

Four Marks Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 6th December 2017 commencing at 8.30pm At Four Marks Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Janet Foster and Dave Mills
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), Cllr Hammond
APOLOGIES: Cllr Davie Edgar

17.97 OS OPEN SESSION

The Clerk raised to items and requested that they be added to next month's Agenda for consideration.

- Tree survey. For the Parish Council to discuss whether to carry out an in depth independent tree survey within the Parish for safeguard and insurance purposes. It was agreed to make this an Agenda item to discuss budget provision for the work and agree tender process.
- Upon advising the Parish Council that they have the power to make orders for dog control offences under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, it was agreed that this should be discussed and progressed and the clerk was asked to prepare the relevant documents for the next meeting.
- The Clerk also raised the provision of 'doggy doo bags' by either the District or Parish Council for consideration. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the District Council to see if this would be feasible.

The Clerk also confirmed that all the queries contained within this year's RoSPA report, had now been addressed, apart from replacing the safety matting, which would be addressed as one project in the next financial year.

There were no further items to be raised under the Open Session, and the formal meeting then commenced at 8.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.

17.98 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received by Cllr Davie Edgar, which was formally accepted.

17.99 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

17.100 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2017, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, approved by members, and duly signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising that were not covered by the area update or items for discussion.

17.101 OS AREA UPDATE

Allotments

- Fencing completed.

Badger Close

- Agenda item. Report on site meeting with Mark Kemp Gee

Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Issues with boiler, service call out, part replacement and service due 1st December 2017.

The Clerk subsequently confirmed that there was an on-going issue with the boiler and that the service had still not been carried out. A pump had been replaced, and the Clerk warned that there may be a more serious issue and perhaps consideration should be given to budgeting for cost for replacement.

- Water leak not fixed, will be addressed during boiler service.

Cemetery

- Awaiting approval of developers contributions for outstanding projects.
Cllr Davis raised the proposed species of tree replacements and the Clerk confirmed that no plan had yet been submitted, but would put a proposal together for approval at the next Open Space meeting, with options.

Footpaths

- No current reported issues.

Kingswood Copse

- Laurel hedge works to be carried out before nesting season.

Lymington Bottom Green

- Awaiting quotation for slab paving
- Still awaiting contact from Highways re new lease agreement.
The Clerk confirmed that approval had not yet been granted for expenditure of developers contributions to replace the fence. It was agreed that the Parish Council held enough funds to go ahead with the project prior to approval, and the Clerk was given authority to give the go ahead to the preferred contractor.
It was also suggested that the Estates team at HCC should be contacted to advise them of the intention to replace the fence, and ask if there was any progress with Highways on the queries they had raised originally.

Oak Green

- Agenda item. Improvement works and charity collections.
- Christmas Tree being delivered on Friday.
- Clock awaiting inspection by supply company

Recreation Ground

- Uplands Lane, tree works to be carried out within the next two weeks.
- Gate to be relocated this week.
- Awaiting for confirmation of expenditure of developers contributions for shelter
- No further information received on land ownership of area between skate-park and pavilion.

Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- No current reported issues. New shrubs to be planted in the New Year.

Swelling Hill Pond

- No further reported issues, bench and railings still to be attended to.
- Finger post at crossroads, reported, awaiting action.

17.102 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

TPO PROJECT UPDATE

Cllr Hammond attended the meeting to give members a brief update on the progress of the initiative to identify trees worthy of protection. Cllr Hammond has enlisted the help of Mr Norman Day, using his experience with the Forestry Commission to assist with the task, and as a starting point had, with the help of Mr Reg Pullen, managed to print out some maps from the EHDC website. At a previous meeting Diana Tennyson was identified as having carried out a survey, but it transpires that this was for Telegraph Lane and Boyneswood Road only.

As well as also enlisting the help of the District Councillor to set up a meeting with Stewart Garside at EHDC to identify what they need to be looking for in identifying specimens worthy of protection, it was felt that this was a

good starting point. Cllr Hammond asked if other Councillors could also assist in due course by all adopting a street to study. It was also agreed to ask Diana Tennyson to start an educational drive to raise awareness on the protection of the hedges and trees within the village with, perhaps, an article to be published on the website and in the Four Marks News. Whilst acknowledging that it is just not feasible to blanket TPO all the trees in the village, Cllr Hammond hoped that we would not be restricted to the suggested number of 10 mentioned at the last meeting.

