

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 5th October 2016 commencing at 8.40pm At Four Marks Village Hall

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

16.76 OPEN SESSION

Cllr Foster advised that the area under the stairs at Oak Green was being used as a storage area for sheets of plywood, it was agreed that as it may be that building works were being carried out at one of the flats above to leave it for a week, but if left any longer, then they would be removed.

If anyone has any pallets or wood for burning, Cllr Mills would like them for the school bonfire.

There being no further items to be raised under the Open Session, the meeting commenced at 8.45pm. Standing Orders were applied.

16.77 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

Following the discussions at the Full Council meeting on 21st September 2016, it was confirmed that Cllr Seaton is no longer a member of the Open Space Committee. Therefore the Committee was now down to 5 members, requiring 3 members to be quorate.

16.78 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

16.79 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2016, previously circulated were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Mills and were signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising
 - New padlocks have now been purchased and installed.
 - The Clerk had chased the issue with reference to the rusty goal posts, still awaiting a response.
 - Security fencing has now been removed.
 - Mobile catering van. Football Club have been approached for their approval, no response as yet. *Cllr Knight to raise this at the next Benians meeting. Cllr Knight was also asked to raise the removal of the garage and ask that it be done by the end of October.*

16.80 OS AREA UPDATES

- **Recreation Ground.**
 - **Tennis Courts.** A site visit took place on Friday 30th September by the EHDC Portfolio holder and Community officer, John Geoghegan, which was attended by the Clerk on behalf of the Sports and Social Club, to assess the Cabinet Grant application. EHDC

have requested the Sports and Social Club's annual accounts and also suggested applying to the County Councillor for a grant from his devolved budget as well. The Clerk has already approached the County Councillor on their behalf, and awaits his response.

- **Table Tennis table.** Will be moved week commencing 3rd October.
- **Playground.** Awaiting quotations for refurbishment. New picnic table to be installed week commencing 3rd October.
- **Land between the skate park and pavilion.** Nothing to report on the land issues, however Cllr Foster reported a problem with a bump in the new tarmac at the bottom of the shorter ramp. The Clerk agreed to report this to the contractor.
- **Storey's Sanctuary right of way.** Tree will be removed week commencing 3rd October and boundary fence for 8 & 9 Vectis Close will be erected once the tree is removed. Paperwork to register the land and application for public footpath status has now been prepared and will be sent to Land Registry and HCC rights of way imminently.
- **Land at Telegraph Lane/A31 junction.** Nothing further to report.
- **Badger Close.** A confirmation email has now been received by the Solicitors with an offer to take over all the land still owned by Antler Homes for a nominal £1 transfer fee. It was agreed that, as the road and pavements are maintained by Hampshire Highways and that there would be no costs on their repair by the Parish Council, then it would make sense to take ownership of it. The Clerk reported that the neighbour adjacent to the Badger Orchard had cut down some of the trees in the Orchard hedgerow that were affecting his TV signal without seeking consent. The Clerk had already written to him asking in the future to not touch any of the vegetation in the orchard without contacting the Parish Council first and has asked Diana Tennyson to visit and advise the occupants of the importance of leaving the wildlife areas as untouched as possible. As Autumn maintenance is due to be carried out shortly, it was agreed that a notification letter should be distributed to all occupants of properties adjacent to the corridors advising them of the proposed checks and use this opportunity to politely remind their responsibilities with reference to the wildlife corridors.
- **Cemetery.** Amendments have been made to the Burial Ground Regulations to refer to the Winchester Diocese Standards, which will be circulated prior to approval at Full Council. The stonemasons have re-submitted a new design which will be circulated at the meeting for approval. Cllr Foster now confirmed that she had visited the family about the mementoes on the grave. A new proposal for a memorial headstone had been received, the clerk circulated the proposal at the meeting, and it was agreed.
- **Swelling Hill Pond.** Concerns have been raised over the condition of the benches. It was agreed that Cllr Mills would talk to the Chairman of the Angling club as it was uncertain as to who actually owns the benches and the picnic table. It was suggested that these should be replaced rather than repaired and grants would be sought to replace them providing the Angling Club were agreeable. The Clerk suggested slightly different locations if replaced as they were all in the shade at most times of the day.
- **Lymington Bottom Green.** Maintenance works to be carried out before Remembrance Sunday.
- **Kingswood Copse.** A further report raising concerns over the Ash Trees had been received. An inspection had been made, and sensitive removal of one or two of the Ash trees that overhang both garden and highway and causing concern had been proposed, which would make the area safe and would allow the remaining trees to flourish. This work would be carried out at the same time as the final stage of the coppicing. A quotation for the Ash tree removal was awaited for approval.

