

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 5th July 2017 commencing at 8.30pm At Four Marks Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs John Davis and Dave Mills
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), Cllr John Hammond, Cllr Simon Thomas
and 9 members of the public
APOLOGIES: Cllrs Janet Foster, Anne Tomlinson and Davie Edgar

As both the Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the Council were absent, Cllr John Davis agreed to Chair the meeting. As the meeting was not quorate, both Cllrs Hammond and Thomas agreed to sit on the Committee for the duration of the meeting.

17.57 OS OPEN SESSION

Cllr John Davis welcomed the members of the general public to the meeting and asked if they had anything to raise under the open session.

Mrs Mollie Thompson responded in that they were all there to hear what was to be discussed about Storey's Sanctuary.

The Clerk responded that Diana Tennyson had sent an email expressing concern over the erection of a solid 6ft close board fence which she was concerned had hindered the wildlife's access to the SINC. Due to the fact that the members of the committee who had received the email were not in attendance, and the Clerk had not had the opportunity to circulate the email further, she had been minded to ask for the item to be deferred.

The owner of 'Storey's Sanctuary', Mr Haydon, was in attendance, and advised that he had erected the fence to stop the constant fly tipping initially by the builders, and now adjacent residents. He confirmed that the builder had erected a 6ft chain link fence the length of the fence and pointed out that this wasn't wildlife friendly either. Councillors advised that they could contact the builders, through enforcement, to try and rectify the fly tipping issue, although it subsequently transpired that the builders were no longer causing a problem, but that it was garden waste and dog excrement that was the issue. Mr Haydon was advised to contact the EHDC environmental department to report the offenders.

The residents confirmed that the deer were getting through Vectis Close and pointed out that the fence the Parish Council had erected in conjunction with 8 and 9 Vectis Close was the problem. The owners of those properties had been approached by Mr Haydon and other interested parties to take down the new fence panels, but as this secured their own boundaries, did not wish to co-operate. There was also mention of a boundary encroachment, however this was historical and not a Parish Council issue. They also mentioned a deer being caught on barbed wire fencing recently erected, and it was agreed to notify Diana Tennyson to see if she could speak to the resident of the property concerned.

There were no further items to be raised under the Open Session, and the formal meeting then commenced at 8.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.

17.58 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received Cllrs Anne Tomlinson, Janet Foster, and Davie Edgar.

17.59 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

17.60 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7th June 2017, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Mills and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
 - The skate park basketball hoop net had now been replaced.
 - The exposed bar at the kissing gate had now been covered.
 - The fallen tree had been removed from the footpath at Swelling Hill Pond. The Clerk wished to thank Cllr Mills for carrying out all three of the above tasks.
 - The Clerk apologized that the Terms of Reference had not been circulated, as requested, and will be circulated with the Minutes.
 - Paul Bridges, the recently hired maintenance man had now started, and is to work 15 hours per week, to be reviewed after three months. He has a very long list of jobs, including footpath strimming, but works for the weekend's event were taking precedence.
 - The Clerk apologized for not circulating the draft policy for the use of the Recreation Ground, but will do for approval at the next meeting.
 - There had been no further progress with the wildlife corridors, as Charles Church had intimated that there will be no funds forthcoming for their maintenance. Cllr Thomas asked for this to be referred back to the Planning Committee.
 - An update on finger post restoration has been requested, but not yet received.

