

Four Marks Parish Council

**Minutes of the Full Council
Wednesday 17th February 2016 commencing at 7.30pm
At the Village Hall, Four Marks**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Kellie Knight, John Hammond, Derek Seaton, Ingrid Thomas, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson

ATTENDING: Sarah Goudie (Clerk), 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr David Mills

16.27 OPEN SESSION

The Chairman opened the meeting and invited comments for the Open Session.

PCSO Matt Shepherd was in attendance to introduce himself. He took over from PCSO Nops covering Four Marks, back in June of last year. His primary task is community engagement, and the priorities for Four Marks are burglary in outbuildings, theft from gardens and building sites. He works 37 per week, on shifts of days and lates, but not nights.

He was asked about parking concerns in the area, but confirmed that this was primarily a highways issue unless there was danger or obstructions. Action can only be enforced when there is a parking order in place (eg. double yellow lines). Unfortunately PCSO's have no powers to deal with parking issues.

PSCO Shepherd was accompanied by Sergeant Claire Winter, who confirmed she had been in Alton since 2011, but took over neighbourhood policing in 2014, her area covers Alton and its surrounding villages as far afield as Greatham.

There were further questions on drug issues, which were not of concern in Four Marks, and internet bullying and inappropriate pictures appearing on social media, which were dealt with on a case by case basis.

Sgt Winter was also asked about the closing of Alton Police Station, she confirmed that a move was planned in 2017, but as yet do not know where, but confirmed that there would still be a base in Alton.

Both PCSO Shepherd and Sgt Winter were thanked for attending.

Mr Shapland wished to raise his concern over the state of the footpath between Winston Rise and the railway bridge on Lymington Bottom Road. The Clerk acknowledged this and agreed to contact Highways and report the problem. He also asked the reason why the pedestrian gate between the recreation ground and the cemetery had been locked. The Clerk confirmed that abuse by dog walkers had instigated this unfortunate action.

Mr Tim Brake, reported that the access point between the bowls club and play area was impassable on foot. The Clerk acknowledged this and would chase the request for scalplings both here and at the entrance to the play park.

Mr Andre Knight, was applying to be a Parish Councillor, and gave a brief presentation on why he would like to be a Parish Councillor and what he could bring to the Council, referring to his specific skill sets. He was asked several questions by members, particularly on his contact with the District Council, his voluntary bus driver position (currently on hold) and although he

confirmed he is busy, he felt he had time to contribute. He also spoke briefly about his hobbies and participation in groups outside the area.

Mr Brake, former Parish Councillor, was also in attendance to apply for the current vacancy. He briefed the current members on what he had been involved in during the 8 years he had served on the Council and projects he had been involved in. He was asked his reasons for wanting to return. He confirmed that, due to an uncertain medical future he had reluctantly retired last April, however with a positive medical outcome and with a new job on flexi time, he was keen to return and be of service once again.

Both applicants were thanked, and the Chairman closed the Open Session at 8.00pm. Standing orders were applied.

16.28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Dave Mills, the apology was accepted by the Chairman.

16.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

16.30 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Wednesday 20th January 2016**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr S Thomas, and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
 - Cllr S Thomas thanked the Clerk for circulating Tracy Vear's response to the Parish Council's queries, however he expressed extreme concern that her role is overstretched and that we would not benefit from her services and would like to be updated on the proposed recruitment of two additional staff. Cllr I Thomas confirmed she had a meeting with her next Thursday.
 - The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting flyers were in preparation and will be produced in small card format for distribution by the church (COGS). The Clerk and Chairman, following discussion, felt that there would not be enough time for the Four Marks in 2000 presentation, and suggested that it might be a suitable activity for 90th birthday celebrations weekend if appropriate. It was commented that highlighting the monetary aspect on the flyers may be beneficial.
 - Speedwatch awareness signs. Mr Pullen confirmed that highways had already given permission, and that the signs were for both parishes, not all for Four Marks. The Clerk had been unsuccessful in contacting anyone at Highways to confirm and was in the process of trying to find out why they are not responding to any emails.
 - Cllr S Thomas asked if there had been any progress on locating the water pipe under the Lyminster Bottom/A31 junction. The Clerk confirmed that it was not on the document she had in her possession but would have a further search through archive paperwork.

