

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 18th January 2017, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Tim Brake, John Davis, Davie Edgar, John Hammond, Kellie Knight, Dave Mills, Simon Thomas, Anne Tomlinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Goudie (Clerk), District Cllr Ingrid Thomas, 9 members of the public

APOLOGIES: None

17.01 OPEN SESSION

Julia Hylden, Telegraph Lane, spoke as a concerned resident. All neighbours had received an invitation to a 'housewarming' event at the new Benjamin UK residence in Telegraph Lane. Although very little detail was given on the invite, it was well attended, although there appears to be conflicting information on what is actually proposed and mixed messages given. It would be good to actually have clarification on the residents, their ages, school and general care arrangements to avoid unnecessary speculation.

Cllr Knight attended the event and stayed after most had gone and spoke at length with the owner. She confirmed that they deliberately play the situation down to keep the children out of the limelight. The children will be aged between 11 and 18, with 18 being the cut off age, the house has been designed for boys. The Manager is there Monday to Friday, with a deputy manager on call 24 hours, and two care workers. Some occupants will be from Hampshire who have been unable to attend main stream schools, they will be home schooled. Cllr Knight was of the opinion that the owner seemed to have a genuine passion for these children and was assured that they have an open door policy, and residents will be welcomed with any concerns that they have, prior to contacting the police or local authorities.

Mr Bryan Timms spoke with reference to a question raised by a Councillor at the Planning Committee meeting and confirmed in more detail the information that had been requested

Mr Rod Rymer, on behalf of Four Marks Care, spoke on behalf of residents with reference to the proposed site for the new post office in Medstead, and the current consultation. They are proposing to invite the Post Office to come and consult with local residents to add weight to the suggestion that moving the location from central Medstead to nearer Four Marks would benefit far more people.

Mr Derek Seaton also spoke with reference to the Post Office consultation and distributed among Councillors a paper he had prepared for consideration, and asked if there were any questions. Councillors had not had the opportunity to see the document, so were unable to comment at this stage, but the Chairman advised all attendees that this item would be discussed later in the meeting.

Revd Howard Wright was in attendance to support the request to of a public meeting with the Post Office.

Mr Mervyn Dunwoody had submitted a report for circulation prior to the Council as part of the brief on current usage given previously.

Cllr Thomas asked if they had considered projected usage, as well as three year past usage to ascertain how the bookings had increased, he also added it would be good to note those bookings turned away for reference, and the reasons why.

Cllr Mills asked why the proposed new Scout hut's additional facilities and the proposed expansion of the Benian's Pavilion had not been taken into consideration, and Mr Dunwoody confirmed that this was had not been given in the brief, it was only to look at existing facilities.

Cllr Hammond noted the current brief, and the findings, but was keen to know the next steps, and it was agreed that this together with the working party composition would be discussed later in the meeting.

District Councillor Thomas asked if any structural surveys had been carried out on existing buildings, Mr Dunwoody confirmed that he had looked at the Village Hall some years ago and had reported then that is very likely that structural work would be required in the future, but as this was over 10 years ago, then this would now be imminent.

Cllr Davis asked Mr Dunwoody if any prospective hirers had requested a hall larger than that was currently available, it was noted that there had been some evidence that a demand for a large building would be beneficial.

Cllr Foster thanked Mr Dunwoody and confirmed that the Parish Council would get back to him as soon as practical, with a view to continuing with the project. Mr Dunwoody indicated he would be keen to continue on the working party.

Cllr Foster then invited Councillors to question the prospective Councillor candidates in attendance on their past experience and interests, following the circulation of their application paperwork.

She advised the candidates that we were in an unprecedented situation with 5 good candidates to discuss and was keen to reassure them that should they not be chosen this time, that this was no reflection on them, and if not successful this time would encourage anyone to reapply.

The Open Session concluded at 8.07 pm. Standing Orders were applied.

17.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

17.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17.04 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 16th December 2016**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Brake, approved unanimously, and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
There were no matters arising.

