

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 7th February commencing at 8.30pm 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)
APOLOGIES: None

18.09 OS OPEN SESSION

Cllr Tomlinson opened the meeting and asked for items for the Open Session.

There were no specific items to raise, however it was noted that there had been several positive comments on the general open space work particularly around the Recreation Ground.

The formal meeting commenced at 8.35pm. Standing Orders were applied.

18.10 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence.

18.11 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18.12 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2018, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Foster, approved by members, and duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising.
 - **Oak Green;** the Clerk confirmed that residents of the flats had met, and it was understood that the meeting went well with some positive progress made.
 - **Developers' contributions.** Approval for the planting plan and the safety matting has still not been received, and there are two outstanding invoices. District Councillor Thomas has suggested that an advisory email to her will enable her to chase directly.
 - **Shelter.** The Clerk circulated the specification drawing and planned location for the shelter for approval. It was RESOLVED to approve the drawing as submitted.
 - **Ladder rung notice boards.** To date, no acknowledgement of order has been received. The Clerk agreed to chase.
 - **Cemetery gates.** Currently still awaiting measurements for bespoke sized gates, as they are not all the same size.
 - **Recreation Ground.** The Clerk was in receipt of another request for floodlighting the MUGA, initial investigations have been started, there had been a suggestion of portable lights, but it was agreed that this was not an option.

- **Uplands Lane.** The quotation for works was agreed at Full Council. Confirmation of acceptance of the quote had been given, but no start date has been advised.

18.13 OS AREA UPDATE

Allotments

- No reported issues.

Badger Close

- No reported issues. Awaiting date for hedgerow work. **Action pending.**

Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Pavilion boiler, issue still not resolved, engineer visit booked. **Action pending.**

Cemetery

- Dead/diseased trees now removed, and replacements planted.
- Awaiting measurements for gates. **Action pending.**

Footpaths

- Cutting plan for Parish Lengthsman to be prepared. **Agenda item.**

Kingswood Copse

- Work to laurel hedge now completed. Advisory note that Laurel hedge should be pruned back every two years, Kingswood Copse side, and if carried out as advised would only be a small job for our maintenance operative or Parish Lengthsman.

Lymington Bottom Green

- Highways response to land ownership. **Agenda item**
- Paving around Village sign. **Agenda item.**

Oak Green

- Approval of proposed works to the Oak Green Clock, attached. **Agenda item**
- Retention invoice now received, appointment requested to discuss snagging issues. **Action pending.** Subsequently to the Agenda and associated paperwork being circulated, a site meeting has now taken place, and the snagging issues repaired. Final payment has now been authorised and sent.

Recreation Ground

- Uplands Lane, works to trees, boundary hedge row cut and new planting completed. Application made for works to TPO Oak tree. **Action pending.**
- Solicitors (Surrey Hills) now contacted for assistance in land registry search of the area between Pavilion and Skate Park. **Action pending.**

Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- No further update. Shrub planting still to be carried out. **Action pending.**

Swelling Hill Pond

- No further reported issues, work to bench and railings still to be attended to.
- Incorrect finger post initially reported. On line report for second post submitted.

18.14 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

• **Parish Lengthsman**

The Clerk confirmed the dates that the lengthsman is due to be in Four Marks and asked if any Councillors had any specific jobs for him to carry out in February. Suggestions include fixing the bench at the Recreation Ground, footpath clearance, specifically prior to the 10k run paving slabs at both the Village Green and Oak Green, and at a later date, Kingswood Copse. The Clerk was unsure as to whether Lengthsmen are permitted to carry out work on main A roads.

- **Oak Green Clock**

The Clerk had previously circulated the report and quotation to upgrade and service the Clock at Oak Green. The cost was thought to be expensive and it was suggested investigating replacements rather than maintenance. It was also suggested applying for a District Councillor grant to assist with costs. If the cost of replacing the clock is far in excess of repair, then the go ahead should be given to carry out the repairs and upgrade as appropriate

- **Lymington Bottom Green**

- The Clerk advised members on the progress of land ownership of Lymington Bottom Green.
- It had been discussed earlier in the meeting to see if the Lengthsman was able to carry out the paving work.

- **Tree survey recommendations**

The Clerk had circulated the response received from Came and Company with reference to the Parish Council's liability. It was discussed and agreed to go ahead and get quotations to carry out a survey of all trees in public areas.

- **Swelling Hill Pond**

The Clerk confirmed that an email received confirming that the angling club was still very much in existence. A meeting between members of the committee and Cllr Tomlinson and the Clerk was due to be arranged to discuss proposals for future maintenance of the pond. Action: Cllr Tomlinson and the Clerk.

- **Dog Fouling**

- Following a help request through the Clerk's forum, and conversation with EHDC, the Parish Council does not need to implement its own dog control orders as this is covered by EHDC. With reference to dog poo bag dispensers, no-one has been able to confirm that they have improved the issue, and all confirmed they are relatively expensive to install and maintain. The dog warden at EHDC has confirmed they will increase their visits to Four Marks, now that they have been made aware of the problems, in a bid to catch offenders and issue fines. They also suggested erecting a couple of home made boxes with bags in (cheap ones from, say, Pets at Home) as a trial. However, members all agreed that this was unlikely to improve the issue. CCTV had also been suggested. The Clerk also advised that the spraying of offending items had now begun.
- Cllr Mills raised concern over the dog waste bin on the far side of the cricket pitch, in that it filled up very quickly. The clerk advised that this was more likely to be due to an emptying day being missed, however it was agreed to ask Paul to keep an eye on the bin for any overflow.

- **WI Bench**

Cllr Mills had been away, however confirmed that he had spoken to his contact and they were planning to remove the bench shortly and assess how much work needed to be carried out and costs involved. As agreed if the costs exceed the agreed £100, this would be referred back to members to approve.

18.15 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th March 2018, 8.25pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

18.16 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.25pm.

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Chairman