

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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 and Janet Foster  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Goudie (Clerk), no members of the public  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Dave Mills

**18.83 OS OPEN SESSION**

Cllr Tomlinson opened the meeting and invited items for the open session. There were no items to raise but Cllr Tomlinson wished to thank all those involved in installing the 'Tommy's' the previous weekend.

**There being no further items in the Open Session, the formal meeting commenced at 20.35 pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

**18.84 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mills, the apology was acknowledged and accepted.

**18.85 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**18.86 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, previously circulated, were amended as per advised by Cllr Hammond at the Full Council meeting, and subsequently proposed as an accurate record of the meeting, by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, approved and signed by the Chairman

Matters arising:

- Pedestrian Gate, maintenance had been instructed to fix the gate, although Cllr Mills had thought there may be a different way of quietening the gate. There was also another suggestion of affixing a piece of rubber tyre. Clerk to discuss further with Cllr Mills.
- The clerk confirmed that the SINC Woodland had now been sold, the new owner was not known as yet.
- The broken bin lid had been replaced.
- Tommy's installed, poppies would be added on Thursday or Friday of this week.
- Skate Park equipment. A quote had been received, it was agreed that this was an expensive item, but Clerk would seek alternative quotations in due course.
- A hot air balloon landing policy was still an action pending.
- Village Hall bench. Request for provision of memorial bench had not been successful, so this would be added to the maintenance list in due course.

- Recreation Ground; boosting banks and removal of cemetery spoil, still pending.

## 18.87 OS AREA UPDATE

### Allotments

- Nothing to report. **Action to purchase plants, still pending.** The Clerk confirmed the plants were now on order, however subsequent to the meeting was advised that they had already been purchased by the Allotment Committee and was asked to cancel the order.
- Land sale to the rear of 33 Chaffinch Road. **Action ongoing**

### Badger Close

- Report of domestication of area around the Dell, resolved, fence reinstated.
- Tree overhang reported from the Dell towards No 17, to be assessed during site visit. **Action ongoing**

### Benians Committee/Pavilion

- Boiler now repaired, plant room now restricted access.
- CCTV. **AGENDA ITEM**
- Parish office move, first week in December, decorator, carpet cleaning & removals booked. **Action ongoing.** The Clerk raised concern that, following the recent meeting, it appears that the Benians Committee were of the opinion this was a temporary move and were unhappy that this was not the case. The Clerk offered to contact Sport England to ask if it is acceptable to have an office at the pavilion, but members felt that as there were other activities that take place that do not currently satisfy Sport England criteria, this would not be necessary.

### Cemetery

- Cemetery spoil, remove and bolster banks at Recreation Ground. **Action pending.**
- Memorial bench; now installed.
- Other benches to be refurbished; now completed.

### Footpaths

- Report completed, action plan to be instigated, email received from Alton Ramblers. **Action ongoing and AGENDA ITEM**

### Kingswood Copse

- No reported issues.

### Lymington Bottom Green

- Benches to be cleaned, area tidied, and war memorial cleaned for 11 November. **Action ongoing**

### Oak Green

- CCTV. **AGENDA ITEM**
- New notice board; delivered and awaiting installation. **Action ongoing.** Now installed.
- Letter re abandoned vehicles. Car now removed.
- Electrics and Christmas lights. **Action ongoing and AGENDA ITEM**
- Grit bin, quotes received. **AGENDA ITEM**

### Recreation Ground

- Recreation Ground sign, quotes received. **AGENDA ITEM**
- Basketball nets to be replaced. **Action pending.**
- Proposed purchase of Land between Skate Park and Pavilion. **Action pending**
- 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 now taken place, quotations being sought for dredging and shoring. **Action ongoing.**
- Land ownership. Land Registry documents have shown an anomaly. **AGENDA ITEM**
- Replacement warning signs, quotation now received. **AGENDA ITEM**

## General items

- Dog fouling improvement scheme in conjunction with the primary school. **Action pending**
- Tree inspection reports, further investigation ongoing. **Action ongoing. AGENDA ITEM.**

## **18.88 OS NEW ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **18.88.1 Swelling Hill Pond**

Land ownership. The clerk showed the committee members the land registration documents and the query over the portion registered incorrectly. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the adjacent land owners explaining the error, asking them to be supportive of a correction via Land Registry and at the same time advising them that there is currently a tree within their designated curtilage that requires urgent attention, and the likely cost of removal. Action. The Clerk.

Maintenance. The required tree work would be covered under the next agenda item. The pond dredging work was briefly discussed, and the Clerk confirmed that, to date, she had not received any quotations from maintenance companies. However, Cllr Bonter had spent some time looking into other options and had been given a different option, which would be suction with the removed silt being put into bags. This could be carried out in stages. The Committee members agreed that this would be a better course of action and Cllr Bonter agreed to investigate further and seek quotations. Action. Cllr Bonter.