- **Allotments.** A further update was received at Full Council following the concerns raised by Cllr Davis at the previous meeting. Nothing further to report at this time. However Cllr Davis was much happier that the allotment holders were being better represented.
- **Footpaths.** Nothing to report.

16.81 ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **Oak Green.** The initial tender has been finalised and will be submitted to contracts finder this week. Cllr Brake intimated that he may of a local person who may be willing to project manage on a day to day basis and would approach the person concerned and confirm back in due course.
- **Benian's Pavilion.** Representative has changed to Cllr Knight, who will pass on comments to the Committee at the next meeting. The Clerk is approaching a contact at EHDC to discuss how to move forward with the running of the Pavilion, and will report following that discussion.
- **Recreation Ground Hedgerow.** An article was submitted to Four Marks News explaining the proposals for the future of the hedgerow for publication in October. Stewart Garside has sent recommendations for Ash Tree replacement together with the guidelines. Both the fencing contractor and Hampshire Woodlands have been approached to submit a full and final quotation, together with a management plan, ready for submission for application for Developers Contributions which have been confirmed as available.
- **Cricket Pitch.** The square has now been 'put to bed' for the winter. John Cook (Hampshire Cricket Development) spoke in the Open Session at the Planning Committee earlier and advised the Parish Council that there are many opportunities for use of the pitch, including Ladies "W10", disabled cricket and a new initiative for younger children. It was agreed to contact Mr Cook, thank him for coming in, and let him know that he has the Parish Council's full support and to offer the venue to any association as appropriate and the Parish Council would maintain the pitch for that purpose. The costs of the pitch maintenance to be included in the budget proposals for next year.
- **Finger post restoration.** Quotes are still being sought and grant application opportunities for this project are being sourced. It was agreed after some discussion that due to the prestigious nature of this project that it should be outsourced to a professional company and if a grant was not available it was agreed that Section 106 monies should be used, maybe from the Highways provision. The Deputy Clerk had received three quotes, one of which would be chosen to progress, and be submitted with the grant applications.

16.82 OS NEW ISSUES

- **Bulb planting.** As the request to Highways for a parish wide planting licence had not come to fruition, the clerk asked members for ideas on planting areas for the WI daffodil bulbs to commemorate the Queens 90th Birthday year. Three areas were suggested, Oak Green, Lymington Bottom Green and the verge beside the play area where the saplings were planted. The Clerk would advise the WI accordingly.
- **Drain maintenance plan.** There were several problem areas and Cllr Foster had suggested that a regular maintenance plan should be put into place to ensure that the drains were cleared regularly. It was agreed to get the Uplands Lane drain and Oak Green done prior to the leaf fall, and annually at this time from now on. It was suggested that the local company Easy Clean should be contacted to carry out the works. The Scout hut drains would be added to the maintenance plan for the future, but did not need doing at this time as they had only recently been cleared.
- **Digital mapping.** The Clerk advised of a software mapping programme available to the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that she had downloaded a trial but had not had a chance to work through it. It was agreed that this would be a good application for the Parish Council to have and the cost should be included in the budget proposals for next year.

16.83 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting Wednesday 2nd November 2016, 8.30pm, at the Village Hall, unless advised otherwise, to follow Planning

16.84 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40pm.

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Chairman