17.05 COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Planning Committee, Wednesday 4th January 2017.
 - Referring to the applications for both the tourist accommodation and additional two gypsy and traveller pitches, Cllr Thomas wished to confirm that Mr Timms' comments from the open session had been separate to the application discussions. Following the split EHDC Planning Committee vote, and the fact that one Councillor who had arrived late was not allowed to vote, and if their vote had been allowed, the decision would have been refusal not permission, Cllr Thomas wrote a strong letter to the Planning Officer on the case, making reference to the concerns that were raised following the previous application's decision, keen to ensure that all the evidence was considered prior to the decision on this application. He confirmed that as EHDC currently did not have a 5 year land supply for gypsy and traveller pitches, the policy statement strongly demonstrates a need, and that pitches need to be found by 2019, and as such this application is likely to be approved. A very robust objection to this application had once again been submitted.
 - The application by Mr Timms for a tourist site did not contain enough detail to enable the Parish council due consideration and this fact was noted in the comments submitted.
 - The refusals were all noted and the application to build a new detached dwelling at Lawrenny, Alton Lane, had been withdrawn.
 - The Appeal against EHDC's refusal at The Haven, Boyneswood Road had been dismissed by the Inspector. The Neighbourhood Plan's Settlement Policy boundary had been robustly defended. The Appeal held for compliance at Janelands, Willis lane where a barn had been turned into a dwelling had been very detailed and the outcome may not be known for several months.

- Open Space Committee, Wednesday 4th January 2017
 - Benians Committee. A consultant had been appointed to look into the options of cost effectively running the Pavilion.
 - Tennis Club. The funding for the new fencing had been secured and the Parish Council would be project managing the fencing, it was also suggested and agreed to turn the third court into a multi-use games area, and additional finance would be needed.
 - Cllr Mills attendance on a play equipment inspection course had raised a couple of issues, primarily a self-closing gate and better signage.
 - Charles Church boundary breach, legal action was progressing slowly, a proper footway was being constructed on the recreation ground by the informal opening.
 - Storey's Sanctuary. The owner had not responded favourably to the Parish Council's request for support in the designation of a formal public right of way, although HCC Rights of Way had confirmed that landowner's permission was not required. The Clerk had questioned whether proceeding would benefit the wider community, and this question was put to members for decision. It was agreed to not pursue this further for the time being and await the internal issues of fencing removal to be resolved and maybe look again at taking this further in the future.
 - The continual dog fouling issues were discussed and two new dog waste only bins have been ordered. Concerns over dogs in the children's play area were discussed and the Clerk had put an article in the Four Marks News highlighting the health and safety issues.
 - Complaints over Cemetery maintenance had been made and it had been agreed to employ someone over the winter months just to keep it tidy. The mole hill concerns reported had also been addressed. Cllr Brake raised concern over future Cemetery space due to the higher population and it was agreed that this should be highlighted for discussion at the next meeting.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee, Wednesday 11th January 2017
 - Benians Pavilion and Recreation Ground. The proposal for the future running of the Pavilion had been discussed in detail and it had been agreed to raise the fees as previously discussed for this year. A formal meeting would be proposed for Thursday 2nd March between the Parish Council and the Benians Committee to run through a proposed legal agreement and detail plans for the future, with an independent Chairman.
 - Four Marks Football Club. It had been noted that FM Football Club were currently the league leaders and could be promoted at the end of the season. From previous experience it was noted that ground improvements would need to be made to comply with league guidelines, and they had been invited to approach the Parish Council sooner rather than later with proposals. It was questioned that the Minutes appear to reflect that the Parish Council would approve these measures, when this had not yet been discussed, which was noted for amendment. However Cllr Thomas said that for a small village to be at the top of level 12 was a great achievement, and that to be promoted, the works would have to be done and therefore should be supported.
 - The Government had withdrawn its proposal to impose referendum criteria for parishes to raise their precept in excess of 2%, but would be reviewed next year.

17.06 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- The Chairman reported that EHDC were likely to approach the Parish Council to take over various pieces of land in Four Marks under their ownership, although at this stage there had been no formal approach nor any detail on the location of the parcels of land. The Clerk had agreed to try and ascertain where they were, so that when a formal request was made the Parish Council would be able to consider each on their own merit.
- The Chairman advised members that she had received a request from Reg Pullen for the Council to purchase their own radar speedwatch sign. Although not put to the vote, as this was not an Agenda item for resolution, members initially queried the need to purchase our own equipment, particularly as Medstead had their own equipment and the opportunity was there to share. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to the Medstead Clerk to discuss whether a formal share agreement would be possible.

17.07 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Ingrid Thomas circulated her report prior to the meeting, which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 1.

District Councillor Thomas confirmed that the Wellness Festival in July, proposed date was 9th July, and Four Marks Recreation Ground was the chosen venue. She asked for the Parish Council to

endorse it and enthusiastically get involved in the preparations, and maybe set up a separate working party.

