges in Five Ash Road. As a matter of priority County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee has taken up the baton on our behalf and HCC have appointed Mr Adrian Gray as “crisis manager”. Earlier today, Ingrid Roy and I met on-site with Simon Jenkins (EHDC) and Dominic McGrath (HCC) to discuss these issues once again, particularly in the light of the Lymington Bottom Road closure under the bridge that will be in place from next Monday for approximately 6 weeks whilst the new sewer is installed. What a pity that some sensible traffic measure and better protection for pedestrians could not be implemented in advance of the diversions along Five Ash and Boyneswood Roads. It has not been for want of trying! Over the past few weeks and much to the concern of local residents, a number of pre-development activities have been taking place on the CALA Homes site. The developer, having taken a step too far has been served a “Temporary Stop Notice” by the EHDC Enforcement team, on the grounds that operational development has commenced without the formal completion of all of the pre-commencement conditions.

Yesterday I met with Emma Pond and Michelle Green from the EHDC Traffic Management Team to discuss any problems or reported issues within the ward. In Emma’s own words, their remit is “signs and lines” (speed humps, pinch points and other concrete items remain under the wing of County Highways). I learned that most of the zig-zag markings were not actually enforceable, however they but can be made the subject of an Order that rectifies this. The main outcomes from this meeting for Four Marks are that the measurements of the road markings outside the school are to be checked, prior to being enforced; ways to prevent pavement parking in the “Tesco” area are to be investigated and not least of all, the EHDC car park adjacent to the petrol station is to have its lines repainted.

In terms of Devolution, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight are currently working with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to create a Combined Authority. At this stage District and Borough Councils cannot be involved in discussions as they need their County Council to be part of this discussion (and HCC has declined). However, once the combined authority has been set up, the District and Borough councils are anticipating being invited to join. I have been informed that EHDC will be providing a “Public Consultation” later this summer; this is likely to take the form of an “information” event, explaining how the combined authority will work.

Finally looking ahead, a couple of dates for your diaries:

- Butserfest, the UK’s largest alcohol and drug-free festival will be taking place on Saturday September 10, with 3 stages of amazing music from internationally acclaimed acts to local up & coming artists.
- The headline topic for the next Community Forum is “Have your say on the future of local healthcare”, and will be held at Alton Community Centre on Tuesday July 26 from 6.30.

Cllr Jackson entered the meeting at 8.45 and was questioned by Cllr Seaton over whether she had been able to do anything about the grant application for the tennis courts now that transfer of land had been confirmed. She confirmed it would have to wait until the next round, in October/November time but would check if a new application had to be submitted or whether the original could be re-submitted.

#### **16.117 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- Allotments; Cllr Davis. Following the last meeting they had started a programme of regular inspections of plots as some plots were not being properly maintained, with follow up communication with offending parties, this was felt necessary as there is currently a waiting list of 7.
- Benian’s Committee, Cllr Seaton attended the meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, although confirmed the attendance of the meeting was disappointing. He raised the issue with the garage, to which they responded they were not aware there was any urgency. Cllr Foster agreed to remind them otherwise. The spare key would be returned at the weekend. They

asked if a representative from Alton Cricket Club could be at the meetings and the Clerk agreed to speak to the club Chairman to request this if the arrangement was continuing next year. Although the issue with the clash of fixtures with the Archers was still very much unresolved. The Archers had no knowledge that a meeting had been requested, the Clerk agreed to try and contact them again to set this up. The owner of the strip of land between the Skate Park and the Pavilion had died and ownership of the land transferred to the son, Cllr Seaton suggested that the new owner is traced and approached in a renewed attempt to purchase the land. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

Three options of proposed extensions to the Pavilion had been presented and feedback was awaited, it was not clear as to when the preferred option would be decided, or who would make that decision, but the Committee hoped to be able to present to the October Parish Council meeting. There are copies for comment on the wall at the Pavilion or available from the Clerk.

