

## **FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 8.30pm At Four Marks Village Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Davie Edgar and Janet Foster  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), no members of the public  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Dave Mills

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#### **18.17 OS OPEN SESSION**

The Clerk advised that the open space area behind Windmill Fields had a bad dog fouling problem and advised purchase of some no dog fouling signs to attach to the fence. There had been issues of some notices being removed and Cllr Foster suggested they are affixed with flat headed nails, which are harder to remove.

Cllr Tomlinson asked if the entrance to the MUGA could be fully paved, as there is a mud issue to the side of the one paving slab. The Clerk agreed to get costs.

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

#### **18.18 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Mills, which was accepted and approved.

#### **18.19 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **18.20 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record, by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Davis, approved by members, and duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising.
  - The Clerk advised that she was struggling to get anyone to quote for floodlighting for the MUGA, but will keep investigating.
  - The Parish Lengthsman had carried out his first visit and concentrated on mainly residential footpath clearance and Badger Close, his next visit is 3<sup>rd</sup> May. A job sheet will be prepared prior to his visit however, it has been suggested that he refurbish the Recreation Ground bench adjacent to the tennis court hedge. The 5<sup>th</sup> July visit will concentrate on the 4k/10k route. Cllr Tomlinson and the Clerk to walk the route prior to the visit.
  - Tree survey. Quotations now being prepared.

#### **18.21 OS AREA UPDATE**

##### Allotments

- No reported issues.

##### Badger Close

- Hedgerow and Ash Tree pruning now completed. *The Clerk advised that the promised County Councillor grant for the work had not materialised as the deadline had been missed. Cllr Kemp Gee suggested reapplying after 1<sup>st</sup> June. The Clerk proposed paying the amount due from the ringfenced funds and reimburse the account when the grant was received. The members agreed.*

#### Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Pavilion boiler, engineer visit did not resolve boiler issue and a new company being sought. **Action pending.**
- Agenda Item. Renewal of lease agreement.

#### Cemetery

- Awaiting measurements for gates. Email issues, now being resent. **Action pending.**
- Agenda items; memorial renovation, lunch club bench and deteriorating hedgerow

#### Footpaths

- Agenda item. Suggestion of naming/numbering footpaths and projects for applications for Rural Communities Fund.

#### Kingswood Copse

- Clerk to carry out site visit as issue with Oak tree split over railway embankment reported. **Action pending**

#### Lymington Bottom Green

- Agenda item. Proposed paving around village sign (deferred from last month)

#### Oak Green

- Oak Green Clock works approved, awaiting start date following appointment of scaffolding company. **Action pending.**
  - **Approval of additional costs for scaffolding, quotes circulated. Yes AT/JF**
  - **Grit bin/salt dispenser – yes, grit and salt**

#### Recreation Ground

- Application made for works to TPO Oak tree, awaiting approval. **Action pending.**
- Shelter in children's play area. Completed
- Drainage works Uplands lane. Completed.
- Agenda item; land between skate park and pavilion

#### Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- Site visit carried out for location of shrubs to plant. Planting to be carried out by the end of March. **Action pending.**

#### Swelling Hill Pond

- No further reported issues, work to bench and railings still to be attended to. **Action pending**
- HCC On line report on second finger post. *The Clerk advised that the case had been closed but had not yet checked whether the work had been carried out.*
- Agenda item. Site visit to discuss future pond maintenance arranged end of March.
- Agenda item. Request for signs to not remove frog spawn to be erected by pond.

## **18.22 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **Cemetery:**

- Memorial renovation works. The Clerk presented the two quotations, and it was RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and agreed, to appoint the company that had prepared the more detailed quotation, and to go ahead with the 'permanent fix' rather than 'make safe' proposals, at the cost of £3880. The works had been allowed for in the 2018/2019 budget, the works were scheduled to commence in June.
- Memorial bench, lunch club; After discussion, it was RESOLVED to grant permission to the former lunch club organisers to install a memorial bench at their preferred location, however it was also agreed that the existing benches should be checked, and removed if beyond repair or refurbishment, but to ensure that any commemorative plaques are removed and reattached on an alternative bench. Where possible it was agreed to contact relatives prior to their removal.

