

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 15th August 2018, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Tim Brake, Neil Bonter, John Davis, Davie Edgar, John Hammond, Shaun McCarthy, David Mills, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson
IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Goudie (Clerk), District Councillor Ingrid Thomas and 9 members of the public, including 3 members of the CBWG
APOLOGIES:	None

18.120 OPEN SESSION

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed members of the public and Councillors. Reminded councillors that standing orders would be applied during the formal part of the meeting. The open Session was then started.

District Cllr Thomas, who had been sent a copy of the proposed draft v1 consultation document in advance, wished to make some comments on the proposal for the Council to take into consideration.

- In respect of the village growth, she confirmed that the village has expanded by 40% since 2000.
- Concern was raised over the wording in paragraph 2 with reference to EHDC and developer's contributions.
- Questioned the wording of the sentence referring to identifying sites, and the lack of available sites.
- On the proposed options; Options 1 and 2, query over the statement no costs, which needs to be to be clarified. Option 3; the sentence about ready to start is misleading and Option 4, there are no known other identified sites.

A member of public, also commented on the wording of the options, agreeing with the District Councillor that the statement saying that in option 3 can be started subject to planning, is misleading and wrong. They believed option 2 was not tight enough and loose for interpretation. They also queried option 4 and whether this was achievable.

There was a further query on the draft and how the options were decided, and concern that the document was slightly biased in one favour.

The Chairman confirmed the brief of the task group, and that they had come up with a document as per their brief and was not intended to be biased or in favour of any option.

A further attendee, who had not seen the document prior to the meeting believed that the heading was inflammatory and reference to the Village Hall was misleading. Queries were also raised on the ongoing maintenance of the current facilities.

Another attendee queried the wording of the Agenda, in that it didn't give enough detail of the content of the meeting.

A member of the CBWG (Community Buildings Working Group), was keen that the Parish Council did not miss another opportunity to build an appropriate sized building for the village and make the same mistakes as previously.

Another attendee commented that there would be a need for a car to get to a new site on the recreation ground.

A further concern was also expressed about location, and that the central location of the village hall was key, however another member of the public responded saying that whichever option was chosen, the location would not be suitable for all, and pointed out that the most densely populated area of the village was now the area surrounding the Recreation Ground.

A further comment was raised over the lack of detail contained within the options preventing people from making an informed choice. This was responded to by confirming that there would be a drop-in session for the public to ask for more information, the document had to be a brief snapshot. If people are interested it will prompt them into becoming further attentive or more involved.

There were also positive comments in that the progress had been accelerated and was moving forward.

Cllr Tomlinson, a member of the appointed task force, acknowledged that there were some misleading statements within the document, but members were all reminded that this was the first draft and that this was the purpose of the meeting. She was of the opinion that it had been prepared with complete neutrality, and that suggested amendments were welcomed and would be discussed and addressed as appropriate.

Cllr Thomas also reminded the Parish Council that it was very important to consult with the community and ensure that everyone was fully informed and able to get involved in the process.

The Chairman then reminded Councillors of their role, in that they are part of a public body whose function is to represent the interests of the local community and improve the quality of life and local environment and deliver services to meet local needs.

Prior to closing the Open Session the Chairman thanked Cllr McCarthy and the Clerk for hosting the judges of the village of the year competition that afternoon, and informed all Councillors of the date of the awards ceremony, 25th September (1600 to 2000) in the hope that as many as possible would attend.

There being no further issues to be raised. The Chairman closed the open session and opened the meeting at 8.00pm. Standing Orders were applied.

18.121 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

There were no apologies for absence.

18.122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18.123 CONSULTATION FOR THE FUTURE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN FOUR MARKS

The Chairman referred to the Minutes of the previous meeting, which confirmed the reason for this meeting and the action points which needed to be addressed as far as possible.

