

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs John Davis, Davie Edgar, John Hammond, David Mills, Shaun McCarthy and Anne Tomlinson
IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Goudie (Clerk), District Councillor Jackson, and 2 members of the public
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs Tim Brake and Simon Thomas, District Cllr Ingrid Thomas

The incumbent Chairman opened the meeting and handed the meeting over to the Clerk to receive nominations for the Election of Chairman for the year.

18.63 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Davis proposed Cllr Foster to continue as Chairman for the new council year and final year of the four year term, Cllr Hammond seconded the proposal. Cllr Foster accepted the nomination and agreed to continue as Chairman and, following a unanimous vote, the proposal was carried.

Cllr Foster thanked all members for their support and continued with the business of the meeting.

18.64 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Hammond proposed Cllr Tomlinson continue as Vice Chairman for the new Council year, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Davis. Cllr Tomlinson accepted the nomination and agreed to continue as Vice Chairman and, following a unanimous vote, the proposal was carried.

18.65 OPEN SESSION

The Chairman then opened the meeting for business and welcomed members of the public and Councillors and asked if there were any issues to be raised under the Open Session.

District Cllr Jackson congratulated the Parish Council, on behalf of Medstead Parish Council, on how nice Lymington Green is currently looking, creating a very attractive gateway to the village.

There being no further issues to raise under Open Session, Standing Orders were applied, and the meeting commenced at 7.35pm.

18.66 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brake and Thomas, which were accepted and approved by all members. An apology was also received from District Councillor Ingrid Thomas.

The Chairman confirmed to Councillors the resignation of Cllr Black and advised Councillors of her thanks for their support during her term. Councillors asked for it to be Minuted how sorry they were to learn of her resignation and wished to thank her for her input during her time on the Council. The Clerk reminded Council of the procedure for a Casual Vacancy.

18.67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18.68 COUNCIL MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday 18th April 2018, following amendment of a Minute numbering error corrected by the Clerk prior to the meeting, were proposed

as a true record by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr McCarthy, approved by all members, and signed by the Chairman.

- Matters arising
 - The Clerk confirmed that the letter, following amendment, had been sent to Cllr Rob Humby, to date no response has been received, however the Chairman had approached a member of Highways at a recent meeting and was awaiting a response. Members were still extremely disappointed that to date no response had been received and asked the Chairman to chase her contact on his return from holiday.
 - Playground abuse incident. The Clerk confirmed that she was now in receipt of the letters of apology and the police had closed the case, stating that there was no further action that could realistically be taken, and PC Pete Kelly had already spent a good deal of time and effort pursuing these letters, beyond what would have happened if he had not picked up the case. However, while the letters show remorse, there is no actual apology to either the Clerk nor Paul, and one is not an accurate reflection of what had happened at all. Whilst acknowledging there is no further action that can be taken, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Peter Kelly, thanking him for his assistance, but ensure that it is noted that although the letters have been acknowledged, and accepted, that the Parish Council, as the employers, would have preferred to take further action against those involved, but on the advice of the Clerk agreed that this would not be practical and that those involved in the incident should all be advised as such.
- The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated and were approved in principle.

18.69 COMMITTEE MINUTES

- **Planning Committee Meeting, Wednesday 2nd May 2018**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee was not in attendance, however the Clerk raised two issues that were discussed.

- Land West of Brambles, due to the ongoing investigations on this site it was agreed not to comment further on the current application, and Cllr Tomlinson had requested an investigation as to why there were no documents on the portal discharging the condition with reference to the lighting on site.
 - Planning application for a conversion of a garage to habitable accommodation had raised concern over potential damage to a row of adjacent line of trees subject to a TPO. A subsequent application has now been received to remove 7 of the trees. The Clerk advised that although the deadline for this application passes prior to the next meeting, the tree officer had indicated he would be prepared to accept the Parish Council's comments as soon as possible after the deadline, but no later than 7th June, prior to making his decision. It was agreed that it was not necessary to have an extra-ordinary planning committee meeting to discuss the application.
- **Open Space Committee Meeting, Wednesday 2nd May 2018**

