

## **Four Marks Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 commencing at 8.55pm At Four Marks Village Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chairman), Cllrs John Davis, Davie Edgar and Dave Mills  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Lesley Chandler (Deputy Clerk)  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Janet Foster

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#### **17.47 OS ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

*Cllr Tomlinson proposed as Chairman by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Edgar.*

#### **17.48 OS OPEN SESSION**

*Cllr Mills asked status of Goal Posts. Clerk to respond with an update.*

*Trees at Swelling Pond – 1 has come down over the path and another is nearly down. Cllr Mills advised the Fishing Club have no issues with Cllr Mills to remove and make safe. Cllr Tomlinson agreed.*

*Kissing Gate base – Cllr Mills offered to arrange for the base to be covered over if not already been arranged.*

*Notice Board at Village Hall – Cllr Mills thought that this was in need of repair and cleaning. Clerk to investigate.*

*Net for hoop in Skate Park – Cllr Mills advised this needed replacing. Clerk to investigate.*

**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.**

#### **17.49 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Cllr Janet Foster sent her apologies as she was attending another meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.*

#### **17.50 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

*There were no Declarations of Interest.*

#### **17.51 OS TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*Agreed that these would remain as per previous year. Request for copies to be re-circulated.*

#### **17.52 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Davis and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising.
  - Boundary hedge between the skate park and field. The Open Space contractor will now be including this hedgerow on its maintenance contract, and will be incorporating it into the maintenance schedule to try and improve its appearance from the Recreation Ground side.
  - Closing date for applicants for job now passed, 5 applications received, interviews to take place within the next two weeks.

- No blanket TPO will be awarded however two trees have been awarded protection since our last meeting, 2A Blackberry Lane, and The Barn, Alton Lane.
- With reference to the query on who would be liable for damage caused by stray footballs, the response is as follows:  
*'Although the Public Liability section of the Aviva Policy arranged provides automatic cover at no additional premium for all land that is either owned by the Parish Council or is their responsibility to maintain due to the terms of a lease/licence or other legal document in the event that a third party suffers injury or damage to their property due to a defect with the land it will not respond in the scenario outlined in your E-mail as the damage to the third party property is attributable to a totally independent third party and not the Council itself'*
- Dog fouling. The new posters have now arrived and awaiting installation, and spray paint now in the office.

### 17.53 OS AREA UPDATE

1. **Allotments;** damaged fencing and ownership queries - Agenda item.
2. **Badger Close.** Email received requesting the two Ash Trees in the Badger Sett are removed, with concerns over their safety. Response sent confirming they are regularly checked and currently no issues with their health.
3. **Benian's Committee/Pavilion.** Agreement awaiting formal signature.
4. **Cemetery.** Nothing further to report as yet.
5. **Footpaths.** Kissing gate at Lyeway crossroads. Complaint received over its location and installation concerns, following advice received by Rights of Way, the gate remains where it is but suggested that the raised bar be covered by soil or scalplings as a gesture of goodwill.
6. **Kingswood Copse.** Neighbour report of suspect structure within the woods, police advised and investigated, and has since been removed.
7. **Lymington Bottom Green.** Village sign progressing.
8. **Oak Green.** Refurbishment works have now commenced.
9. **Recreation Ground.**
  - **Hedgerow planting and fence.** Project complete, cheque from Charles Church received for new gate and its installation.
  - **Play park/teenager activity area.**
    - **New multi-play equipment.** Bespoke equipment now ordered, due for installation end of July.
    - **New self-close gate** – now installed.
  - **Cricket pitch.** All matches cancelled. Agenda item.
  - **Goal posts.** Nothing to report. However, they do need maintenance and if no compensation is forthcoming, the Clerk will ensure that this done when they are removed for the Village Picnic and Festiwell.
  - **Tennis Courts/MUGA.** Netball markings now completed.
  - **Charges for use of pitch for keep fit groups,** report attached, Agenda item.
  - **Uplands Lane;** remedial works to take place mid-June.
  - **Garage;** has now been relocated, old trailer and wood needs to be removed and disposed of.
10. **Station Approach/Windmill Fields open space.** Tree down reported, to be removed in due course but not causing any obstruction.
11. **Storeys Sanctuary.** Nothing to report.
12. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Nothing to report.

## 17.54 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Allotments.** Fencing

Cllr Davis advised that issue has been since the refurbishment of the Multi use court as this is an unlocked area. It is being used for football and balls are being kicked over and people are going behind the fence to retrieve them. Fence has been temporarily repaired several times. The allotment plot holders are asking for football to be banned or to erect barbed wire on top of any new fence that is erected. However, one of the uses for this area is for football. Cllr Davis advised that there had been no damage within the allotments and nothing had been taken.

It was suggested that either the Parish Council or Allotment plant hawthorn along the boundaries as a deterrent as well as good for wildlife. With regard to who would pay for the hedge and new fence then maybe 50/50 costs? Cllr Tomlinson requested an agenda item for next meeting to discuss costs of replacing the fence and funding of hedge.

- **Use of Recreation Ground for keep fit classes**

It has been noted that the recreation ground is being used on a professional basis by bootcamps etc. The Parish Office have not been contacted with regards to this use. This raises the question - should we be charging for use of the grounds? The football club and archers pay and these are non-profit organisations for recreation, not a business.

Cllr Foster felt that if they are running a business then we should charge something maybe proportionately calculated on what area of the facilities they are using. Each should be considered on a case by case basis as all different. Evidence of insurance would be a condition of use.

In summary, organisations/groups need to provide copies of insurance documents to the Parish Council. The Parish Council need to be advised of the use via a formal request. However, we need to be mindful of not discouraging use.

It was agreed that notice goes up on the notice boards/Four Marks News and webpage requesting prior agreement of the Parish Council is required to use the facilities and that there would be a quarterly charge dependent of what the requirements are. It was proposed that we adopt an arrangement similar agreement that Boldre has.

- **Cricket. Square maintenance and 2018 use.**

Should we continue with regular maintenance of the cricket square following the loss of cricket club due to inability to gain access to the ground when require?. Cllr Davis to approach Archers / Benions committee to discuss increased flexibility from the Archers.

It was agreed to keep up general maintenance for another year in the hope of getting the cricket back in future. Costs to be looked into for proper roping off of the area.

### **Wildlife corridor ownership Charles Church site**

Should the Parish Council take on ownership and maintenance of the land? Other developers have provided funds for future maintenance of wildlife areas. It was agreed we should ask the same of Charles Church. In principle the Parish Council would be happy to take it over as long as funds were provided by them for its upkeep over the next few years. It was agreed that ownership of this land would be troublesome but we should still endeavour to do it.

If this was not successful could the wildlife team approach the management company to remind them of their responsibility for its maintenance and the current issue of areas blocked off?

- **Footpaths**

Issue raised with lack of strimming of footpaths and branches. Particular issue with Willis Lane/Hawthorn Lane footpath. Clerk to look into maybe find someone to do it.

- **Finger Posts**

Refurbishment in progress. Clerk to provide update on works at next meeting.

**17.55 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

**17.56 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40 pm.**

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**Chairman**