

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Space Committee Wednesday 7th March commencing at 8.30pm At Four Marks Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Dave Mills and Janet Foster
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sarah Goudie (Clerk), no members of the public
APOLOGIES: None
ABSENT: Cllr Davie Edgar

18.25 OS OPEN SESSION

The Clerk advised of a report of a quad bike being driven up and down Uplands Lane over the weekend, after discussion it was agreed that no offence appears to have been committed and not to take any action.

The formal meeting commenced at 8.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.

18.26 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no formal apologies for absence.

18.27 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18.28 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7th March 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.
 - Tree Survey. The Clerk had now received the quotation for surveying the trees at areas owned by the Parish Council, and detailed the costs for each area, and the total figure as proposed by the arboriculture consultant of £1995 + VAT. The Clerk was asked to make appropriate checks with reference to insurance and qualifications, and if satisfactory, it was RESOLVED to confirm approval of the quotation and appoint the consultant to carry out the surveys as quoted.

18.29 OS AREA UPDATE

Allotments

- No reported issues.

Badger Close

- No. 16. Blockage of badger run reported and letter sent. The letter had been responded to by the occupant, who appeared to be unaware that the area in front of the wildlife corridor belonged to the Parish Council as well as the corridor itself. They confirmed that they had removed two trees that had been on the area in front of the fence and had put grey flint down to prevent weed growth, and bin storage container on the flint. They agreed to remove the container but had asked if they could leave the flint in place, and possibly add some planting. Diana Tennyson had been approached for advice and confirmed that the flint could potentially have a membrane under it, which she confirmed is good for landscaping but not wildlife friendly. She also confirmed she was happy to go and talk to the occupants. After discussion it was agreed to ask the occupant to return the area to grass, with no planting, as this would be the most appropriate surface for future maintenance, the Clerk agreed to write again to the occupant confirming these discussions.

- NO. 10. A recent telephone call from the occupant was received asking the Parish Council to put rat poison in the badger run, however pest control have advised against this until such time as the food source is removed. All the time the occupant is feeding the birds, the rats will find a way in, and it would be counter productive to put the poison down at this time.

Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Pavilion boiler, new servicing company being sought. **Action pending.**
- Meeting scheduled for 9th April to discuss the lease and other issues.

Cemetery

- Awaiting new quotation for gates. The Clerk has now received a quotation, which is in excess of the amount approved for developer contribution expenditure, by £124. Installation is an additional £1800 + VAT if new posts are supplied. It was RESOLVED to approach the District Council for an increase in developers contributions towards the project, and replace the posts.
- Hedgerow, upon advice, shrubs would not grow in the hedgerow as once in leaf some gaps will fill and new shrubs would not get the chance to grow. However, there are at least two gaps that need blocking, suggest filling cut brambles and twigs to stop pedestrian access, but not wildlife. This was agreed.
- Agenda item; Cemetery spoil

Footpaths

- Currently awaiting quotation for small post waymarkers, however the decision as to how many and what needs to be written on each marker to be agreed once quotation received. The Clerk advised that a quotation now been received for both new Recreation Ground finger post, and footpath waymarkers, and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Kingswood Copse

- Site visit has now been carried out, work identified; split in Oak Tree overhang, needs some remedial pruning but limb should remain. One small tree leaning towards residential property needs a minimal one side canopy reduction, to encourage it to grow back away from the houses. Awaiting quotation, however unlikely to be more than £500 plus VAT. Future coppicing work to be budgeted for next year.

Lymington Bottom Green

- Paving now completed. New fence to be installed once ground conditions improve.
- Agenda item: Complaint received with reference to dogs on the green and Village Sign

Oak Green

- Oak Green Clock works scheduled for Thursday 12th April, warning signs put on bus stop.

Recreation Ground

- Application made for works to TPO Oak tree, awaiting approval. **Action pending.**
- Entrance to MUGA now paved, with step.
- Agenda item; land between skate park and pavilion – approval of fencing quotation.
- Agenda item; dogs in the children's play area
- Agenda item; grass matting by containers
- Agenda item; location of circular picnic table

Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- Planting now completed, pavement area tidied, new dog signs awaiting installation.

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, awaiting action from a different department.
- Site visit postponed, to be rescheduled.

18.30 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Cemetery:**

There is now a large amount of spoil in the Cemetery. Whilst it is necessary to keep a small amount for topping up, it was agreed that the surplus needs to be removed and the area tidied. Cllr Tomlinson suggested getting it removed by a grab lorry, which was agreed and would provide the Clerk with contact details of a local contractor. **Action. Cllr Tomlinson/the Clerk.**

- **Recreation Ground**

- Dogs in the play area. Two recent incidences had highlighted the issue with people taking dogs into the play area where it is clearly signed, no dogs. There had been no further update on the police action at the time of the meeting. It was agreed that additional signs would not be of any use. It had been noted that there was a small gap under one of the pedestrian gates which needs to be addressed, however there is clear evidence that people are taking dogs in regardless. Social media posts have highlighted the 'no dogs' policy, however it was agreed that there was now no option but to investigate the installation of CCTV for both the play area and area around the Pavilion. Cllr Foster confirmed that this would be added to the Agenda for the meeting with the Benians Committee next week.
- The Archery club had raised their previous request for grass matting, or similar, to be installed by their container where it becomes muddy. Whilst it was acknowledged there is a problem, and the inclement weather had exacerbated the issue, it was agreed that grass matting would not be appropriate as the area is uneven and would cause mowing issues in the summer months. Adding additional paving is likely to make just move the issue to another area. After discussion it was agreed to ask the Archers if they had any suggestions as to what could be put down to try and cover the mud when it is at its worst.
- Fencing quotation. An informal quotation had been received to fence the wooded area, for an approximate cost of £1500-£1750, dependant upon amount of clearing work required. Paul is already trimming the trees and shrubs back to the boundary. The Clerk confirmed that the neighbour is supportive of the Parish Council's actions. There were concerns raised over the expenditure, however it was agreed that it was part of a future project and whilst it could be carried out using cheaper materials, it needed to be relatively robust, but not prevent access or be vulnerable to vandalism by those who wished to gain access. It was RESOLVED to go ahead with the works but to obtain a formal quotation prior to giving the go ahead.
- Re-location of the picnic table. Cllr Foster, Cllr Mills and the Clerk had looked at several options and it had been agreed to situate the table at the top end of the play park between putting holes. **Clerk to advise Paul.**
- MUGA, floodlights and netting. There had been no further progress on getting a quotation for floodlighting. The tennis club had raised the issue of netting to prevent the balls going over into the courts and people risking injury to retrieve them. It had been agreed that adding nets would be unwarranted expenditure, and it was agreed to write to the Tennis Club asking them if they were happy to advise the Parish Council of the code and update them when it changes. There are disclaimer notices on the fencing.

- **Oak Ladder Rung Notice Boards**

It was agreed that due to the size and weight of the notice boards, that it would not be appropriate for Paul to install and a contractor should be sought for the installation. **Clerk to source a suitable contractor.**

- **Lymington Bottom Green**

The Clerk had received an email raising concerns again over dogs on the Green and the Village Sign. The Clerk had responded with reference to the Village Sign but had agreed to raise the issue over dogs on the green again. Whilst in past meetings, it had been agreed dogs should not be banned, should a dog's on a lead policy be considered again. However, it was agreed that the area is public open space for all to enjoy and as such should have no restrictions.

18.31 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd May 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

18.32 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.50 pm.

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Chairman