Cllr Tomlinson, the incumbent Chairman of the Committee, gave a brief report of the previous meeting, and highlighted two issues that needed Full Council agreement:

 - Sale of land to the rear of Chaffinch Road. Cllr Tomlinson reported the background on the proposed sale and following the Committee's recommendation, it was RESOLVED to agree the sale of the land for a total price of £1,000, it would be up to both parties to decide whether to split the amount 50/50 or proportion it according to size. The Parish Council would not be responsible for any legal costs, and a condition would be requested that the land could only ever be garden curtilage.
 - Lunch club memorial bench. Cllr Tomlinson briefly outlined the issues with reference to the former organisers request to provide a memorial bench for members past and present, the Parish Council's agreement, and subsequent concerns raised by the current organisers of the lunch club that this was not an appropriate way to spend surplus funds. The Parish Council agreed that the money held actually belongs to the members themselves, and neither past or present organisers, and that it should be put to the actual members of the lunch club themselves to vote on whether they wish to provide the memorial as suggested.

18.70 APPROVAL OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

It was RESOLVED to approve the meeting schedule as circulated.

18.71 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO EXISTING COMMITTEES

- Planning Committee; Cllrs Thomas, Brake, Tomlinson, McCarthy, and Hammond
- Open Spaces Committee; Cllrs Tomlinson, Mills, Davis, Edgar, and Foster
- Finance & General Purposes Committee; Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairman of Planning Committee, Chairman of Open Spaces and Cllr J Davis, who agreed to remain on the Committee.

18.72 REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR EACH COMMITTEE

- **Finance & General Purposes Committee**
It was RESOLVED to adopt the Terms of Reference as circulated, with delegation of up to £5,000
- **Open Space Committee**
It was RESOLVED to adopt the Terms of Reference as circulated, with delegation of up to £5,000
- **Planning Committee**
It was RESOLVED to adopt the Terms of Reference as circulated, no financial delegation required?
- **Community Facility Project Working Party**
It was RESOLVED to continue to support the above working party, with Cllrs Simon Thomas and Shaun McCarthy remaining as Parish Council representatives. Delegated powers will be as per their terms of reference, and to provide regular reports to Full Council.

18.73 APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES OR WORKING PARTIES

There were no new committees appointed, however Cllr Mills suggested a working party to put together a Community Resilience plan may be appropriate. Cllr Foster advised she would cover this under her report.

18.74 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, AND APPROVE REVIEW PROCEDURE OF ALL COUNCIL POLICY AND PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

- It was RESOLVED to approve the Financial Regulations and continue with current policy to review all standard documentation at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings in July.
- It was RESOLVED to incorporate the amendments as circulated prior to the meeting and update the Standing Orders to reflect the changes in legislation. The Clerk agreed to circulate the new Standing Orders by email, but Cllrs Foster, Davis, Mills and Hammond all requested hard copies, which Cllr Tomlinson agreed to produce on the Clerk's behalf.

18.75 REVIEW OF CONTRACTS, LAND AND ASSETS, AND INSURANCE POLICIES

It was RESOLVED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee would review all contracts, assets and policies as appropriate.

18.76 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- Allotments Association: Cllr Davis agreed to remain as the Allotments representative.
- Benians Committee: Cllr Davis agreed to remain as the Benians Committee representative.
- Community Facility Improvements Committee: Cllr Simon Thomas had indicated his agreement to remain as representative for the Parish Council on this Committee, Cllr McCarthy also agreed to remain on the Committee.
- Festival Committee: Cllr Hammond agreed to remain as Festival Committee representative.
- Footpaths Officer: it was agreed that the responsibility for footpaths should be divided up amongst Councillors, which would be actioned at the Open Spaces Committee.
- Oak Green; Cllr Foster agreed to remain as Oak Green liaison Councillor
- School Governor; Cllr Edgar agreed to be a liaison between the School and the Council until such time as a member could be appointed.
- Village Hall Committee; Cllr Mills agreed to remain as the Village Hall representative.