16.31 CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

It was proposed by the Chairman to close the meeting to the General Public to allow for a free and frank discussion over the candidates. **The Meeting Closed at 8.15pm.**

There was considerable and detailed discussion and it was agreed that both candidates would be valuable to the Parish Council. However although there are two vacancies, one has yet to be formally advertised as the 14 day notification period was still in force, only one candidate could be co-opted at this meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr I Thomas, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson and agreed unanimously to co-opt Mr Tim Brake, his former experience being the deciding factor, however it was also proposed, when writing to Mr Knight, to positively encourage him to reapply for co-option at the March meeting.

The Meeting re-opened at 8.30pm

16.32 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr I Thomas circulated the following report prior to the meeting:

This month we have had the positive news that the application to build houses at Five Ash Crossroads has been dismissed at appeal. The Inspector once again found that East Hampshire do have a five year housing land supply so policies within the JCS are applicable. This is very positive news because speculative development applications should be fewer as they are unlikely to succeed. During the past week we have also been notified that several more appeals throughout the district have been dismissed, once again because we do have a five year housing land supply.

Part two of the Local Plan has now been examined and the Inspectors report has been made. This document will go to EHDC Cabinet in March and then to Full Council in April. Once passed these two final hurdles it will become adopted policy. Work has already begun on part three which will cover all other aspects of planning. When part 3 has been out to consultation and examined we will then have a complete Local Plan. In the mean time we have completed parts one and two covering the allocation of sites for housing and employment, policies on how development will be considered and managed. These are the major parts of the Local Plan so EHDC having them in place means we are amongst the few Councils nationwide to have achieved this stage. Several neighbouring Districts have not done so and are still vulnerable to speculative applications.

The Neighbourhood Plan has also passed important milestones this month. It has been passed by EHDC Cabinet and will be adopted by the Full Council at the next meeting. We will then have a referendum where the community can vote on the Plan, a huge amount of work has been put into producing our own Neighbourhood Plan, all done by volunteers. They have consulted, worked on suggestions, a truly extraordinary amount of time and energy has been expended to produce the final plan. There was a huge disappointment that the Examiner (of the Allocations Plan) did not choose to remove the site at Junipers in Medstead from the allocations plan. Since then all avenues have been explored to try to remove the Junipers site. Do take the opportunity to read the Neighbourhood Plan document and vote in the Referendum which will probably be on the same day as the Election of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Roy Pullen of Medstead Parish Council and I had a very good meeting with Miller Homes who are the developer of the Lymington Barns site in Lymington Bottom Road. We discussed how they would keep the road clear of mud, manage the traffic and times of deliveries to the site so as to cause least problems for local residents. There will be a liaison committee formed so that the developer, residents and councillors can discuss matters arising. On return from our holiday I was most disappointed to find mud on the road and no signs erected to direct site traffic away from the lanes, I will be following this up!

The discussions on traffic management around the villages are continuing with Mark Kemp-Gee and I trying to arrange changes to the speed limits on the A31 at The Shrave to make turning into an out of the cutting safer. We are also involved in trying to settle improvements to the bridge at Boyneswood Road and to ensure there is a

good traffic management plan in place when other sites are developed. Mark has worked extremely hard on these problems for which I would like to express thanks.

On a District wide level there have been discussions about the proposal to create a Combined Authority involving Hampshire, IOW, Southampton, Portsmouth and the District Councils and Enterprise Partnerships. The discussions are ongoing there are some advantages and some disadvantages with the proposal but details are not settled yet so it is difficult to pass on information. As soon as it is possible I will do so.

The huge project at Whitehall and Bordon has begun, Brandon Lewis the Minister responsible was at the site last week to dig the first spadeful as the project began. There will be houses, employment zones, a new secondary and primary school, leisure centre, shops and entertainment spaces which should regenerate the town.

As ever if I can be of assistance to you please contact me.

Cllr I Thomas advised the meeting that the Local Plan Part 2, should be ready for approval in April.

No report was received in advance from Cllr Deborah Jackson.