17.61 OS AREA UPDATE

Area Updates

1. **Allotments.** Agenda item.
2. **Badger Close.** Agenda item.
3. **Benian's Committee/Pavilion.** Formal agreement to be signed at the next meeting.
4. **Cemetery.** A complaint over disrespectful behavior by the contractors in the cemetery had been dealt with.
5. **Footpaths.** Strimming programme now underway.
6. **Kingswood Copse.** Nothing to report.
7. **Lymington Bottom Green.** The Village sign planning application had been submitted and has caused some consternation. This was discussed at the Planning Committee and was deferred to Full Council.
8. **Oak Green.** Approaching completion and would be an Agenda item at Full Council.
9. **Recreation Ground.**
 - **Hedgerow planting and fence.** Charles Church have requested permission to put door mouse rope-bridge between posts if NE do not accept current connectivity. This was not received well, as this offered serious health and safety implications, however it was deemed unnecessary as connectivity had been restored.
 - **Play park/teenager activity area.** The annual Rospa report had been received, there were some small actions.
 - **Cricket pitch.** Nothing to report.
 - **Goal posts.** Nothing to report. Cllr Mills agreed to look at options with Paul to refurbish the posts.
 - **Tennis Courts/MUGA.** There was some snagging damage, Vita Play had been notified and now awaiting rectification. It should also be noted that one of the gates had already dropped. Clerk to advise.
 - **Uplands Lane;** the remedial works had been completed, including drainage works, but concern was raised over the rubble left. Clerk agreed to get the rubble removed.
 - **General upkeep.** Several areas were becoming overgrown with brambles, including the hedge surrounding the tennis courts, and brambles the other side of the bowling green. It was agreed to get Paul to attend to the various areas of concern. The length of the grass of the football pitch was raised and asked why does our contractor not cut the grass in the Summer, it was agreed to speak to the football club to see if this were possible.

- **Scout hut parking area.** Agenda item.
- 10. **Station Approach/Windmill Fields open space.** Agenda item.
- 11. **Storeys Sanctuary.** Agenda item.
- 12. **Swelling Hill Pond.** Nothing to report.

17.62 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Allotments**

The Clerk had been approached by an adjacent land owner over the ownership of a strip of land beside the power station next to the Allotments. It was a small bramble filled area. It was agreed that a site visit needed to take place to look at the area in question before assessing the request to purchase.

The issue over balls going over the hedge into the Allotments had not been resolved. There was a security issue with allowing a small gap, and prickly bushes were to be planted to discourage further fence damage, however the problem of the return of the balls or prevention was not resolved and the Clerk agreed to do some further investigation.

- **Windmill Fields**

The usual issue of anti-social behaviour and damage to fences had been reported, and there had been a request not to mow up to the fence line to try and encourage a barrier of long grass. Planting prickly shrubs was suggested, however this may be more problematical when fences needed to be maintained.

- **Badger Close**

There had been a report of unauthorised hedge cutting, which had been confirmed, although the resident concerned felt he was helping out, despite being told the previous year not to cut the shrubs/bushes that were not hanging over their garden. It had also upset the occupants behind the corridor who do not want the hedge cut. The resident was of the opinion that if his light was affected, the law was the hedge had to remain at 6ft. The trees/hedgerow were much higher when the resident moved in and last Autumn was the first time the hedge had been cut since the houses were built. Cllr Thomas agreed to speak to EHDC for clarification on the law.

- **New policies for discussion**

The policy for the hire of the Recreation Ground had been drafted but not circulated, this would be deferred to the next meeting. It was also agreed that a Drones policy should be drafted for approval as they should not be flown over a public area for health and safety reasons, the Recreation Ground rules already state no flying of model aircraft and there should be consistency.

- **Event to formally open the refurbishment at Oak Green.**

The shop keepers were keen for an event to be organised to celebrate the refurbishment and get some of their alleged lost custom back. However, they had not given any information on preferred format or detail, so it was felt that they should organise something between themselves with Parish Council support.

Cllr Mills agreed to go and talk to the shop keepers to get a better idea of what they would like. It was suggested that perhaps the Parish Council may like to provide a sign with each shop name on. It was agreed that time was of the essence and that this should be discussed further at Full Council.

- **Security at the Scout Hut end of the Recreation Ground.**

It had been suggested that the gate should be moved from its current location to a more accessible location nearer the scout hut, the dragons teeth should be replaced both there and by the Pavilion as a matter of urgency. It was suggested that a barrier of earth bunding up to the gateway may be the best option. Cllr Mills agreed to look into options.

- **Medstead Farm.** Concerns were raised over the quality and lack of equipment in the play area at Medstead Farm, and it was suggested that the Parish Council could take the area over for a financial incentive, however it was confirmed that Charles Church are due to be rectifying the situation. It was also suggested that the gate between Medstead Farm and the recreation ground should have a self-close mechanism and this would be looked into.

- **Storeys Sanctuary,**

Following Diana Tennyson's email raising concern over access for wildlife, and the attendance of the owner who gave explanation as to why the fence had been erected, it was agreed that this item did not need to be discussed and Diana would be emailed accordingly.

17.63 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd August 2017, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

17.64 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45pm.