The above items are as per Standing Order 5.

18.77 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman confirmed that she had begun to prepare a Community Resilience Plan, but requests need to be sent out asking for volunteers for various roles, such as drivers, chainsaw operatives, first aiders, provision

of generators, provision of list of vulnerable people. Places of safety also need to be identified, and it was agreed that the initiative needs to be opened out to the Community. It was agreed to start the initiative by articles in the Four Marks News and at the Village Picnic with a request for volunteers. The Chairman agreed to run the initiative but all would be required to contribute.

The Chairman also confirmed that Neil Bonter, Chairman of Streetwatch, was still very much interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, and the Clerk agreed to contact him in due course.

The Chairman also advised members of the invitation to the Hampshire County Council Annual County Service at the Cathedral and it was suggested that perhaps as the Chairman was unable to attend and Cllr Tomlinson had attended in a previous year that perhaps Cllrs Ingrid and Simon Thomas may wish to attend on the Parish Council's behalf and the Clerk agreed to forward on the invitation.

18.78 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Councillor Thomas's report is attached as Appendix 1.

District Councillor Jackson reported that things had been relatively quiet over the last month. South East Water had finally finished their work and Boyneswood Road was now open. The bricks on the bridge had been re-affixed and District Councillor Thomas was still pushing for a meeting with the Watercress Line to try and pursue the provision of a footbridge.

She also confirmed that there had been several incidences of fly tipping in Medstead, primarily garden waste and chopped up trees, and wondered whether Four Marks were experiencing similar issues. EHDC are running an initiative advising residents that if they pay someone to remove their rubbish, if it is not disposed of correctly, they themselves would receive a hefty fine in a bid to prevent unscrupulous individuals taking money for disposal without appropriate licences. It was noted that social media has raised the profile of fly tipping.

Cala Homes have confirmed they will be moving off site in June and handing over the site and Allotments. The Clerk asked if there had been any action taken over the safety of the pond, and Cllr Jackson confirmed that RoSPA had been contacted to provide a safety report.

Tracy Vear from EHDC has been tasked to find out whether there are still local housing needs as both Medstead and Four Marks have provided a huge amount of affordable housing to date. She will update us with her findings.

Cllr Anthony Williams is the new Chairman of EHDC and there have been several changes in the cabinet. Cllr Thomas has retained her portfolio. Guy Shepherd is the finance portfolio holder. This year the Leader wishes to support help in the community and community care.

Cllr Jackson asked if the Council had received any due CIL payments and it was confirmed that there are none owing to the Parish Council as yet.

Cllr Foster asked what the plans were for the Medstead Parish Office, Cllr Jackson confirmed that there were several ideas being discussed but that Medstead would avail of the Four Marks office until the move takes place to alternative premises.

18.79 FINANCIAL ISSUES

18.79.1 It was RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Foster and seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, to approve the list of payments (as detailed below), for April 2018. The Clerk wished to bring to the Council's attention that the List of Receipts circulated had been an earlier version and did not contain the Precept payment of £54,500.00.

List of Payments made between 01/04/2018 and 30/04/2018

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/04/2018	Ian McNeill Horse Supplies Ltd	SO	400.00		Parish Office Monthly Rent
03/04/2018	East Hants District Council	2230	893.01		EHDC Annual Rate Charges
03/04/2018	Lawrence Perry Landscapes	2226	1,035.90		Landscaping works
03/04/2018	Surrey Hills Solicitors	2231	934.00		Legal charges VH Reg.