16.33 FINANCE

- It was RESOLVED to approve the receipts and payments accounts for the month ending 31st January 2016, following proposal by Cllr I Thomas and subsequently seconded by Cllr Knight and by vote, agreed.
- The Clerk presented the current financial receipts and payments to date. On the expenditure item for the replacement of Barry Seward's Memorial Tree, Cllr S Thomas suggested that there was an article in the Four Marks News to highlight this action.
- The Chairman summarised the Clerk's appraisal and following a satisfactory outcome it was proposed by Cllr I Thomas to increase the Clerk's salary by one point in the salary scale from 22 to 23, with effect from 1st April 2016, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and agreed unanimously, and therefore carried. The Clerk also confirmed that, due to the increasing amount of time consuming administrative tasks, it would be practical to appoint a part time member of staff. This was agreed in principle but that the amount of hours and contract should be discussed at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting. Cllr I Thomas suggested that there may be a local Clerk with experience who may be looking for some additional hours, and the Clerk agreed to investigate this proposal.

16.34 PLANNING

- A summary report on the Planning Committee Meeting on Wednesday 3rd February was given by Cllr S Thomas, the Planning Committee Chairman, as follows:

Mr Bryan Timms had attended and thanked the Planning Committee and Parish Council for supporting their objections. He confirmed that this application had been a tied vote, and the Chairman had had the casting vote and supported the recommendation for permission.

Other applications discussed were yet another Chawton Parish application in the Shrave, and the Clerk had submitted Four Marks' objections. There were other objections to this application including one from Highways. Cllr Seaton queried the Chawton/Four Marks boundary at the Shrave, but it was concluded that nothing could be done until the boundary review in two years' time.

There was a change in housing mix on the application for reserved matters on the Land to the West of Lymington Farm, which was out of the Local Authority's hands but due to a government regulation on shared equity. The other reserved matters applications on the same site had already been approved.

Notifications included the approval of 4 dwellings to the rear of 100 Winchester Road, but that as the developers had advised that the development would not be viable if contributions had to be paid, and due to certain Planning Policy the Local Authority were able to waive developers contributions. The Clerk reported she had received an email raising concerns over this issue and it was decided that this would be an Agenda item at the next Planning Committee meeting to discuss this in more detail.

The Appeal on the Land to the North of the Telephone Exchange, Medstead (pig farm), had been dismissed by the Inspector, Cllr S Thomas had previously circulated the decision notice for information.

16.35 OPEN SPACE

A summary report on the Open Space Committee Meeting on Wednesday 3rd February was given by Cllr A Tomlinson, the Open Space Chairman, as follows.

The proposals for the Skate Park and teenage activity area were presented, and the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had been shortlisted to receive a grant, amount to be decided by votes, from the Bags of Help scheme run by Tesco's, and that voting would start on 27th February, the Clerk would keep everyone updated on details. The final layout and decision on equipment would be agreed at the Open Space meeting and then the Developers Contributions would be applied for.

A meeting with our Rights of Way representative and a follow up conversation with the Map Review officer, proved very positive. Their mapping system clearly shows a marked right of way and providing we can provide enough evidence it has actually been used as a right of way in excess of 20 years, there should be no problem with its designation. Residents adjacent to the proposed route were expressing concerns, which is entirely normal, but HCC do not entertain any objections that raise crime issues or concerns over security. One resident has already formally objected but, following discussion it was felt that a mutual agreement could be reached.

As mentioned under the Financial Review, a replacement for Barry Seward's memorial tree had been purchased and re-planted, in a slightly different location but still within the preferred vicinity. The Clerk would be writing to the James and Helen Seward to advise them.

It had also been agreed to remove the A31/Telegraph Lane and Village Hall notice boards and refurbish others where necessary.

Cllr Tomlinson, following confirmation that we are to receive 105 trees from the Woodland Trust, asked for suitable locations. The Clerk said that the species awarded were from the wildlife category, so should ideally form wildlife buffers. Cllr Seaton had suggested Winston Rise and Thorn Lane, but it was felt that the type may not be suitable. A planting day will be arranged once the trees are received, and details would follow.

16.36 CORRESPONDENCE/PARISH NOTICES

- The Parish Council thanked Reg Pullen for offering to attend the East Hampshire Passenger Transport Forum in May.