- It was agreed unanimously to move towards starting a public consultation period of 4-6 weeks, using the strawman proposals, once approved, currently being prepared by the task group, with a proposed end date of last week in September.
- The options would be brief but factual, with pros and cons of each. Finer detail would be discussed later down the line once the way forward is agreed.
- A drop in or public consultation would need to be held within the consultation period, but ideally early September, once people are back from holidays.
- It was suggested that the Parish Council liaise with the EHDC Community officer as a link to the use of their services, for design, print and distribution, and advice on holding consultations. A full parish postal drop of the proposals could cost over £2000, however this was considered a necessary expenditure and reserves are held for this project and associated expenses.
- It was agreed, in order to progress towards a September consultation period, to hold an extraordinary full council meeting in August, for the purpose of agreeing and approving the designs and proposals prepared by the task group. Once approved, the leaflets and notices would be prepared and printed

ready for distribution prior to the end of the month. Wednesday 15th August was proposed and agreed, subject to hall availability.

- At the end of the consultation period all comments would be collated and the majority decision by the community would then be progressed by the Parish Council as appropriate.

The draft v1 consultation leaflet had been circulated prior to the meeting for review and Cllr McCarthy went through each section in detail, and all comments from the open session and observations from Councillors during the meeting were taken into consideration and the following amendments were agreed:

PAGE 1

- Heading. Would be changed to Community Facility Consultation, removing the words Village Hall.
- Paragraph 1. Remove the reference to the Scouts/Scout hut.
- Paragraph 2. Initially it was agreed to change the words, however following further discussion it was agreed to remove the whole paragraph and reference to the Local Authority and developers contributions, so as not to give false hope of what was available and achievable.
- Illustration. Some felt it to be misleading, however others felt it softened the design, it is clearly labelled and as such, there was no clear agreement to it being removed.
- Paragraph 3. The wording needs to be changed to with reference to identifying a site for a new building, as it was felt this was misleading. There were also references to car parking, and whether the figures were firstly, correct and secondly, necessary. It was agreed to leave this in as it was a fundamental part of the provision of a new building or refurbishing existing facilities, and move sentence from Option 2, 'planning will not be given on parking grounds for an enlarged hall on existing site.' Remove reference to Scouts/Scout hut, see above bullet point 2
- Your options are: remove the options list as this is on the second page and it was not necessary to have them on both pages.

PAGE 2

- Heading. Change, remove Village Hall.
- Remove narrative, and just have Option 1, Option 2, Option 3 and Option 4
- It was agreed to leave the options coloured to differentiate
- Option 1
 - Expand first sentence to 'continue as we are and consider a new hall at a future time
 - Add 'development' to the sentence no costs involved to read 'no development costs involved
- Option 2
 - Reduce sentence to read 'upgrade the existing village hall'
 - Remove sentence on parking, add to front page
- Option 3
 - Standardise first line to read 'build a new hall on the recreation ground'
 - Remove 'can be started as soon as design and planning process are completed' and replace with 'can be carried out in phases, as funding allows' and 'costs for phase 1 will be covered by the sale of the village hall site for house building', or similar.
 - Change sentence referring to the footprint to 'loss of green space' as a disadvantage
- Option 4
 - Standardise first line to read 'build a new hall on another site'
 - Remove 'precious' from second sentence
 - Remove reference to developers contributions.
 - Remove increase in council tax
 - Change 'site may be smaller in size' to 'no known sites currently available or identified at this time'

Options should be numbered in order of preference rather than just tick one.

Final confirmation on the contact details to be advised, including address for drop off point for completed surveys.

Further discussions then took place with reference to:

Printing; the Clerk confirmed that this could be done relatively quickly but by the end of the following week was possible following approval of draft.

Distribution; details and costings of a royal mail postal drop to be ascertained. Areas for posting to be agreed but must include South Medstead and The Shrave end of Chawton. All clubs that use the facilities should be contacted separately.

Proposed consultation closing date; end of September.

Subject to distribution, it was agreed to have the drop-in session on 12th September, ideally from 4.00pm to 8.00pm.

The Clerk to liaise with the John Geoghegan and the Community team at EHDC for promotional boards and assistance with the consultation process, upon his return from holiday.

The Chairman thanked the task group for their work to date, and asked, if possible, for the second draft to be distributed as soon as possible, and clearly labelled as draft 2.

18.124 NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 19th September 2018, 7.30pm, Village Hall.

18.125 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

..... CHAIRMAN