- Uplands Lane, border hedging and fence, it was agreed to removed damaged fencing and replant the gaps, taking advantage of offered shrubs from the Woodland Trust.

#### **Footpaths:**

- Signage. The Clerk had received a suggestion that all the footpaths are formally numbered by the addition of small signs at the end of each path for identification purposes. It was agreed that this would be a good project to use the developers' contributions from the Cala Homes development assigned to Four Marks signage.
- The Clerk reminded members that there are Rights of Way grants available for appropriate works to footpaths, such as changing styles to kissing gates, and asked for any suggestions to be forwarded to her for application.

#### **Lymington Bottom Green**

Paving slabs around village sign. The Clerk presented the various quotations received for the paving around the village sign, however concern had been raised by a local fencing contractor that paving right up to the wooden post could be detrimental to the longevity of the wood and suggested a small area of shingle or gravel between the wood and paved area to allow drainage. It was agreed to go back to both contractors and ask them to resubmit the quotation to incorporate the new proposal.

#### **Swelling Hill Pond**

- Site visit end of March to discuss future maintenance. The Clerk advised that a site visit had been provisionally scheduled for the end of March, however this was yet to be confirmed, to look at maintenance options for the future.
- A request had been received from Diana Tennyson for protected wildlife signs to be erected at the pond to stop children going into the pond and removing the frog spawn. It was agreed that this was not practical and suggested that Diana either go into the school and speak directly to the children or provide an article for the school newsletter.

#### **Recreation Ground**

Land ownership search for the area between the skate park and pavilion. The Clerk confirmed that all searches for the details of the new land owners, following the death of the former land owner, had proved fruitless. The Solicitors had provided several suggestions on the Parish Council's next steps and following discussion, it was agreed to put an action plan in place to try and get the owners to come forward. The first course of action is to fence the area off completely. The fence must be on parish council land and it was agreed that a cheap post and wire option would be the most suitable type at this stage. It was agreed to then take no further action for a time to see if the owners make contact.

#### **Benians Pavilion**

- Lease renewal. It was agreed that a meeting should take place between representatives of the Committee and Cllrs Foster and Tomlinson, to run through the lease and make any changes or recommendations and that all stipulations are being adhered to. Cllr Davis confirmed that they were now putting contents insurance in place to cover up to £10,000 contents insurance. Cllr Davis raised concerned that representatives were only fighting for their own clubs and not questioning the committee's decisions, which appear to be made without approval at Committee meetings. It was agreed that the governance issues should be clarified.
- It was also agreed that temporary office accommodation at the Recreation Ground/Pavilion needed to be raised.
- The Clerk confirmed that the boiler had still not been fixed, and that she no longer wished to use Ampella as we had been let down one too many times now. Cllr Foster agreed to look for an alternative company to contact for assistance and asked the Clerk to let her know the make and model of the current system.

#### **Community Building Project**

Cllr Davis had requested an Agenda item following discussions at Full Council, concerned that the report had intimated a much larger footprint than originally envisaged and was, in supporting Cllr Mills' comments, worried that this would lead to a reduction of open recreational space. Whilst it had been noted that there was likely to be several proposals put forward by the working party and, at this stage there was not one preferred option, the Open Spaces Committee were keen that the amount of open space provision is not compromised by the proposed new facility, and that this should be advised to the working party, for consideration.

The Clerk also raised the fact that there were restrictive covenants on the use of the land, which would need to be checked prior to any proposal moving forward.

**Four Marks 10k and fun runs**

Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that the 10k was going ahead on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. The race would hopefully this year be part of the newly formed 'watercress challenge' which will incorporate the Alresford 10k, Four Marks 10k and the Downland Challenge 10k in Alton. The race will start and finish on the football pitch side of the recreation ground, and there will be a 4k and children's races to be run by the school. Volunteers to help on the day would be very welcome.

**18.23 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

**18.24 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.25pm.**

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**Chairman**