

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 commencing at 8.45pm  
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lymington Bottom, Four Marks**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Janet Foster and Dave Mills  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Goudie (Clerk), 3 members of the public  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Davie Edgar

**18.33 OS OPEN SESSION**

The former organisers of the Four Marks lunch club were in attendance to discuss the design of the proposed bench for the cemetery for members past and present, they presented two designs to the committee. The preferred design was agreed. The proposed location of the bench was also discussed, but not agreed. Cllr Tomlinson proposed a site visit to the cemetery to agree the most suitable location.

The Clerk raised the following issues:

- Following investigation by a member of the public who wished to display a banner on the wooden rail fencing by Lymington Green on the main A31, HCC confirmed they do not own the fence as was originally thought, it was also assumed that neither do the Parish Council, so the actual owner remains unknown.
- The Bowls Club would like to replace their current wooden storage shed with a slightly larger green metal shed and had asked if the Parish Council would have any issues with this. There were no objections.
- The Clerk had been approached by a resident who lives next door to the end house which backs on to the Scout Hut. They informed the Clerk that the occupant had refused to prune back the Lawson Cyprus trees as 'the Parish Council had refused permission' and they asked if that was the case. The Parish Council do not own the trees and it was the Clerk's understanding that they primarily sit in the ransom strip, and therefore the adjacent resident could trim back to their boundary. However, the adjacent resident speaks very little English, and their neighbour asked if the Parish Council would send a simple letter explaining that the Parish Council do not own the trees and have not refused to let any work be carried out to the trees. The Committee were reticent about the wording of any letter and it was agreed that a very simple, 'the Parish Council do not own the trees and you do not need permission to cut back any branches that overhang your boundary' would suffice.
- James Coles had advised the Clerk that there had been an issue with a youth climbing the tennis court fencing and had caused themselves an injury, he had been unaware that there were advisory signs but agreed to check if they were still on the fencing. He is also investigating some temporary floodlights for next Autumn/Winter. James had given the Clerk the code to the fencing and would pass it on to any Councillor and Paul to retrieve any wayward balls.
- The Clerk advised that the incumbent Parish Lengthsman had left due to personal reasons, and they were currently recruiting for a replacement. The date missed would be rescheduled.

The other member of the public in attendance asked if the Parish Council had considered the option of residents offering their drives for school parking. It was agreed that this was another idea that could be passed on to the School's transport co-ordinator for consideration.

**The formal meeting commenced at 9.00pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

**18.34 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was a late apology received from Cllr Davie Edgar, which was accepted.

### 18.35 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### 18.36 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Mills, approved by members, and duly signed by the Chairman.
- There were no matters arising, all actions from previous meeting were still pending.

### 18.37 OS AREA UPDATE

#### Allotments

- No reported issues.

#### Badger Close

- No. 16. Subsequent agreement to shrub and flower planting upon receipt of acknowledgement that the land belongs to the Parish Council. This has now been received and filed.

#### Benians Committee/Pavilion

- New boiler system to be investigated in line with pavilion upgrade works and move of Parish Office into the building.
- New lease to be agreed and signed at the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Cemetery

- Developer Contribution increase request, awaiting approval.
- Cemetery spoil, details of contractor been given. Action pending

#### Footpaths

- Agenda item. Provision of Waymarkers.

#### Kingswood Copse

- Pruning work carried out due to issue with damage due to the danger of the overhang. All work now completed at the Copse. Future works now to be budgeted for.

#### Lymington Bottom Green

- Still awaiting fence installation, should be imminent now weather has improved. **Action pending.**

#### Oak Green

- Oak Green Clock works now completed.

#### Recreation Ground

- Permission granted for works to TPO Oak, now carried out.
- Awaiting formal quotation for fencing of land. **Action pending.**
- Circular picnic table still to be re-installed, new location agreed. **Action pending.**
- Agenda item. Quotations for new finger post sign.

#### Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- Area now tidied, signs installed, and fence treated. Will be maintained regularly.

#### Swelling Hill Pond

- Work to bench and railings still to be attended to. **Action pending**
- Site visit postponed, still yet to be rescheduled.