03/04/2018	HALC	2232	927.00		Affiliation Fees & Conf fee
03/04/2018	SLCC	2234	185.00		SLCC Clerk Annual fee
04/04/2018	Hampshire Woodlands Ltd	2233	1,290.00		Open Spaces - maint & plant
04/04/2018	Hampshire Playing Fields Assoc	2235	40.00		HPFA Annual membership
04/04/2018	Trophiesplusmedals	2236	25.98		Community Award Trophy
04/04/2018	Idverde Limited	2237	676.80		Quarterly bin emptying
05/04/2018	Talk Talk Business	DD	27.54		Monthly phone/bband March
11/04/2018	Four Marks Village Hall	2238	33.00		March Village Hall Hire
18/04/2018	Eddie Hodkin	2239	192.00		Labour- Oak Green -Mar- EH
18/04/2018	SSE Southern Electric	2240	380.69		Electric-Pavilion - Jan/Mar 18
18/04/2018	Nimrod Fire Protection	2241	337.80		Annual Fire Ext. check BP
20/04/2018	British Gas	DD	475.52		Pavilion Gas bill Jan/Mar 18
23/04/2018	Royal Mail	2242	204.00		Mail redirection
23/04/2018	Four Marks Scout Group	2243	20.00		Catering for APM - JF
24/04/2018	WKL Building Supplies	2244	36.00		Creocote for fencing
24/04/2018	Hampshire Woodlands Ltd	2245	1,392.00		Open space maintenance
24/04/2018	Home-Start Hampshire	2246	250.00	Minute 18.57	Home-Start Annual Grant
24/04/2018	Smith of Derby	2247	3,458.40		Oak Green Clock upgrade
25/04/2018	Bellemoor Removals & Storage L	2248	378.00		Office Removal Costs
26/04/2018	South East Water	2249	157.86		Water rates Benians Pavilion
30/04/2018	Idverde Limited	2250	512.40	F&GP	Historic inv. not received
30/04/2018	FM01	2251	10.80		Travel Expenses
30/04/2018	Veronica Lockey	2251	24.00		April office cleaning
30/04/2018	Tesco Stores Limited	2251	15.00		Stamps
30/04/2018	Redfields Garden Centre	2251	10.26		Redfields Garden Centre
30/04/2018	FM03 - PB	2252	533.30		April Salary & Expenses - PB
30/04/2018	Sainsbury's	2252	5.56		Petrol for strimmer
30/04/2018	HM Revenue & Customs	2253	517.22		HMRC April PAYE/NI
30/04/2018	FM01	SO	1,547.06		FM01 Net April salary
30/04/2018	Hampshire Pension Fund	SO	435.13		FM01 April Pension Contribs
Total Payments			17,361.23		

It was also agreed to approve in principle the payments to date for May 2018, as circulated at the meeting, and as detailed below:

List of Payments made between 01/05/2018 and 23/05/2018

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
01/05/2018	Ian McNeill Horse Supplies Ltd	SO	400.00		Parish Office monthly rent
02/05/2018	SSE Southern Electric	2254	46.26		Electricity - Bowls/Oak Green
06/05/2018	Talk Talk Business	DD	27.72		Monthly phone/bband April
22/05/2018	Semrah Landscape Management	2255	978.00		Grass cutting - April
22/05/2018	Four Marks Village Hall	2256	57.00		April Village Hall Hire
22/05/2018	Eddie Hodkin	2257	192.00		Labour -Oak Green- Apr - EH
22/05/2018	Howard Carpenter	2258	264.16		Allotment expenses
22/05/2018	Auditing Solutions	2259	228.00		Final Internal Audit a/c
22/05/2018	Cato Computers	2260	38.09		Software/office visit
Total Payments			2,231.23		

18.79.2 The Clerk apologised for the delay in circulating the trial balance and bank reconciliation, but due to the issues with TSB, the monthly statement had still not been received and the reports had been carried out using an over the counter print out. It was agreed that as soon as the bank statement was received copies would be circulated and the trial balance and bank reconciliation would be formally approved at the next Full Council meeting.

