

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 5th April 2017 commencing at 8.35pm At Four Marks Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chairman), Cllrs John Davis and Janet Foster
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), Cllr John Hammond and 1 member of the public
APOLOGIES: Cllrs Tim Brake and Dave Mills

17.31 OS OPEN SESSION

Cllr Tomlinson opened the meeting and invited the public and members to speak on any items they wished to raise under the Open Session.

Mr Mick Budd spoke with concern over the proposal to introduce a dogs on lead policy at the Recreation Ground, although acknowledging that there is clearly a problem. He felt it was harsh to penalise the majority who do clear up after their dogs. He suggested that maybe a dog poo bag dispenser may help the situation. Cllr Tomlinson thanked him for his comments and said that they would be taken into consideration under the relevant Agenda item.

He also asked whether the pathway could be extended from the Brislands Lane emergency exit up to the Recreation Ground to avoid people walking in the road. The clerk advised that the installation of the footpath had been very unpopular and it was unlikely that the residents would want an extension to the path. It was pointed out that this is a rural lane.

The clerk reported an issue with footballs going over into a residential garden at Medstead Farm, and queried who would be liable if there was any damage caused by stray footballs. It was agreed that the Clerk should clarify with the insurance company. The Clerk also reported that Charles Church had installed a gate on our side of the boundary, which they had agreed to let us remove and charge them labour costs.

Cllr Hammond also raised concern that Charles Church when re-fencing the boundary had encroached into the 5 metre buffer zone, the clerk confirmed that the District Councillor was monitoring the situation, and would ask her to check.

Cllr Foster raised the fact that the milestone on the A31 by the Lapwing Way needed cleaning and that perhaps it would be sensible to move it back away from the roadside to protect it from vehicle dirt and grass cuttings. The clerk agreed to contact Highways.

There were no further items to be raised under the Open Session, and the formal meeting then commenced at 9.00pm. Standing Orders were applied.

17.32 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brake and Mills, it was RESOLVED to approve the apologies.

17.33 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

17.34 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2017, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr Davis and were duly signed by the Chairman. The clerk confirmed that there had been a numbering error which had since been amended.

- There were no matters arising that were not detailed later on the Agenda.

17.35 OS AREA UPDATE

1. **Badger Close.** A report of overhanging branches over property had been received, and emergency work had been carried out to remove them.
2. **Benians Committee/Pavilion.** Amended proposed agreement were formalised at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, for submission to the Benians Committee for approval prior to legal confirmation. Pitch charges were also discussed and agreed at that meeting.
3. **Cemetery.** Nothing to report.
4. **Kingswood Copse.** All planned maintenance now carried out, additional agenda item for new works.
5. **Lymington Bottom Green.** A recent motor vehicle accident had left the green relatively unscathed. The issue of dogs on the green has been raised again. Agenda item.
6. **Oak Green.** Tender awarded, preliminary meetings taking place. It was agreed that a knowledgeable project supervisor should be appointed, the Clerk confirmed that this was now in progress.
7. **Recreation Ground.**
 - **Hedgerow planting and fence.** Fence ordered for Phase 2, due to be installed in April. Trees to be planted this week.
 - **Play park/teenager activity area.**
 - **New multi-play equipment.** A new quotation had been received from a local company, which, upon inspection, appears to be a better option than the one previously agreed. The clerk, and deputy clerk, both visited a local installation and both agreed that this proposal was more appealing. It was agreed to go with the local company and apply for developers contributions to purchase the equipment as quoted.
 - **New self-close gate** – now ordered.
 - **Swings** – now installed.
 - **Cricket pitch.** Roller purchase to be chased up. 6 weekend dates booked and 2 day time bookings
 - **Goal posts.** No news to date.
8. **Tennis Courts/MUGA.** Installation underway, should be completed by the Easter Holidays, but work to date is looking very good.
9. **Storeys Sanctuary.** Nothing to report.
10. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Grant received to purchase new picnic bench, however on a recent inspection trip it was noted that all the benches could do with a good clean, and the sign needs wiping. Kissing gate for footpath near the pond now located and alternative contractor instructed to install.

17.36 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- A job description for the role of a maintenance person was discussed and agreed. This would be formalised and advertised appropriately in the next couple of weeks. A potential salary scale and benefits were also discussed and agreed. Action – Clerk.
- The Committee confirmed the change of supplier for the replacement timber activity unit and proposed unit. Action – Deputy Clerk
- Cllr Davis in his role as Allotment representative asked the committee if they would consider the re-fencing of the cricket pitch side of the allotment fencing, as it was in a bad state of repair. The Clerk confirmed that there should be an amount of developer's contributions to be able to do this. Action – Clerk, get quotations and apply for developer's contributions.
- Proposals were discussed to try and alleviate the serious dog fouling issue,
 - It was agreed not to impose a dogs on lead policy at this stage as it was agreed it was unfair to responsible dog owners and difficult to police.

- It was agreed to move forward to the spray painting initiative, and purchase appropriate coloured to highlight the offending articles
 - It was agreed to get some new posters to put up around the village and recreation ground using one of themes recommended by Keep Britain Tidy
 - It was agreed to ask the Editor to highlight the problem and encourage everyone to pass the message or the facility will be lost.
 - It was also agree to order some lanyards for councillors with photographic ID so people are aware that they have the right to ask people to comply.
 - Winston Rise. It was agreed that this appears to be a highly used dog walking area and that the clerk should contact EHDC and ask them to monitor it for the possible addition of a dog waste bin, as this was always being raised as a problem area.
- Kingswood Copse; the clerk circulate a report with reference to the laurel hedge to the side of Kingswood Copse. The clerk confirmed that the three year maintenance programme was now complete and the funds held had now diminished and felt that the money left should now be held for emergency work only, and asked the committee to consider budgeting an approximate amount to carry out the works advised within the next year. This was agreed in principle.
 - Protection of trees; concern had been raised over the number of trees that were being lost within the village and an initiative was discussed to try and protect trees with an amenity value. It was agreed that Cllrs Hammond and Mills would do a local audit of trees that they feel are of good amenity value and the clerk would put their proposals together into a report and attempt to apply for preservation orders on these trees. It was also suggested that areas are identified where new trees would be of benefit and put together a planting programme for the future. The clerk would also raise this in her monthly report in the Four Marks News.
 - Uplands Lane; the deputy clerk had received two very different quotes for the parking bay resurfacing in Uplands Lane. It was agreed that both companies should be contacted firstly to see if the higher quotation could be reduced to do a similar proposal to the lower quote, and it was also of concern that the amount of 'type 1 sub base' proposed would not be enough, and it was agreed that this should be clarified with the relevant contractor. It was also agreed that a third quote should also be sought.
 - Lymington Bottom Green; 'No dog's policy proposal'. It was agreed not take this any further as this was a public open space for all to enjoy and not enough reason to justify banning dogs.
 - Flying of drones; following a recent incident and complaint of drone flying, the clerk raised whether the council should have a policy in place. The Recreation Ground has signs that forbid flying of model aircraft, but it was agreed that no further action should be taken. It was agreed, however, that the drone code that Cllr Simon Thomas had downloaded was very informative and should be made available, and uploaded onto the website.

17.37 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING
 Wednesday 3rd May 2017, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall

17.38 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00pm.

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Chairman