

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 3rd May 2017 commencing at 8.45pm At Four Marks Village Hall

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

17.39 OS OPEN SESSION

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

Cllr Davis. Raised concern over the boundary hedge beside the skate park area following the recent works by SSE, and lack of fencing between the field and play area. It was suggested that it is monitored over this year to see how it recovers, and investigate if there are any woodland trust packs available to infill the gaps, however it was agreed that it was the neighbour's responsibility to ensure the fencing is secured.

Cllr Mills raised concern over the new cricket ground bin as it had not been emptied yet. The Clerk confirmed that it was on the new schedule but there may be a delay until the operative gets the new worksheet.

Concerns were raised over gym/boot camp style activities on the Recreation Ground and whether they should be paying a fee to the Parish Council as they are running a commercial enterprise. It was agreed that a policy should be written, ensure that the operator has public liability insurance and a charge of £5 per hour should be imposed.

The new kissing gate at the junction of Kitwood Road and Lyeway Road, and the proposed incorporation of a step cut into the bank was discussed, however it was agreed that the removal of the style had alleviated the problem and it was unnecessary to carry out any further works.

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.

17.40 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence.

17.41 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

17.42 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2017, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising.
 - The concerns raised over the milestone on the A31, its position and condition, had been reported to Highways. It was confirmed that the milestone has now been cleaned, but its location beside the road remained.
 - The advertisement for maintenance operative was circulated for comment, together with the proposed job specification, and would be in the local publications by next weekend. Price of £300 + VAT was agreed.

- Protection of trees and hedgerow. This has been referred to in the clerk's report in the Four Marks News and the feasibility of 'blanket' protecting all trees and hedgerows in Four Marks to be discussed with EHDC. Stewart Garside has agreed to visit Four Marks and look at two identified trees.
- Uplands Lane resurfacing. A third quote had still not been received but a 'like for like' quote, due to the disparity between the two already received, had now been received, and the proposed works would cost in the region of £10,000. It was discussed whether to go for the cheaper more temporary option or with the more permanent surface. It was agreed, with one abstention, to go for the cheaper, temporary fix.
- Still awaiting confirmation of funding to join the Parish Lengthsman scheme.
- Medstead Farm. Still awaiting for clarification on insurance query with reference to footballs in gardens.
- Allotments. Awaiting quotation for fencing, as agreed.
- Cllr Simon Thomas had mocked up an identification lanyard, and the Clerk asked for photographs from those Councillors who required one.
- Dog Fouling. The new bins were now installed, the article in Four Marks News had been written, together with editors reference and letter all focused on getting people to be more responsible. The Clerk presented a proposed poster campaign, and it was agreed to go ahead and order the promotional material. The local authority had been contacted to monitor Winston Rise for an additional bin.

17.43 OS AREA UPDATE

1. **Badger Close.** Nothing to report.
2. **Benian's Committee/Pavilion.** Agreement now awaiting legal confirmation.
3. **Cemetery.** Agenda item.
4. **Kingswood Copse.** Nothing to report.
5. **Lymington Bottom Green.** Agenda item.
6. **Oak Green.** Agenda item.
7. **Recreation Ground.**
 - **Hedgerow planting and fence.** Phase 2, now underway, gate will be removed and a more appropriate, 5 bar wooden one has been installed. It was suggested that it is 'marked' with FMPC to deter theft.
 - **Play park/teenager activity area.**
 - **New multi-play equipment.** Awaiting developer contribution request confirmation. Strimmer protection, still to be agreed.
 - **New self-close gate** – awaiting delivery.
 - **Cricket pitch.** Roller not suitable, will hire for the time being.
 - **Goal posts.** The Clerk confirmed that no further progress had been made with the contractor, and that it was going to be necessary to repaint the posts. It was suggested that a bad review on the website of the supplier or direct complaint may encourage the supplier to look more carefully into at least some form of compensation. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.
 - **Japanese Knotweed outbreak;** has been notified, location is by the cricket container, and noted on the treatment programme for the summer.
8. **Tennis Courts/MUGA.** Now completed, although small teething issues including balls going over into tennis courts and allotments, but proving to be popular. Awaiting quote for netball linings which were omitted.
9. **Storeys Sanctuary.** Nothing to report.
10. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Nothing to report.

17.44 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Oak Green**
The refurbishment was scheduled for week commencing 15th May 2017, and all shop keepers and tenants had been notified. However the owner of the Fish and Chip shop, who felt that they had not been consulted appropriately prior to the notification, and whom currently house the CCTV equipment, had asked for it to be removed, although had conceded to keep it until after the refurbishments have taken place. The clerk confirmed to upgrade to a remote system that could be monitored remotely, a broadband connection would be necessary. It was agreed to talk to EXCEL about would be required to change the system and what storage space would be required.

- **Cemetery**

- The Clerk had sought prices for plaques for the gates to denote ownership, and asked the committee to consider replacing the gates, as they were now rotten and dilapidated. It was agreed to look at options for replacement.
- Grave spoil. The Clerk informed the committee of a recent issue of grave spoil and memorials being place out of line because the spoil had not been flattened, and it was also mentioned that the spoil in the corner was unsightly and perhaps we could look at ways of concealing it. It was suggested that the Clerk contacts EHDC for advice.

- **War memorial**

Last year it had been discussed when would the most appropriate time to remove the wreaths and it had been agreed when they started to look tatty. The issue of the wreaths remaining the memorial had been raised again, and it was agreed, again, that the policy of removing the wreaths when they start to look shabby remains.

- **Wildlife corridors;**

The proposal whether the Parish Council take ownership of wildlife corridors following development had been discussed, and agreed, at the preceding Planning Committee meeting. The Open Space Committee were also in agreement with this proposal as it would be a way of protecting and controlling wildlife areas.

However it was agreed that a financial contribution or bond should be given with the land to assist with maintenance.

It was agreed to write to the Local Authority and ask them to support our request. It was also agreed to see if any areas could be taken on retrospectively, such as Medstead Farm, and the Clerk agreed to contact the maintenance company to see if this would be feasible, although acknowledged that any financial contribution at this stage would probably not be forthcoming.

17.45 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th June 2017, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

17.46 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00pm.

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Chairman