- Cllr A Tomlinson agreed to represent the Parish Council at the next EHAPTC meeting on 9th March 2016.
- Cllrs I Thomas and S Thomas will be attending the HLOW Devolution Forum on 1st March 2016.
- Cllrs J Foster and S Thomas will be attending the HALC Conference on 9th March 2016
- There were no further amendments to the S106 project list. However, Cllr I Thomas, referring to the proposed artificial cricket pitch advised that there may be some second hand pitches available from the Bordon regeneration project.
- Village Hall update. Cllr Mills was not in attendance but had circulated, via the Clerk a report on the latest meeting. The Parish Council requested that Cllr Mills circulate a copy of the Village Hall accounts.
- *Late correspondence :*
 - *An email had been received querying the waiving of the developers contributions on the 100 Winchester Road (25235/008) application. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Planning Committee meeting.*
 - *An email had been received requesting a marble covering for a burial plot, it was agreed although not wishing to be obstructive, further details and advice is needed. Clerk agreed to seek guidance from other sources before responding.*

16.37 BENIAN'S PAVILION

Cllr Kellie Knight presented a report on the Benian's Committee meeting held on 21st January 2016. Concern was raised over the following issues:

- A pre-meeting was held between all the Benian's Committee Members before the Parish Council representatives arrived, which turned out to be rather an unpleasant experience for Cllr Knight who had arrived half an hour early in error.
- A request had been made to introduce a till roll or receipt system for the bar takings and concern was raised over the reluctance to make any changes to the current honesty system.
- Treasurers report. Cllr Knight was concerned over the lack of detail on the finance report, and the audit procedure for the accounts was also questioned. It was agreed to check the contract between the Parish Council and Committee, and the Parish Council's liability, before any further comment was made.

The three attendees were all in agreement that there was a complete breakdown in the relationship between the Parish Council and the Benian's Committee, although the Clerk confirmed that this appeared to have been the case for some years, however the situation now was untenable. Cllr Seaton also expressed real concern over this and offered his assistance to try and mediate.

Cllr Knight had asked all clubs to let her have their membership numbers to take back to the Community Project group and only one club had responded.

It was suggested that some Parish Council members meet separately with each club to try and ascertain why there is so much friction and antagonism towards the Parish Council and get a better perspective on how to address the issues that have arisen, and their vision moving forward.

The Chairman agreed to take all the issues on board and consider options for proposal and report back at the next meeting. The financial issues would be discussed at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

9.45pm Cllr Hammond left the meeting.

16.38 WEBSITE

This item was deferred for a second time as it was felt that it could not be discussed effectively.

16.39 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- **Community Facility Project.** There was nothing further to report, however Cllr Seaton expressed his concern that no progress was being made, and that all proposals were in limbo awaiting decisions. It was agreed that whatever was progressed, it would be years before anything was built, so that proposals to improve existing facilities should not be held back.
- **Festival Committee.** (This report was given earlier prior to his leaving, but Minuted in Agenda order) Cllr Hammond reported that following the Festival Committee on 18th January 2016, there was a meeting the following week to discuss the progress of the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations weekend. He confirmed that the current planned activities include a Quiz on the Friday in the Village Hall being run by the Sports & Social Club, on the Saturday there will be a school Art exhibition. The children's street party, which is being run by the Scouts, will take place on Lymington Bottom from 12-3, this is also being supported by the WI. The Clerk had agreed to check out information on road closures. This would be a ticket event with food, drink and street entertainers. On the Sunday the 'Village Picnic' has become a very much larger affair with many add-ons, including a custom car show and bands in the evening to finish off the day. There was the possibility of a Chinook arriving in the afternoon, although this was still to be confirmed. The fun fair will also be on the Recreation Ground for the duration, opening Thursday evening. The Rotary Club were keen to host their popular horse racing event, but it was not sure whether there would be an appropriate venue. The Clerk was also progressing, together with Alton Runners, a Four Marks Fun Run which will start and finish at the Golf Club, unfortunately the Recreation Ground as either a start of finish point was not logistically ideal. There is a final sweep up meeting on 26th April 2016.
Following the discussions on the Annual Parish Meeting and the lack of time to show the Four Marks in 2000 Film, it was suggested that this could be shown in the Pavilion on the Sunday at some point.
- **Footpaths;** nothing to report.
- **Oak Green;** no report. Although concern over parking on the pavement outside the Chinese was raised and it was agreed to contact the relevant authority to try and get the bollards reinstated, and ask Cllr Mark Kemp Gee to assist if necessary.

16.40 NEXT MEETING:

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 16th March 2016, 7.30pm

16.41 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

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Chairman