The Clerk raised her extreme concern over the situation at TSB and the Parish Council's element of risk, and it was agreed that an appointment should be arranged as a matter of urgency for the Chairman and the Clerk to meet with the bank, get the transfer funds to the CCLA account and look at alternative banking arrangements.

- 18.79.3** The Clerk had circulated the Final Accounts prior to the meeting. It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts as circulated, and the Chairman subsequently signed the accounts.
- 18.79.4** It was RESOLVED to approve, now that the accounts had been agreed, the date of announcement as Thursday 24th May, with the period of exercise of public rights commencing from Monday 4th June 2018 and ending on Friday 13th July 2018.
- 18.79.5** It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement as circulated, and the Clerk completed the statement as agreed, which was then signed by the Chairman.
- 18.79.6** It was RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements as prepared by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting. The Accounting Statements were then duly signed and dated by the Chairman.
- 18.79.7** The Clerk reported that the Final Internal Audit had been completed, and the report would be circulated to the Council. There were no issues warranting formal comment or recommendation, with thanks expressed to the Clerk for the presentation and assistance. However, the Auditor noted that although the Council holds healthy balances in its Earmarked reserves, the level of General Reserve is beneath the lower level specified in CiPFA guidelines and members are encouraged to review this during the financial year to ensure that the General Reserve is set at a level appropriate for the Council's ongoing financial requirements. Cllr Davis queried this calculation, and the Clerk agreed to investigate further.

18.80 INTERNAL COUNCIL MATTERS

- **EHAPTC Meeting, 14th June 2018.** Cllr McCarthy agreed to represent the Parish Council at this meeting.
- **Correspondence and Clerk's update.** Cllr Hammond requested copies of all the CPRE emails as noted.
 - Cllr Tomlison gave a brief report of the meeting she attended with Cllr Thomas at EHDC the previous week on planning for the future. It was a lengthy but hopefully productive meeting and the information taken from the workshops on visions and objectives would be collated and circulated in due course.
 - The Clerk and Chairman attended a meeting at HCC the same evening, where workshops were based on tackling loneliness within the community and rights of way.
- **GDPR Update.**
The Clerk confirmed she was happy that the Parish Council were fully compliant with the GDPR coming into force on 25th May, and advised the following latest information received from HALC:

Yesterday during the [Report and remaining stages of the Data Protection Bill](#), MPs accepted the Government amendment to exempt all parish and town councils and parish meetings in England and community and town councils in Wales from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) under the General Data Protection Regulation. The Bill now enters 'Ping Pong' with the House of Lords considering amendments made during the House of Commons stages, though we do not expect this amendment to be reversed. Officials have advised us they expect Royal Assent and the Bill coming into force by 25 May 2018; we will of course continue to keep you updated.

And subsequently:

The Data Protection Bill has now been agreed by both Houses of Parliament following yesterday's consideration in the Lords of amendments made in the Commons. The Bill will be published as an Act later tomorrow evening, with the government making a commencement order on Thursday to bring the Act into force on Friday.

Any ensuing changes will be advised.

18.81 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Allotments;** The annual inspection of plots had been carried out with one plot being handed back prior to inspection, the vacated plot has already been taken on by the one person on the waiting list. Concerns are already being expressed over the balls coming over from the MUGA and damage to the fence. There was one suggestion that the fence was heightened but all agreed if they want to get in, they will. Cllr Davis asked for any ideas to resolve this issue and it was agreed it would be discussed further at the Open Spaces committee. It was also suggested that those councillors who are regularly

at the Recreation Ground should be given the code to the Tennis Courts so they can retrieve any lost balls.