- Festival Committee; As Cllr Hammond was absent the Clerk reported from the Minutes of the meeting and advised members of the details of the Remembrance Day service, 10.40 meet at the Church, service at 10.45, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Wreaths would be removed shortly and it was agreed that the War Memorial should be cleaned prior to the ceremony. Designs for the Village Sign were being progressed and it was agreed that the Carol singing should go ahead, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm, same detail as last year. The Queen's birthday celebration was discussed and considered a great success. It was also agreed the flowerpot people should now be a prequel to the Village Picnic every year, and James Coles and Mark Hughes were personally thanked for all their hard work, and would be written to separately.
- Footpaths; Cllr Mills confirmed that he and Cllr Hammond had now visited three quarters of the footpaths in Four Marks and identified where new signs were required and reported one or two other issues. No one appeared to know what the hazard tape around some of gates/styles was for. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted HCC to see if we would be able to apply for a grant under the Small Grant Scheme.
- Oak Green; Cllr Foster reported that she had visited all the shops this week and met three new Managers (The Loaf, Village Flowers and the Chemist). She had spoken to the adjacent shops to the stairwell as a number of pallets had been dumped and were blocking the access. They had been asked to remove them, however if they were not removed within a couple of weeks, they would be available to anyone who wanted them. Concern was expressed over a middle plank sleeper at the bus shelter seat, which would be reported to the maintenance contractor.
- Village Hall; Cllr Mills reported, following the recent meeting, that the car park repair, and other reported maintenance issues would be carried out in due course, together with the relocation of the table and chairs store and butterflies equipment. Cllr Mills also advised of discussions between the adjacent developer about sharing their soakaway, due to inherent problems with overflowing water from the Village Hall to the neighbouring property. It was agreed that this was not appropriate and that the Village Hall should have its own and that there would be grants available, and Parish Council assistance, to support this. Cllr Mills to advise the Chairman accordingly. Cllr Mills also raised his concern over insurance of Trustees, and it was agreed that the Clerk should look into the cover that the Parish Council has in its capacity as Custodian Trustee.

#### **16.118 EVENT/MEETINGS REPORT**

HARAH affordable housing event. Unfortunately Cllr Thomas who attended the event was absent, therefore it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

#### **16.119 CHAIRMAN AND CLERK'S NOTICES:**

- Chairman's notifications;  
The Chairman has been approached by the Neighbourhood Plan steering group who have suggested that they do not altogether disband.

They have suggested that Nick Stenning, Frank Maloney and the two chairs of the Parish Council planning committees form a group meeting on an ad hoc basis to discuss SHLAA allocations, possible changes to housing quantities or any other issues. Medstead Parish Council have agreed to this. This was approved in principle as there a number of Councillors absent this evening, including the Chairman of the Planning Committee, and confirmation would follow the next Planning Committee meeting.

- Clerk notifications  
The Clerk asked for approval for an annual grant to Victim Support. A grant of £50 was proposed by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Mills and approved.

#### **16.120 COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS PROJECT**

The survey results had been circulated prior to the meeting, the findings were discussed briefly. It was agreed that 90 responses only constituted a very small proportion of the community and some could be misinterpreted, however it was agreed it was a start and were a base to move forward with.

Cllr Seaton advised the meeting that they had offers of help from members of community in different areas of expertise. Cllr Seaton reported that they were now ready to prepare detailed layouts as a basis for consultation and therefore this required funds for architects time and asked for a budget of £2,000 from Parish Council funds to cover incidentals. Cllr Mills expressed his concern that this was moving forward too fast and that it could be misinterpreted that the majority wished to see a new facility at the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the discussion to release funds for preparatory drawings would be discussed at the Finance & GP meeting the following week.

#### **16.121 TRAFFIC CONCERNS**

- School parking and safety concerns were raised at the Open Space meeting and it was agreed, following a conversation with and photographic evidence sent from the School, to support the school with their discussions with HCC and EHDC to try and alleviate the parking and traffic congestion problems at drop off and pick up times. The Clerk agreed to liaise with highways to assess the current proposals and see if there was anything the Parish Council could do in the interim.
- The Clerk reminded the members of the Road closure at Lymington Bottom Road, which the District Councillor had covered earlier in her report.
- Speed limit extensions had been covered at the Planning Committee meeting, however just to confirm that the Parish Council supported the District Councillor in her stance in that any speed restrictions in Alton Lane would be refuted.

#### **16.122 NEXT MEETING:**

<b>Planning Committee</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016, 7.30pm, Benian's Pavilion
<b>Open Space Committee</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016, 8.30pm, Benian's Pavilion
<b>Full Council Meeting</b>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2016, 7.30pm, Village Hall

#### **16.123 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.**

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**Chairman**