Cllr Tomlinson asked for the link to the map showing the TPOs in the village to be contained within the minutes, as follows: <http://maps.easthants.gov.uk/>

The Clerk also advised that there were hard copies of all the TPOs in a file in the office.

RECREATION GROUND

Hire of training pitches for sports clubs and resolution of primary school parking issues.

- It was agreed that due to the current state of the training pitch that there should be no more groups using the floodlit area at this stage, however if approached again, the offer of day light training on a corner of the cricket pitch could be offered, although it was agreed additional floodlights in a separate area were not appropriate.
- It was also agreed that the Recreation Ground should not be used as a park and ride option to solve the traffic issues at the school, the Parish Council would however be prepared to mark out a small second pitch on the cricket field for the schools use, should they have to lose some of their playing field to provide the much needed drop off zone.
- It was also agreed to fence off the cricket square again to keep it protected for any future use.

OAK GREEN

- **Flooding of electric box.** It was agreed following circulation of a report by Cllr Foster, to decommission the underground electric pit as it was going to be extremely costly to replace, with the prospect of suffering similar flooding incidences again in the future. It was proposed to install additional sockets in the bus shelter under the roof in a lockable box. An electrician would be required to set up the new socket system. Additional work required would be to install a hinged trap door for ease of access.

The Chairman wished to thank all who turned out to put up the Christmas tree and both Hampshire Woodlands for their assistance in collecting and helping erect the Christmas tree, and the electrician, Rob Strange, who came out at short notice to try and assist with the electrical problems. Cllr Foster added that he was extremely helpful and should be written to and thanked, and given first refusal to carry out the proposed socket works agreed as above.

- **Clock.** The Clerk agreed to chase the clock inspection, although now working, and although Cllr Mills thought it may be possible to clean and change the light bulbs, it was agreed that the clock should have a proper clean and service.
- **Charity collections.** Following last year's confusion with charity collections, and the subsequent annual request from Marie Curie who, despite having been given permission to collect by the Parish Council at Oak Green, have not been given permission by East Hampshire District Council, as there is a collection being carried out elsewhere in the district. It was agreed that the Clerk should check this again, as there appears to be confusion over the actual criteria, which appears to prohibit the same charity from collecting in different places on the same day.
- **Communal space improvements;** the issue of the poor state of the communal areas of the flats above the shops at Oak Green was raised again. Although the Parish Council agree and sympathise with the owners/tenants, other than offer advice, there is nothing the Parish Council can do to help. It was suggested that maybe as a gesture of goodwill the Parish Council could put a security light in the stairwell by the electric cupboard, but it appears that there was one there but has been removed. The Clerk will get back to the resident asking for assistance and offer advice on setting up a residents committee.

BADGER CLOSE

At the request of Cllr Mark Kemp Gee, a meeting was held with him, the Clerk and the owner of 10 Badger Close, the property adjacent to footpath 5, to address concerns over the ongoing laurel hedge maintenance.

Following that meeting, it was agreed that the hedge needed to be hard pruned to prevent the footpath overhang. Although not under the actual ownership but responsible for keeping the pathway clear as per Section 154 of The Highways Act 1980, the owner has agreed to pay a portion of the pruning works up to the usual amount that she pays annually. Cllr Kemp Gee agreed to support the rest of the work by way of a grant. Cllr Kemp Gee asked in return that the Parish Council consider a small amount of work to the Ash Tree to the rear of the property, in the wildlife corridor, to appease the owners concerns.

A subsequent site meeting has taken place with Hampshire Woodlands, who annually carry out the work for the owner, where it was confirmed that the hedge can be pruned back by about 0.5 of a metre at its deepest point, although one part is completely restricted by a main stem and if removed would leave the property completely exposed. Some of the intertwined dogwood could also be removed. The height would remain the same, as the owner likes the security it offers, and the overhang for the birds. The hedge would be hard pruned along the whole length of No 10 Badger Close, including the holly and bramble area by the wildlife corridor. There were two or three small limbs identified that could be removed from the Ash Tree that overhang the garden, without causing too much damage to the tree, although following works carried out by the neighbour, the tree will appear a bit one sided. There is still no evidence of decay. The job is not a big job but fiddly and currently awaiting a quotation for the works. The Committee were in agreement to Cllr Kemp Gee's proposal.

17.103 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd January 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

17.104 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40pm.

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Chairman