- **Benians Committee;** The AGM was attended by Cllrs Foster, Davis and the Clerk. The accounts were presented and accepted. Cllr Davis confirmed that they do have the money to make the alterations to change internal layout. The Committee had been given the beginning of December as the deadline for the Parish Office to move into the Pavilion. It had also been agreed that the boilers would be replaced before the next football season, and the Licence to Occupy was signed for another year with no increase in rent.
- **Festival Committee;** Cllr Hammond reported that at the AGM four of the current serving officers had resigned, although one had agreed to stay until September and the Clerk had agreed to Minute the meetings until the secretary was replaced. There was disappointment with the turnout at the St Georges day parade and it was agreed that an alternative approach should be taken next year and move away from Oak Green. Cllr Hammond confirmed that he had been tasked to provide the names on the War Memorial to the national list, Cllr Foster agreed to assist with this, and that he would be liaising with Cllr McCarthy with reference to the fly past on Remembrance Sunday. The comment had been made that perhaps the Festival Committee had run its course, but it was suggested that perhaps this was the time to reinvent it and maybe change its name to entice new members.
- **Village Hall;** Cllr Mills had attended the AGM, which had been very brief. The main issue is the ongoing problem with maintenance and the fact that small hall roof had been damaged in the storm, and the insurance company were not paying out as, in their opinion, the roof had been damaged prior to the storm. The repairs were undoubtedly going to strain the finances and the committee would be seeking grants to assist with the repairs.
- **Footpaths;** nothing to report.
- **School Governor;** members were reminded about the consultation on 19th June with reference to the expansion programme. The Clerk was asked to find out timings and circulate details.
- **Oak Green;** Cllr Foster reported that there was an issue with the pallets being left in the walkway but none of the shopkeepers were owning up. It was agreed to post a 'no fly tipping' notice to see if this improved the situation.
- **Community Buildings Project;**
Cllr Thomas sent the following report in his absence.
The Community Buildings Working Party are due to meet this Thursday and should have some draft documentation for then (financials and legal processes). Chris Lake is now enthused by the proposals and has submitted his own layout ideas for discussion.

Cllr Thomas stresses that they are producing a feasibility study, a look at options, and NOT a definite solution and see public / residents / user groups & clubs etc consultation as a crucial element, but this needs to be carefully managed, it will be a guide and advisory not a wish-list or referendum. What can be delivered and maintained (without subsidy) is restricted by the financial constraints as there is no magic money tree.

The big questions are:

- *Where (multiple sites in Recreation Ground proposed)*
- *How to fund (bridging loan, funding match, sell the current VH site?) District Councillor Thomas is already working closely with the new financial portfolio holder, Guy Shepherd, but a solid business plan is required to approach them, and this is being worked on. The funds the Scouts have already accumulated would be used to equip their own area.*

18.82 ALTON SPORTS CENTRE

Cllr Foster attended the previous meeting of the development board, but was frustrated that several questions, including hers on car parking numbers, remained unanswered. There also appears to be legal issues with the Cardiac Rehab centre having to release land assets before any work is started. They are using Sport England guidelines for hall markings, LED lighting and new equipment in the Sports Hall. They are also setting up liaison meetings between the contractors and residents that will be affected by the development. Trialled and proved to work in Four Marks. There are still a lot of issues to be addressed, will the name change to Leisure Centre from Sports Centre and disability accessibility. There are also concerns that as this is a commercial venture with nil cost to EHDC, will there be higher admission charges in the future to pay for the improvements?

The next meeting is Tuesday 3rd July, 6.00pm, at the Cardiac Rehab Centre, Cllr Foster is unable to attend and will ask for a representative to attend in her place. Cllr Tomlinson to confirm attendance.

18.83 NEXT MEETING:
Full Council; Wednesday 20th June 2018, 7.30pm, Village Hall.

18.84 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm.

..... CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX

District Councillors' report 15th April to 15th May 2018

We are at the beginning of the Civic year now so I would like to offer congratulations to Deborah on once again being elected as the Chairman of Medstead Parish Council and to hope that Janet Foster carries on as Chairman of Four Marks Parish Council, both of these ladies do a huge amount for our communities and often behind the scenes so un-thanked, so thank you for all that you do.