### 18.38 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- Footpath Waymarkers;  
The Clerk had received a quotation for the provision of wooden post Waymarkers, which was presented and discussed. However, committee members were of the opinion that plastic circular waymarkers, to be affixed to existing footpath signs, would be a better option. It was agreed that the footpaths officer

should note if there were any signs missing and whether an alternate fixing post would be required. It was agreed that this would be a project for the new footpaths officer and Clerk.

- Recreation Ground;

A quotation for new finger post sign from Brislands Lane had been received but members were concerned that it may be cluttered with too many 'fingers'. It was agreed that it should be limited to those clubs who hold external fixtures and that Cllr Davis should ask at the Benians Committee meeting in May which clubs would like a directional post. It was agreed to defer further action to the next meeting.

- Sale of land to the rear of Chaffinch Road.

A new proposal had been sent to the Parish Council for discussion. The details of which were discussed and deliberated. It was agreed that:

- although the land costs nothing to maintain, it is not of amenity value or of any specific use to the Parish Council;
- the Parish Council will only consider selling the land if the adjacent neighbour would be prepared to purchase their portion, so no portion remains in the ownership of the Parish Council and it was agreed to contact the neighbour to see if they would be agreeable;
- if the sale was to go ahead that the purchasers would be asked to pay all the Parish Council's legal costs;
- the Parish Council should arrange their own survey of the land and get an estimate of value, and Cllr Mills agreed to speak to Joly Lucas to see if he would be prepared to assist.
- The Clerk would contact the resident and advise them as detailed and get back to them following our own survey.

- Recreation Ground rules of use

Following several alleged breaches of Recreation Ground rules, it had been suggested that the rules should be looked at again to see if any changes were required. However, as the alleged breaches were already contained within the rules of use and published on the website, no further changes at this time were necessary.

- Locations for planting of poppies to commemorate the end of WW1

It was agreed to attempt to sow the poppy seeds at four separate locations;

- Telegraph Lane junction with A31 and the notice board area, Cllr Tomlinson
- Cemetery, Cllr Mills
- Lymington Bottom Green, Cllr Davis
- Flower beds at Oak Green, Cllr Foster

The poppies needed to be sown by the end of May.

- Proposal to improve the area of land at the Boyneswood Road and A31 junction.

Cllr Foster had been approached by a resident who had suggested that the small grassed area at the Boyneswood Road junction could be improved and enhanced, the addition of perhaps a rubbish bin or small wooden posts. Cllr Foster wondered if this could be a project to be discussed with Medstead Parish Council for CIL expenditure. It was agreed that the owner of the land needed to be ascertained and added to the list for further discussion at the joint meeting.

- Final approval for design and location of Lunch club memorial bench.

The design of the new bench had been agreed earlier in the meeting, together with an agreed site visit to look at the proposed location. However, the Clerk brought to the members attention that there were disagreements between the outgoing and incoming lunch club organisers over the expenditure. It was agreed that the former organisers should be contacted as a matter of urgency and asked to put on hold the ordering of the new bench, until such time as agreement had been reached between the two parties. As the Clerk was not going to be in the office until the following week, Cllr Tomlinson agreed to make contact.

Additional post meeting note. Cllr Tomlinson was able to speak to those involved and asked that they resolve the issues before purchasing the bench and report back to the Parish Council in due course.

- Village 'Map of Mess' initiative.

Cllr Thomas had sent details of an initiative by a former Parish Councillor of an 'App' that maps areas of dog mess, there were differing opinions on whether this would be effective. It was agreed to circulate further details of the App and initiative. It was agreed that the 'watching you' signs had not really had the desired effect and Cllr Mills suggested contacting the school to see if pupils could come up with amusing designs of 'dog fouling' signs in the form of a project or competition, as it was felt that this may be a more productive way of raising awareness. It was agreed to progress this suggestion with the school.

**Cllr Tomlinson closed the meeting to allow the member of public to speak.**

They offered their services with introduction of Apps and other IT related issues. They were thanked, the Clerk confirmed she already had their details.

**18.39 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

**18.40 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00pm.**

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**Chairman**