

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 6th June 2018 commencing at 8.30pm
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)
APOLOGIES:	None
ABSENCE:	Cllr Davie Edgar

18.41 OS ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Foster proposed Cllr Tomlinson to continue as Chairman, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Mills, the nomination was approved, and carried unanimously. Cllr Tomlinson thanked members and opened the meeting.

18.42 OS OPEN SESSION

As there were no members of public in attendance, Cllr Tomlinson asked if there were any items to raise under the open session.

The Clerk referred to an email that she had received which had raised concern with reference to open air events at the Pavilion. They were keen not to appear a killjoy, but whilst some members of the community welcome the new events, some residents do not, and the point was all members of the community need to be considered.

Under their new license they are allowed up to 8 events per year, they must not play after 10.15pm, and as this is a new license, they are still effectively 'under probation' so the license can be revoked at any time. EHDC will only need to receive one formal complaint before they investigate.

Whilst everyone agreed the events are well attended and popular, there are more houses in the immediate vicinity, and not everyone, especially those with young children, want to listen to loud music on a regular basis. Concern was also expressed that the Parish Council are not receiving the appropriate notification prior to the events, and only being notified after they have been organised.

It was agreed to write a letter, with suggestions on how to work with both sides of the community, ensure that all events are properly notified, and that all live music is stopped at 10.00pm and ensure neighbouring properties are considered by monitoring content of the lyrics.

The formal meeting commenced at 8.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.

18.43 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no formal apologies for absence.

18.44 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18.45 OS TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was RESOLVED to approve the current Terms of Reference with no amendments.

18.46 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd May 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.

Matters Arising from meeting held on 2nd May 2018:

- Memorial Bench, Lunch Club. It was agreed at Full Council that the members of the lunch club themselves should decide whether to provide the memorial bench, not either set of organisers. The Clerk has written to the new organisers requesting they carry out a vote as a matter of urgency and advise the Parish Council of the outcome. The outgoing organisers confirmed that they are now meeting with the Hampshire Help at Home organisation to discuss the issues.
- Lawson Cypress trees, Recreation Ground. No letter was sent as the occupant has already trimmed the trees back to the boundary. The original complainant is now taking the issue up with the local authority for mediation with all parties to get the height reduced. No further Parish Council action required.
- Parish Lengthsman. New contract awarded, and contact has already been made with Clerk and meeting has already taken place for the orientation of the parish. The Clerk confirmed the first work day would be Monday 2nd July, with an additional date that week to carry out works for the 10k route.
- Footpath waymarkers. At Full Council it was agreed that the role of Footpaths officer should be divided up into regions, with a designated Councillor for certain areas. Each Councillor will be responsible for checking the footpaths within their areas, and report back any issues, and whether the footpath signs need to be replaced. HCC Rights of Way have agreed to replace signs as necessary
- Finger post for Recreation Ground. The Clerk has asked all sports clubs if they would like representation on the new sign, once the information is collated, the Clerk will then look at different options, obtain quotations and present to the Committee for decision. Future Agenda item for design.
- Sale of land to rear of Chaffinch Road. Agreement was reached at Full Council on a proposal, which the Clerk has forwarded to both parties. Once confirmation is received, the Clerk will appoint legal representation to move the matter forward. Both parties have now acknowledged the offer and will be getting back to the Parish Council in due course.
- Councillors confirmed that all poppy seeds have been sown, and it is hoped that at least some of them will produce flowers.
- Village map initiative. The Clerk reported that she had emailed the school but had not yet received a response.
- Tree Inspections. No report received to date.

18.47 OS AREA UPDATE

Allotments

- Issues again with balls from the MUGA and problems with damage to fencing. Agenda item to discuss options.
 - Despite detailed discussions, it was agreed that whatever remedial action is taken, the fence will still be climbed and people will still find access into the Allotments. It was suggested that Cllr Davis, in his role as Allotment Committee Chairman, contacts the Allotments Society to see if they have any advice on this issue, and whether other areas have similar issues. However, in the meantime, it was thought a deterrent in the form of an established container grown hawthorn, planted by the area where the fence is regularly climbed may act as a deterrent and the Clerk agreed to source suitable shrubs.

Badger Close

- No reported issues. Action pending to increase size of badger access at the base of the fence beside No. 16.

Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Agreed to provide new boiler system at Pavilion prior to new football season. Clerk to seek quotations. Action pending.

- New lease now signed and Parish Office to be moved to Pavilion by December 2018.
- CCTV options currently being investigated.