St Georges Day was beautifully sunny and I had the great privilege of handing out the prizes to Four Marks School pupils for some lovely work. This event has become a very good addition to our village calendar.

It was great to see the clock on the shelter telling the right time too, last year's councillor grants fund paid for work to be done on the Medstead clock and this year the Four Marks clock. This year's grant fund is now available for more projects that will benefit the villages several applications have already arrived so do please apply early if you have a good project. The application form can be downloaded from Easthants web site and dropped into my letter box or Deborah's.

There were some councillors last year who did not spend all of their grant money so what was left over was put into a central pot and small local charities were each given £500 to carry on their good works. There was an afternoon tea reception for the charities chosen, very varied and I met some interesting people during the afternoon. Congratulations to Four Marks Care and to Holiday at Home on being included, I hope the additional money will enable you to reach more people.

The planning committee regularly go on site visits to look at potential housing or employment application sites. Often this involves arriving in a muddy field and getting very wet but this month we went on a wonderful site visit to Ropley Quarry. It was wonderful because one of the three pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons in Hampshire were nesting in the quarry and we were able to see the hen sitting on her nest. Its only possible to enter the site with an official bird protection officer so we were very privileged.

The review of the local plan continues to be a real focus of attention with all available officers working very hard to get it done as quickly as possible. there are a large number of stages and procedures that have to be followed if the plan is to be found sound when submitted to the planning inspectorate as early as possible next year. One of the latest stages has been a 'call for sites' this means that landowners are asked to submit details of any planning proposals they may have for their land, over 200 sites were offered for the whole district. These will now be investigated and sifted, many will be rejected at each stage. Eventually a few will be included in the plan review, this will take a considerable time and when the list is done I will share it with you, we took so many homes last time that I will be arguing very hard that we need time to assimilate and build the infrastructure for those homes so should not have any more sites this time.

As ever if I can be of assistance to you please contact me

Ingrid Thomas

East Hampshire District Ward Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead

01420 561552

Addendum to the above report:

The compliance team are working hard in the village at the moment, having open cases on

- the car wash, which has gone to appeal, the noise and problems caused to neighbours is causing great upset with neighbours on both sides now having moved out and renting out their homes.
- Land west of brambles, the 4 buildings have been refused and an appeal has been lodged over the compliance notice for not having built according to the approved plans.

- The Stone Yard in Alton Lane, a notice has been served for the use of a caravan as residential
- Fir Trees Farm, the caravan is still there but the people have moved out.

Interestingly there are quite a large number of tree notices being dealt with at the moment. I am sorry notice was so short to allow anyone to go to the trees training last night. We have a new trees manager called Jamie Gargutt and still have Stewart. I asked if the training could be repeated and if we can gather together a group of PCs then we could have the presentation here. The aspects dealt with included when a legal nuisance is caused and liability is caused, who owns trees in relation to boundaries and types of fungi.

There was another Benjamin UK meeting on Tuesday, the missing child was returning to the home yesterday and an additional child is expected soon in Telegraph Lane where there is also another new manager, I think she must be about manager 5/6 but she seemed very positive so fingers crossed she can improve these children lives.

At the planning briefing this week the EIA screening for Treloars was discussed, it is proposed that a screening opinion will be sought now and another when reserve matters are applied for. Interestingly the butterfly meadow that has been taken about will not be built on anyway as that part of the site will be given to Alton Town Council as open space so people will be able to go there in future whereas at the moment the site is private and not open to the public although many use it. The planning department have no news yet on a start date for the bridge.

There has also been no news on the latest traffic survey undertaken or its results, that's now many month overdue. I still don't have a response to my many questions asked of Mr Humby on the various traffic issues.

The lines around the school could be in place during the school holidays, no response was sent in by the school during the consultation period - if the parish council want to comment please get back to me asap as the team are waiting for a go signature. It may not be a final or total solution but it may help.