

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 commencing at 8.30pm  
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lymington Bottom, Four Marks**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis, Davie Edgar, Janet Foster and Dave Mills  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Goudie (Clerk), 1 member of the public  
**APOLOGIES:** None

**18.75 OS OPEN SESSION**

Cllr Tomlinson opened the meeting and invited items for the open session.

The Clerk raised the top pedestrian gate at the play park at the Recreation Ground and a request to make it shut quieter and confirmed that Paul is looking a rubber/foam stopper.

As was mentioned in the Planning Committee meeting, the woodland adjacent to the SINC is for sale £25,000, but previously agreed not to pursue due to the high maintenance costs and little benefit to the parish.

It was also reported that the litter bin by skate park had been vandalised, potentially beyond repair.

**There being no further items in the Open Session, the formal meeting commenced at 8.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

**18.76 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**18.77 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**18.78 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting, by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Davis, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, previously circulated, were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting, by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Bonter approved and signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising.

**18.79 OS AREA UPDATE**

Allotments

- Nothing to report. **Action to purchase plants, still pending.**
- Land sale to the rear of 33 Chaffinch Road. **Action ongoing**

Badger Close

- Report of domestication of area around the Dell. **AGENDA ITEM**

- Tree report received, not on Parish Council land, so no liability established. However, new concern now raised over deterioration of fence adjacent to Badger run. **AGENDA ITEM**

#### Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Boiler waiting new parts to complete service and repair. **Action ongoing.**
- CCTV options being investigated. **Action ongoing.**
- Parish office move, first week in December, decorator, carpet cleaning & removals booked. **Action ongoing.** *There were further discussions on the request to delay the moving of the pool table, it was agreed however that the office move should go ahead as planned.*

#### Cemetery

- Cemetery spoil, agreed to remove at least half. **Action still pending.** *The Clerk confirmed she had received a quotation to move the spoil, however further to previous discussions it was agreed that the spoil should be used to boost the banks at the Recreation Ground in a bid to prevent any unlawful encampment. Action. Clerk. To find a company to remove the soil and boost the banks.*
- Memorial bench; location agreed, awaiting third party installation. **Action still pending.**
- Other benches to be refurbished. **Action pending.**

#### Footpaths

- Report complete, action to be discussed. **AGENDA ITEM**

#### Kingswood Copse

- No reported issues.

#### Lymington Bottom Green

- For Sale sign removed, benches awaiting cleaning for 11 November. **Action ongoing**

#### Oak Green

- CCTV options being investigated. **Action ongoing**
- New notice board; request for Developers contributions now approved, Clerk to order new board. **Action ongoing.**
- Letter re abandoned vehicles, sent, awaiting removal. **Action ongoing.**
- EH agreed to continue with his own insurance, awaiting details. **Action pending**
- Grit bin, clerk seeking quotes, **Action ongoing**

#### Recreation Ground

- Recreation Ground sign, clerk preparing draft for quotation. **Action ongoing**
- Basketball nets to be replaced, **Action pending.**
- Land between Skate Park and Pavilion, clerk to engage EHDC to act on PC's behalf for proposal to purchase. **Action ongoing**
- Ash Tree behind scout hut, application to be sent for removal of one limb and dead wood. **Action pending**

#### Station Gardens

- No reported issues

#### Swelling Hill Pond

- Site visit with Angling Club still to take place. **Agenda item and action pending**
- Replacement warning signs, clerk preparing draft for quotation. **Action pending**

#### General items

- Dog fouling improvement scheme in conjunction with the primary school. **Action pending**
- Tree inspection reports, further investigation ongoing. **Action ongoing.** *The Clerk confirmed the two trees that were raising concern were to be resurveyed the following day.*

### **18.80 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **18.80.1 Locations for Tommy Silhouettes**

The Clerk confirmed that four silhouettes have now been ordered, and after discussion it was agreed to install three of them at Lymington Green near the War memorial and one at Oak Green.

The Clerk advised members that DC Ingrid Thomas had suggested planting some red flowers at the base of the silhouettes and offered to support a grant to purchase the flowers. However, following discussion, and as it is not yet known how the silhouettes will be affixed, it was not possible to confirm whether it would be possible to plant flowers at their base. To be reassessed once they have arrived and are installed.

18.80.2 Swelling Hill Pond; maintenance and tree report

The Clerk confirmed that the site meeting had been scheduled for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am, to discuss proposals for ongoing maintenance of the pond.

The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed the tree inspector about the concerns raised over two specific trees at the pond following his initial survey, and he had agreed to come and re-survey the trees, as part of the initial inspection, free of charge. A further report is awaited.

The Clerk also confirmed that Cllr Davis had removed the dilapidated stile beside the diseased Ash Tree, for which he was thanked.

18.80.3 Footpaths; report and actions required

Cllr Mills had prepared a list of posts, their location and suggested actions. It was suggested that Cllr Mills and the Clerk should liaise and prepare a report to send to rights of way to see how many they could replace, and also look at areas where the lengthsman could clear foliage around the footpath signs as indicated.

