

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 6th September 2017 commencing at 8.20pm At Four Marks Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Davie Edgar, Janet Foster and Dave Mills
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), Cllr Hammond, 1 member of the public
APOLOGIES: None

17.73 OS OPEN SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that the contract paperwork had now been received to join the Parish Lengthsman Scheme, and that we would have one day this year and 4 days next year under this contract. The Clerk asked members to consider potential jobs for the Lengthsman, for example footpath and ditch clearance, and email details.

The Clerk also reported on a letter received from a resident with reference to an obstructed speed sign on the approach to Four Marks from Winchester, he confirmed that Highways had rectified the problem, but copied us on the correspondence for reference.

There were no further items to be raised under the Open Session, and the formal meeting then commenced at 8.30pm. Standing Orders were applied.

17.74 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

17.75 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

17.76 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd August 2017, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
 - Oak Green notice board. Medstead PC are not able to contribute to a new notice board, however would be prepared to contribute to refurbishment.
 - Finger post restoration, nearing completion, advice to regularly clean to maintain appearance. It was noted that the restorer had done an excellent job and the committee expressed their thanks.
 - Garthowen. Footpath 7. There is a directional footpath sign, but on the other side of the road. There is a sign on the gate, and they have, apparently, made the gate easier to open. There is no option of installing a walker's gate.
 - Bus shelters to be cleaned in September.
 - Report now received on all issues raised at the open space contractor site meeting and working together to resolve.

17.77 OS AREA UPDATE

- **Allotments.** Fencing – agenda item.
- **Badger Close.** Concern has been raised over laurel hedge hanging over the Badger run between Fairfield Green and Badger Close, further advice to be sought.

- **Benian's Committee/Pavilion.** Contract signed and first six months rental received.
- **Cemetery.** Tree concerns – agenda item.
- **Footpaths.** No current reported issues.
- **Kingswood Copse.** No current reported issues.
- **Lymington Bottom Green.** Formal Parish Council permission required for Village Sign, now granted planning consent.
- **Oak Green.** Opening event now taken place. See matters arising for notice board outcome.
- **Recreation Ground.**
 - **Play park/teenager activity area.** Agenda item – shade and shelters.
 - **Cricket pitch.** Nothing to report, offered venue for softball tournaments
 - **Goal posts.** Awaiting maintenance. Broxap have agreed to place, *at cost*, however following recent site visit, still trying to get replacements, awaiting outcome. Broxap's final offer is replace all four uprights for £210.60. It was agreed to go ahead and order the four new posts.
 - **Tennis Courts/MUGA.** Balls were provided, however they have now all gone. Cllr Davis reported that incidents had reduced.
 - **Uplands Lane.** Nothing to report.
- **Station Approach/Windmill Fields open space.** Nothing to report.
- **Storeys Sanctuary.** Nothing to report.
- **Swelling Hill Pond.** New picnic benches due to arrive next week. Need to decide whether both go to Swelling Hill or one to another location.

17.78 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

➤ ALLOTMENTS

- The broken fencing by the bowls green was due to be fixed this week. A quote had been received to replace the fencing 10 metres either side of the main gate for a price of £1069.50 + VAT. It was RESOLVED to approve the quotation and under the delegate powers of the Committee, it was agreed to go ahead as soon as possible.
- The potential sale of the small piece of land to the rear of 31 and 33 Chaffinch Road was discussed in detail. Concerns were raised primarily due to concerns that the tax payer would get value for money, additional administrative time and concerns over the future use of the land in question. However, although it was agreed that perhaps it was not ideal to pursue, it was decided to go back to the residents, with the offer of; subject to a mutually agreeable sale price and appropriate surveys, agreement to cover both sets of legal fees, with restrictive covenants dictated by the Parish Council on future land usage, the Parish Council would consider the sale.
Subsequent to the meeting further evidence has come to light which needs further consideration prior to any action being carried out, the Clerk will report back at the next meeting.

➤ RECREATION GROUND

- The Clerk presented a document provided by another parish on the rules of use for a recreation ground. It was agreed that as the document was quite detailed, the Clerk should circulate the document for the next meeting for more detailed consideration.
- The Clerk presented three quotations to replace the bollards at the Recreation Ground, and it was agreed to go ahead with the most cost effective option, particularly as the supplier was local to Four Marks.
- Sewage treatment plant. The Clerk advised the committee that the pavilion's water treatment plant was not working and hadn't been for some time. Quotations had been received to repair the system, replace the cover and erect protective fencing, but it was decided not to pursue this any further at this stage, and look again when the pavilion is extended. However it was agreed that the cover should be made safe in the interim and would be added to the maintenance jobs.
- Land between the skate park and the pavilion. It was agreed to use a solicitor to try and trace the owner of the land between the pavilion and skate park, as there are several issues the landowner needs to address as a matter of urgency.
- TPO Oak tree. The Clerk advised that the resident of 17 Elm Tree Place had expressed concern over one of the Oak Trees. The Clerk had the tree inspected but although the tree could do with some remedial work, it was not diseased or decaying, and an application would be submitted in due course to carry out a small amount of pruning and removal of deadwood.

➤ **CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

- As the saplings planted last year had failed, it was agreed to prepare and budget for a tree planting plan for the top end of the play area
- The provision of pre-school age equipment was discussed and it was agreed to replace one of the items with a suitable piece of apparatus and a small themed slide was chosen. The Clerk agreed to apply for developers contributions to purchase the equipment.
- Quotes received for the provision of shelters for shade were discussed, and so far all proposals were in excess of £5,000. The Clerk agreed to look for more options that would be cost effective but still fit for purpose.

➤ **DECORATE WOODEN SIGNS**

- The wooden decorative signs were discussed and the design approved. It was agreed to go ahead and get a formal quotation to produce three signs. One for the Recreation Ground, one for Swelling Hill Pond and one for Oak Green. All would have the Parish Council contact details on, the postcode of the location for emergency services and suitable prohibitive signs, as appropriate. The prices quoted were for the product only, not installation, and it was agreed to ask the maintenance operative if he would be able to install them.

➤ **CEMETERY**

- The Clerk reported that at least two of the trees in the seating area of the Cemetery were in decline, and that a planting plan should be put in place to remove them and replace with more suitable trees with a greater longevity.
- It was discussed and agreed that quotes should be sought to replace the gates, and it was suggested, and supported, that the gates themselves should have the Parish Council's details engraved in them, rather than a separate sign. The Clerk agreed to get quotations for consideration.

➤ **TRESPASS POLICY**

- The document, previously circulated, was discussed, but there were several concerns with the wording, and it was agreed to liaise with Medstead Parish Council to see if their policy had more clearly defined wording. To be circulated prior to, and subsequently discussed, at the next open space committee meeting.

➤ **VILLAGE SIGN**

- It was confirmed that the planning application to erect a Village Sign at Lymington Bottom had been granted consent. The Festival Committee now respectfully requested permission from the Parish Council to move forward with the production and erection of the sign on the Village Green. The Parish Council were fully supportive and confirmed their consent.

17.79 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th October 2017, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

17.80 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00pm.

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Chairman