She also confirmed that EHDC would be writing to the Parish Council in due course to propose taking over various land parcels with the Parish and that the road sign plans submitted by the developer of Withies, The Shrove had been approved and confirmed that the Janelands Appeal had been adjourned until February due to illness.

DC Thomas also relayed from the planning department that the removal of condition to allow for removal of obscured glass at the development on Lymington Bottom was to be approved, however this had led to the introduction of much stronger planning controls for the future.

She also confirmed that Four Marks was now on the list for future visits by the dog patrol team to the Recreation Ground now that our problems had been highlighted.

Several comments had been received over the above and beyond duties that the new 'Lollipop lady' was carrying out, and it was agreed that she should be considered for an outstanding community service award, which would be discussed as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

Equipping her with a speed camera on her hi-viz vest was also discussed and Cllr Edgar agreed to approach her to see if she would be prepared to wear one.

Cllr Foster thanked District Cllr Thomas for her attendance

District Councillor Thomas left the meeting at 9.10pm.

All remaining members of the public also left the meeting at this time.

17.08 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

All five candidates that submitted applications were discussed in detail. However, following a query on eligibility, it was noted that two of the applicants had not been resident in the village for the requisite 12 months, and had to be reluctantly disqualified from the process. The other three candidates were discussed and put to the vote. Candidate number one was voted for co-option unanimously. The Clerk would write to all candidates as soon as convenient to advise them of the decision.

However one candidate, who was discounted due to ineligibility, it was felt would be of great asset to the parish and it was agreed to write to them and ask if they would be able to assist in some of the up and coming projects until such time as they would be eligible to reapply.

17.09 PLANNING ITEM:

Reference: 55451/001; Glenmore, 27 Lymington Bottom, Four Marks GU34 5AA
Proposal: Reserved matters pursuant to application 55451 – nine dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling (as amended by revised plans received 16/12/2016)

Four Marks Parish Council have considered the revised plans in detail and have serious concerns over the ridge heights of these dwellings. The topography of the land is such that all the proposed dwellings will be dominant features, and would ask the planning officer take into consideration similar issues encountered with two other developments in the same vicinity, specifically the south west corner of the Brislands Lane Reserve site development (52501/002) and Maytrees, 71 Lymington Bottom (55766), where the new dwellings situated on the same higher ground a few hundred yards to the south tower over the existing dwellings below.

Plots 2 and 3. These proposed dwellings are 8m high in a line of one storey dwellings, their height is accentuated by the provision of a roof window in both, which gives the impression that these are, in fact, 2 and a half storey dwellings, or certainly will have the potential to be in the future. We would request that the ridge heights are reduced to at least be in line with the proposed dwelling on Plot 1. The fully clad north elevation of Plot 2, and south elevation of Plot 3, will be in full view of oncoming pedestrians and traffic which no amount of landscaping will soften.

Plots 5, 6 and 7. Due to their elevated position ideally their ridge heights should not exceed 7.5m, even more preferable would be a ridge height of 7.0m, which would mitigate the topography and lessen the impact of the over dominance of the proposed new development.

With reference to the proposed materials, whilst there is a mix of brick and cladding, the colour of the cladding proposed appears to be a light grey, which gives the development an urban appearance, and therefore moving away from preferred rural appearance as detailed in the Village Design Statement. Although acknowledging that the cladding has been reduced on some plots, the Parish Council would request a more subtle brown to enable the development to blend in more appropriately with its surroundings, and would also draw the planning officer's attention to another development within the village where grey facia tiles were initially used and subsequently replaced with a terracotta colour, following enforcement action.

The Parish Council would also like to reiterate their request that strict, and enforceable conditions are imposed on the permission to ensure that the existing hedgerows showing as being retained, are not 'removed in error', and that part of a fully enforceable CMS is provided to include conditions that construction and contractor vehicles do not park on Lymington Bottom, or in the Village Hall or Church car park, **at any time**, due to its daily regular usage, delivery lorries only park up and accepted after 9.30am to allow for nursery school attendees to enter the Village Hall safely and effective provision is made to ensure that the highway is kept clear of mud.