Cllr Davis had cleared a fallen tree on the footpath near Barn Lane.

18.80.4 Parish Lengthsman; report on cluster meeting

The Clerk reported on the annual meeting of the Itchen Valley cluster. The new lengthsman, appointed earlier in the year, was working well and appeared to be happy with the way parish council's work. He has offered his services in addition to the 5 set days per year, at a day rate of £200 or £26.50 per hour. The clerk suggested that he could be used for larger repair and fencing jobs that require specialist equipment that he has access to.

He has also offered a gritting service, but it was agreed that by gritting our own areas it could open the Parish Council up to additional responsibility and to pursue the initial action of purchasing a grit bin for Oak Green, so that the shop keepers can grit outside their own shops as required.

18.80.5 Badger Close; fence damage and domestication of the Dell

The Clerk reported that a Badger Close resident had taken to mowing the western side of the Dell, and had also installed a hammock and a bench, although it was thought both had now been removed. It was agreed that the resident should be written to, stating that although the area looked nice, it is a wildlife area and should remain as natural as possible and that they should be asked to no longer mow the other side of the small fence. The Clerk had noted that there was a rail missing from the fence and that she had instructed the maintenance man to fix this at the same time as the other side. A piece of fence was missing and would be replaced when the eastern side of the dell fence is fixed.

*Subsequent to meeting, Cllr Bonter had visited the site and photographed the area, confirming the bench was there, but was set back just in front of the drop down into the dell, and a large section of fence had been deliberately removed. A letter had now been sent.*

The Clerk reported that there is an Ash tree in the Dell that has been noted as diseased prior to the survey, but because if it failed it would only fall into the dell it had been left, however this tree has been picked up on the survey as one for removal, and the Clerk asked the Committee what action should now be taken. They assessed the risk to the public, and decided that it is minimal, and therefore the tree should be left at this time.

Separately the Clerk had been written to about overgrowth in the Badger run, the overgrowth in both areas was due to trees in gardens the other side of the corridors, and the clerk had advised them to contact the

tree owners in the first instance. The Clerk confirmed with the Committee that they were supportive of this action, which they were.

18.80.6 Uplands Lane; surfacing

It was agreed that until the outcome of the consultation is known and how the Parish Council are moving forward that it would not be prudent to spend any further money on Uplands Lane at this time.

18.80.7 Oak Green; Christmas Tree and electrics

It was agreed to erect the tree on Friday 30 November. The Clerk confirmed that Hampshire Woodlands have agreed collect and install the tree as the previous year and would confirm the time for Councillors to attend the nearer the day. Cllr Foster advised that she had all the equipment for the electrics and just needed to confirm a date with the electrician. She advised that a hatch still needed to be constructed, and the Clerk suggested contacting Mike Smith from Medstead, who had previously offered to assist.

It was also agreed to look at purchasing new lights next year, and it was agreed that this should be an Agenda item Spring of next year.

18.80.8 Skate Park; request for a new piece of equipment

Following a request to David Mills, and a subsequent request at the 'drop in' evening, it was agreed to look at options and costs of providing a new piece of skate equipment. The suggested item was a standard half pipe, but it was agreed to ask users for an overall opinion before the clerk sought quotations and subsequent request for developers' contributions. It was agreed that the ideal location would be where the table tennis table was.

The 'caution' sign should be installed by the end of the week.

18.80.9 Policy for the landing of hot air balloons

There was a brief discussion about the recent landing of a hot air balloon on the Recreation Ground. As there was someone available to let them out through the gate, and the ground was hard, there was no damage. As this was very likely to be a 'one off' incident, it was not felt that a specific policy should be put in place. However, it was suggested that the Clerk speak to other parishes to see if they have anything in place for this kind of occurrence. Action. The Clerk.

18.80.10 Preventative measures for unlawful encampments

Cllrs Foster and Mills met with a representative from Hampshire County Council to seek advice on preventative measures for unlawful encampments. It had been suggested that the Parish Council install up to 7 new gates at the Recreation Ground, which was thought to be excessive. Cllr Foster raised concern over the expense of clearing up after an encampment and was of the opinion upgrading the gates would be less of an expense. It was agreed however in the interim to enhance the banks at the Recreation Ground using the Cemetery spoil, and the Clerk was tasked to find a groundworks company to carry out this task. It was also suggested that there should be a bank alongside, or on, the dragon's teeth adjacent to the Pavilion, to secure the cricket pitch area. Large tree trunks were also suggested as a deterrent and the Clerk agreed to look at both options. Cllr Foster advised the Clerk that there needed to be some up to date contact information added to the current policy. Action. The Clerk.

18.80.11 Village Hall bench refurbishment

The Clerk confirmed that she had asked the maintenance man to look at whether he could refurbish the existing bench. However, she also referred to a request made the previous year for a memorial bench at the Memorial gardens for Joan Jones and had sent an email asking if the interest was still there and whether this would be a suitable location. There was also a further option of asking the lengthsman to carry out the works. Action. The Clerk.

18.81 OS **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 8.30pm, to follow planning at the Village Hall.

18.82 OS **The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.50pm.**

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**Chairman**