Cemetery

- Approval given for additional expenditure on Cemetery gates, gates now ordered, awaiting delivery and installation. Action pending. Concern was expressed over recent theft of the metal bench, and it was agreed that the gates should be hung with opposing pins to deter theft.
- Cemetery spoil, details of contractor been given. Action still pending.
- Memorial bench still awaiting agreement between lunch club organisers. Action pending.

Footpaths

- As per the action point raised at Full Council, Cllr Foster agreed to copy the footpath map, and Cllr Mills agreed to apportion paths to Councillors for monitoring. All Councillors to advise Clerk whether new footpath signs are required and was there a suitable post for affixing the numbered waymarkers. Action pending.
- Clerk to seek quotations for waymarkers. Action pending.

Kingswood Copse

- No reported current issues.

Lymington Bottom Green

- Fence being started Thursday 7th June.

Oak Green

- Upgrade to CCTV system currently under investigation. Agenda item pending.
- New notice board options being investigated, and quotations being sought. Councillors agreed to let the Clerk choose a suitable style. Action pending.
- Proposal to introduce annual maintenance contract for clock for approval.
 - It was agreed that as each visit would require the cost of hiring scaffolding it would not be cost effective to enter into the maintenance agreement. However, it was agreed that an amount should be budgeted for each year to carry out ad hoc servicing in 3 to 5 years time, or when necessary.
 - The proposed new electrics for the Christmas lights were raised, and Cllr Foster confirmed that she had made contact with the electrician. The Parish Council would purchase the equipment needed and then pay for the installation separately. The issue of additional Christmas lights were also discussed and it was suggested that lights were put in the Oak Tree and kept up all year but only switched on during the Christmas period. A cherry picker would be required for the initial installation, and the lights would need to be battery operated as there is no direct electricity supply.

Recreation Ground

- Quotation for fencing of land received, with a maximum cost of £1800. Agenda item. Further discussion and agreement required.
 - It had been intimated that the owner may be known and further information is awaited before going ahead with fencing.
- Circular picnic table now re-installed in the play area.

Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- Fly tipping reported. EHDC contractor had agreed to remove the rubbish.

Swelling Hill Pond

- Work to benches and installation of second bench still to be carried out. Action pending
- Site visit postponed, still yet to be rescheduled.
- New contact details for Secretary now supplied.

General items

- Ladder rung notice boards. Installation quote now being prepared. A site visit would be required to determine installation points. Action pending.
- Four Marks 10k – Sunday 8th July from 9.00am – volunteers required please.

18.48 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Renovation of the Pond by Primary School

The Parish Council had been approached by a member of the community who wished to organise a renovation party for the pond beside the Four Marks primary school. However, as it was thought that the pond was owned by the school, they should approach them in the first instance.

Entry to Village of the Year 2018 competition

It was agreed that as the Parish Council have made some significant improvements to the village, it would be a good year to enter the Village of the Year competition, and it was agreed to enter two categories, best open spaces and recreational project and best village feature. Photographs would be taken of the Recreation Ground, including the children's play area, tennis courts, skate park and MUGA, together with the Cemetery (hopefully with the new gates), Swelling Hill Pond, Oak Green and Lymington Bottom Green. Cllr Tomlinson agreed to ask her daughter if she would be prepared to take the photographs. A narrative explaining the various projects would need to be prepared to go with the photographs. It was suggested contacting Cllr McCarthy's wife to ask if she would be able to put something together to promote our entry. The Clerk agreed to look at conditions for entry and progress. The deadline for submission is 31st July, with judging taking place in August.

Bus Shelter

It was agreed that an annual professional cleaning programme would be adequate for the bus shelters, with Paul carrying out any ad hoc mid-term cleaning. However, it was noted that the bus shelter on the north side of A31 by Lymington Bottom was filthy and needed regular cleaning but due to its proximity to the main road, this was not easy to carry out. It was agreed that clear Perspex was not appropriate for this location, and therefore it was agreed to contact the bus shelter company to see if there was a darker material that could be used that would not show the dirt so badly. Clerk agreed to pursue this action.

Oak Green

There had been complaints over the misuse of the Oak Green car park, cars staying longer than the allowed 2 hours and misuse of the disabled bay. It was agreed that this could not easily be monitored, but as only one notice remains and is very high up, additional notices may be appropriate. There is also continual dumping of wooden pallets under the stairwell and the clerk will be putting up no fly tipping signs to try and curtail this activity.

Concerns had also been raised over the kebab van's nightly presence and although there were many who did not approve, there were just as many who do. It was agreed that as the land does not belong to the Parish Council there is little action that can be taken unless they are breaching street trading laws. It was suggested that those complainants contact EHDC directly with their concerns.

18.49 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th July 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

18.50 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45pm.

.....
Chairman