17.10 FINANCIAL ISSUES

- (a) It was RESOLVED to approve the Income and Expenditure report from 1 April 2016 to 31st December 2016, **previously circulated.**
- (b) It was RESOLVED to approve the list of payments made in December 2016, **detailed below:**

List of Payments made between 01/12/2016 and 31/12/2016

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
06/12/2016	Talk Talk Business	DD	27.54		Office phone/broadband Nov/Dec
06/12/2016	1&1 Internet Limited	DD	25.16		Quarterly website fee
13/12/2016	Playsafety Limited	1939	276.00		Playground Insp. Cse-D Mills
13/12/2016	Semrah Landscape Management	1940	252.00		November grass cutting
13/12/2016	Eddie Hodkin	1941	192.00		Oak Green cleaning/maint.
13/12/2016	Garthowen Garden Centre	1942	215.00		Christmas Tree - Oak Green
13/12/2016	Medstead Parish Council	1943	152.99		NP Steering Gp Insurance
13/12/2016	SSE Southern Electric	1944	28.37		Electricity charges - Nov. O/G
13/12/2016	SSE Southern Electric	1944	5.96		Electricity-New contract-Pav.
13/12/2016	SSE Southern Electric	1944	65.65		Electricity-old tariff-Pav.
13/12/2016	Scott Stewart	1945	99.00		Installation of bin - Rec. Grd
13/12/2016	Scott Stewart	1945	283.92		Maintenance work - open spaces
18/12/2016	Biffa Waste Services	DD	125.27		Waste bin service - Pavilion
29/12/2016	David N Dorban	1946	72.00		Office kitchen maintenance
29/12/2016	WKL Building Supplies	1947	45.10		November materials account
29/12/2016	Ampella Maintenance Ltd	1948	246.00		Annual boiler service-Pavilion
29/12/2016	Hampshire Woodlands Ltd	1949	1,176.00		Tree/hedge maintenance - LBG
29/12/2016	David Mills	1950	63.00		Mileage - training course
29/12/2016	FM01	1951	13.05		Mileage - December
29/12/2016	FM01	1951	24.00		Office Cleaning - V Lockey
29/12/2016	Timpson Limited	1951	16.00		Spare keys for office
29/12/2016	Sainsbury's	1951	3.00		Hand towel for office
29/12/2016	FM02	1952	188.93		December salary payment
29/12/2016	HM Revenue & Customs	1953	418.12		Dec 2016 - PAYE/NI
29/12/2016	FM01	SO	1,365.00		December salary payment
29/12/2016	Hampshire Pension Fund	SO	344.01		December pension contribs.
29/12/2016	British Gas	DD	298.16		Sept-Dec 16 Pavilion gas bill
Total Payments			6,021.23		

- (c) It was RESOLVED to approve the bank statements, corresponding bank reconciliations and trial balance as at 31st December 2016, **previously circulated.**

17.11 INTERNAL COUNCIL MATTERS

- To consider and approve the proposal for the future management of the Benian's Pavilion.

Following the decision made at the Finance & General Purposes Committee, it was agreed to advise the Committee of the fee increases, and invite them to a formal meeting to approve a legal agreement for the next three years, which would be circulated for discussion with the Agenda for that meeting. This meeting would be chaired by an independent party.

- To consider and approve a grant from the Benian's Trust for sports facilities for up to £10,000. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Brake and approved unanimously to release up to £10,000 of Benian's Trust Account money for the provision of a Multi-use Games area which would be of benefit to all of the Four Marks sporting community.
- To discuss the progress of the tender process for Oak Green refurbishment works and consider any further recommendations prior to awarding contract. It was agreed to defer this item as currently awaiting a further tender.
- To discuss the review to date of the Community Facilities Working Party and consider any recommendations.

Council representation on the working party was discussed and it was agreed to approach two of the Councillor candidates to see if they would be agreeable to joining the working party. The next steps to be briefed to the working party would be to keep a note of all future bookings and enquiries and look at how the proposed new scout hut would meet some of the demand. The next stage would be to look at what facilities the Parish currently has and how the facilities could be improved, it was agreed that a good deal more groundwork was necessary and that there should be an Agenda item next month to prepare a discussion document and the working party's terms of reference. There were currently three members on the working party and it was agreed more were required, including a parish council member.

- To adopt the Council Grant Application Policy, **information attached**. It was RESOLVED to formally approve the Parish Council Grant Application Policy.
- To consider a Parish Council response to the consultation on the relocation of the Medstead Post Office.

It was agreed to respond to the consultation but draw the post office's attention to the increased local population and to give consideration to providing a franchise nearer the border of Four Marks, and would be agreeable to supporting a public meeting.

- To discuss the provenance of the Four Marks Parish Council coat of arms logo and consider its future use.

It was agreed that, although the provenance of the Four Marks logo was not known, the Parish Council would keep using it for the time being, however it was agreed that the logo could do with updating and changing to a community brand, details to be discussed further.

