

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 4th July 2018 commencing at 7.30pm
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lymington Bottom, Four Marks**

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

18.51 OS OPEN SESSION

Following the pre-meeting site visit, the following items were agreed.

Cemetery.

Location of new bench was agreed in the semi-circular area adjacent to other benches by the new tree planting, it must be secured down.

It was agreed that the spoil is unsightly and to organize at least one load to be removed.

Recreation Ground.

It was agreed that the location for the ladder rung notice board would be between the first telegraph pole and the bank where the new 'dragons' teeth have been placed.

Cllr Mills asked if some more fence slats could be ordered as the supply was running low, he also advised he needed to purchase some more cable ties for the goal nets, and of a drainage issue by the scout hut and asked if this could be investigated.

Cllr Mills also queried why the contractors were not strimming round certain trees. The Clerk responded that they had been asked not to trim around the new trees, but there was no reason she knew of why they were not strimming around the older trees and would investigate further. *Subsequently to the meeting Diana Tennyson had left a message concerned that recent strimming had decimated a wild flower and butterfly haven, the Clerk will investigate and report back.*

Swelling Hill Pond.

It was agreed that the most suitable location for the ladder board would be set back from the car park. Concern was raised over the health of the Ash Tree, and the laurel overhang, therefore it was agreed that the tree should be removed, the laurel trimmed back, and the sign set back where the Ash Tree currently is.

It was also agreed that the three different signs on the trees were unsightly and should be removed and the instructions combined within one, more suitably rural, sign. The Clerk agreed to source a suitable replacement. Whilst there the anglers raised concern about a collapsed bank.

Oak Green.

The location of the ladder rung notice board was discussed in detail, as due to sight splay and tree roots, there was not an obvious location, however, it was agreed that in front of the Oak as you turn into the car park was the most appropriate, and a photograph was taken to note the position.

Other items noted. The cherry tree needs pruning as there is significant pedestrian overhang. The bank between the car park and the A31 is unsightly and needs to be flattened, it was also agreed to install some of the leftover dragon's teeth to prevent cars driving over the verge, there were some loose paving slabs that also need fixing, and the silver bins need cleaning. The raised beds were notably struggling in the heat and the self-seeded plants need to be taken out.

It was also agreed to apply for a grit bin and the suggested location was on the wall to the side of Naked Grape.

Other items.

The Clerk raised concern over the plants and lack of water, both Cllr Mills and the Clerk had provided the maintenance man with containers and asked him to water areas of concern every other day.

A telephone call had been received raising concern over the Ash Tree at the Recreation Ground behind the Scout Hut, and it had also been noted that a large limb had fallen to the side of the hut. It was agreed that this should be inspected as soon as possible.

The Clerk also mentioned a thank you email from a resident for the strimming of Footpath 7.

The formal meeting commenced at 7.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.

18.52 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Janet Foster, which was acknowledged and accepted.

18.53 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18.54 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th June 2018, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Davis seconded by Cllr Mills, approved by members, and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from meeting held on 6th June 2018:

- Memorial Bench, Lunch Club. The Clerk confirmed this had now been resolved and location agreed, as above.
- Sale of land to rear of Chaffinch Road. Still awaiting agreement from one party before progressing.
- Photographs of areas for Village of the Year competition. Cllr Tomlinson confirmed that this would be carried out shortly, a reminder of the final submission date of 31st July 2018. Concern was of the brown grass in the photographs and an old photo may have to be used.

18.55 OS AREA UPDATE

Allotments

- Nothing to report. **Action pending**, provision of prickly plants.

Badger Close

- Complaint about overgrown elderberry in corridor. Removed, all corridors checked, garden rubbish being dumped, letters to go to 33 and 35. Fence raised for badger access.
- Second complaint received over issues over hanging Oak Tree in corridor to the rear of the Badger sett, to be investigated.

Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Quotations being sought for new boiler for Full Council decision 18th July,. **Action ongoing.**
- Quotations now being sought for CCTV. **Action ongoing.**

Cemetery

- Gates ready now awaiting delivery and installation. **Action pending.**
- Cemetery spoil, mound has decreased naturally, option to remove in future, now covered in grass and wild flowers.
- Memorial bench, agreement reached between lunch club organisers and bench can now be purchased, exact location to be agreed at site visit. **Action pending.**

Footpaths

- Clerk awaiting reports from various representatives. Still to seek quotations for waymarkers. **Action pending.**

Kingswood Copse

- No reported current issues.

Lymington Bottom Green

- New fence installed now installed, area to be kept tidy for Village of the Year judging.

Oak Green

- Upgrade of CCTV system discussed with provider who have confirmed it would be far more cost effective to upgrade the existing system, currently awaiting quotation. **Action ongoing**
- New notice board options discussed at FC, Agenda item for design and material. **Agenda item.**
- Additional maximum parking signs and no fly tipping in corridor signs now put up.

Recreation Ground

- Steps to tennis courts to be provided. **Action pending.**
- Directional sign, clubs now responded, clerk to source designs for approval. **Action pending**
- Skate park vandalism. **Agenda item.**

Station Approach/Windmill Fields

- Fly tipping reported and removed. No fly tipping sign now erected.

Swelling Hill Pond

- Installation of second bench still to be carried out, all other benches now cleaned and repainted. **Action pending**
- Site visit postponed, still yet to be rescheduled.

18.56 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Tree Inspection Reports**

These have now been received, although the Clerk advises that she did not circulate due to the size of each document and as she had now been advised there are errors in each document, so they are being re-submitted. It was agreed to defer discussion on this item until such time as the reports are available and have been circulated.

- **RoSPA Playsafety Report**

The report had been circulated and Councillors were pleased to note that there were very few action points.

The Clerk had already contacted the supplier for the playground equipment to rectify problems including the damage to the skate park. The clerk would source some new warning signs. The surface wearing needs further investigation.

- **Skate Park vandalism**

The supplier has now been contacted to see if they can repair the damage as it is not possible with layman's tools. Complaint received over the equipment being too hot. New signs to be ordered.

- **Oak Green Notice Board**

The Clerk presented two designs and two finishes, it was agreed that design open central board in man made timber was the most appropriate. To be discussed and agreed with Medstead PC, then proceed with application for developers' contributions.

- **Bus shelters**

The Clerk confirmed that all shelters had been cleaned. To replace the clear panels on the most vulnerable shelter to solid would cost in excess of £500, therefore it was agreed that this was not really

cost effective, they would still need that cleaning, therefore a twice yearly cleaning programme would be the preferred option.

- **Four Marks Primary School**

The plans for the proposed school expansion were presented, having been deferred from Full Council, with the proposals for the Parish Council to provide a park and ride system from the Recreation Ground.

After discussion it was agreed that the Recreation Ground was not a suitable location for the proposed park and stride. The following concerns were raised.

- There would be additional traffic generated along Brislands Lane and the new junction issues have still not been resolved
- There would be additional traffic on Uplands Lane, which is currently a pedestrian walking route to school.
- The Recreation Ground is still some distance from school and it was felt that parents would still want to drop the children nearer to the school, thus defeating the object.

The Committee do not believe that this is the solution to the current problem, and that the authority needs to recognise that whatever measures are put in place to encourage walking to school will ultimately fail due to the location of the school and the fact that 80% of the children are driven, and a policy of not providing car parking to encourage children to walk to school will not work here, particularly if that authority are having to place siblings in different schools.

The Planning Committee fully supported the concerns raised and therefore the Council's recommendation, and indeed the general consensus of local opinion, is that a drop off zone is the only realistic way to move forward to resolve the issue and that this should be proposed within the enlargement plans.

18.57 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 1st August 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

18.58 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.25pm.

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Chairman