17.12 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

- Alotments, Cllr Davis. The fee was remaining the same for the next year. The Committee had agreed to remove the common composting areas due to misuse. There were currently two plots available that were not being cultivated, they were currently 6 renewals short with no waiting list.
- Festival Committee, Cllr Hammond circulated the proposed design of the Village Sign. He had negotiated a good price with Ashley Signs, for a 5 metre high double sided pictorial sign of £2850 which includes installation. The situation of the sign had not yet been agreed, as Oak Green and the corner of the Village Green had both been discounted, as being on main road or junction can be distracting. It should not be under trees as this would lead to higher maintenance issues and less longevity. The most suitable place suggested to date was the centre of the Village Green. The Four Marks Beer Festival committee had donated £300 towards the already heavily discounted artwork, the Festival Committee held funds for the project and a district councillor grant would be applied for to make up any shortfall.
- Village Hall; Cllr Mills, there had been no meeting since the last report.
- Footpaths; Cllr Mills. The signs for replacement had been identified and submitted to Rights of Way.

17.13 NEXT MEETING:

Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th February 2017, 7.30pm, Village Hall

17.14 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm.

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CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1

District Councillor's report February 2017

Ingrid Thomas

The beginning of 2017 has been full of plans for the coming year. I nominated Four Marks rec as the venue for the District Health and Wellness Festival. I met with Janet and Sarah who backed the idea and I hope that you will all do so too. I think one reason for being chosen was the great success of the Queens birthday weekend.

The reason for choosing the recreation ground as the venue is the number of health and fitness ideas that we could include on a flat ground. We can ask the allotments and gardening groups to take part along with all our care, fitness and leisure groups as all of the aspects of wellness can be included from art and music to the next Four Marks run being organised by Alton Runners.

The suggestion is that we hold it on the 8th or 9th of July, personally i would go for the Sunday as it allows set up time on the Saturday but what do you think?

This event will have demonstrations and opportunities to try all sorts of activities and lifestyle ideas. The plans are at an early stage so please get in touch if you have any ideas or would like a stall at the festival, any activity, healthy food ideas, ideas which make help to keep our community across the district healthier for longer. More details to follow as they are confirmed, this is a great opportunity for us to come together as a community and how we work together.

East Hampshire officers will help with the organisation and contact various groups around the district, they also have access to some tenting and there is some of my grant money left available to pay for any ideas we come up with. The officers are very keen to bring their juice cycle along! Radian are also keen to bring their health check minibus where people ca be checked for blood pressure and gain advice. I would like to find a chef who could demo during the day too.

This could be a great event for Four Marks and Medstead and allow us to show others all the good voluntary groups we have here and locally. I am hoping to arrange a steering group meeting to get things underway in the near future and hope that you can all feel able to support the venture.

Our friends up in Medstead will hopefully be involved too as although this is to be held at FM rec there are many clubs and groups who I hope would want to get involved, whether that is organising a stall or joining in with the activities. Four Marks school have offered to do a display of some sort and I will approach Medstead school to do the same.

Other plans include the continuance of the meetings with developers and the beginning of meetings with William Lacey Group. Miller homes announced at a Planning Committee meeting that they would be opening their meetings in Alton to residents so I assume they will extend the same courtesy to our residents in Four Marks and Medstead.

I met the HCC highways engineer on Lymington Bottom Road one day recently he was inspecting the damage done to the road around the bridge both by the lorries and the sweepers. I hope he had better luck persuading Miller homes to wash their lorry wheels on site than we have had so far.

Interestingly both sites off Lymington Bottom Road have started to market their homes so maybe that will encourage them to make less mess. An ongoing battle I fear but Peter and Roy are working on the problem and I doubt will give up.

The poor residents of Medstead Farm and Four Marks Parish Council continue to battle with Charles Church over the poor standards on the site, lack of landscaping, water problems and various other matters. The destruction of dormouse habitat by the developer is outrageous, these animals are protected by law and yet CC took no notice and removed the hedges anyway. I think this problem has a way to go until it is resolved.

This week in all the snow and ice the new Lollipop Lady at FM school has been excelling herself, putting down grit, taking longer routes and generally offering help to others. We are very lucky to have lots of people who go out of their way to help others in our community and I was wondering if we should consider inventing some kind of award to acknowledge all they do. What do others think?

I'd like to welcome the new Editor of Four Marks News and wish him well in his new position.

Ingrid

CLlr for Four Marks and Medstead

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