### **18.88.2 Tree Inspections**

The Clerk had now had the opportunity to carry out a site visit, and the following advice and action was proposed:

#### Badger Close

- Overhang outside no 17; needs to be sympathetically cut back to avoid bin lorry damage.
- Ash tree in the Dell; although there is no immediate danger, the tree is in very low vigour, although it was risk assessed at a prior meeting, and agreement reached to leave the tree standing as the risk to the general public was minimal, it was agreed to regularly monitor the tree for further deterioration.
- Badger run overhang. The Clerk confirmed that the overhang was substantial, and it was agreed to write to the occupants of the property in Blackberry Close and request pruning of the overhang.
- Coppicing of Badger Sett; it was recommended that the front of the Sett should be now coppiced to encourage low growth to give the Badgers greater cover, it was agreed that this should be programmed into the regular maintenance programme, using the ringfenced funds.

#### Oak Green

- Although not raised as an issue, there is a substantial amount of deadwood that should be removed as part of a maintenance programme.

#### Lymington Bottom Green

- Woodland around sub station, although no areas of concern, could be sympathetically pruned and tidied but still leave screen, work to be programmed and budgeted for.
- The trees to the Northern boundary of the green are likely to need a canopy lift for maintenance purposes in the next two years, to be budgeted for.
- New Oak tree doing well.

#### Cemetery

- Ash Tree at the corner adjacent to Uplands Lane, as per the tree inspection report needs to have the deadwood removed.
- The hedgerow boundary with Recreation Ground, trees could do with some minimal crown lifting

- Proposal, plant two new trees adjacent to close board fencing for future aesthetics. To be budgeted for.
- Two trees to be assessed in 12 months; the Mountain Ash adjacent to the gate and the remaining cherry next to the new planting.
- Query Oak Tree on verge in front of Cemetery hedgerow. Clerk to contact Highways.

#### Recreation Ground

- Ash Tree behind Scout hut. One limb overhanging garden of 79 Lapwing Way needs to be removed. The Ash Tree has some bark discolouration, and there is evidence of honey fungus, although tree appears healthy, but will need to be reassessed in 12 months.
- The three Ash Trees at the end of the children's play area are all in decline (low vigour), and need to be assessed regularly, but they are likely to need to be removed within the next two/three years. Replacement planting plan to be agreed in due course.
- Remove the diseased Horse Chestnut as indicated in the tree inspection report and adjacent dead Mountain Ash at the same time (not identified)
- Hedgerow boundary with Cemetery, crown lift as detailed under Cemetery report.

#### Swelling Hill Pond

- Oak, as specified remove deadwood, and also remove all the other identified deadwood in adjacent Oak trees all bordering the footpath (missed in tree inspection report).
- The unidentified species tree in tree inspection report is an Ash and does need to be removed.
- Beech. The old scar is not lightning damage but disease, which goes right up into the tree. If the tree fails it will go in the direction of the pond. Due to the cavity and frailty of the centre of the tree, it cannot be climbed so will need to be removed using a platform. The work proposed in the second tree inspection report was concurred with and should be removed as soon as possible. The cost of a platform removal raised concern, and the Clerk was asked to find out if it would be cheaper to drop the tree as a whole.
- It was agreed, following suggestion by the Angling club, to cut the overhanging Laurel right back and remove entire overhang.

It was agreed to ask for a quotation for rolling maintenance programme as previously supplied for Kingswood Copse, with the work at Swelling Hill Pond and Oak Green to take precedence.

#### 18.88.3 **Oak Green:**

The engineer had attended site to look at the clock issues, but was unable to access the mechanism, as there was no easy access between the struts. Although the clock had righted itself with the clock change, this would need to be reassessed when they change again in March. Cllr Foster did not believe it would be safe to remove struts, even temporarily for access. The electric works were due to be carried out the following week.

The Christmas Tree would be erected on 30<sup>th</sup> November, Clerk to confirm time of the arrival of the tree to ensure all available on site to assist, and preparations were made to enable a swift installation.

The Clerk presented some styles and sizes of grit bins for Oak Green. It was agreed that it should be of small capacity and green in colour. Action. Clerk to order.

#### 18.88.4 **Recreation Ground and Swelling Hill Pond signage**

The Clerk apologised that the quotation had not been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the email should be resent for comments, and to get a revised quotation prior to the next meeting.

#### 18.88.5 **CCTV**

Cllr Bonter had carried out site visits with a prospective supplier for CCTV at both Oak Green and the Recreation Ground but needed confirmation of the expectation of the equipment and budget restraints.

Although various options were proposed, it was agreed that the most cost effective way for improvements at Oak Green would be to upgrade the existing system, but house the monitor due to GDPR requirements in a different location.

It was agreed that at the Recreation Ground cameras should be placed on each corner of the Pavilion, to cover the cricket pitch, the tennis courts, MUGA and children's play area, and a pole system at the Skate Park, with the appropriate signage.

Cllr Bonter, having received confirmation of the exact requirements, would now seek formal quotations to move forward with the provision of CCTV at both locations. Action: Cllr Bonter.

**18.88.6 Footpaths; action plan update**

Unfortunately, Cllr Mills was not in attendance to discuss the various footpath actions, but the Clerk confirmed they were due to liaise over priority work and ascertain where the lengthsman needs to carry out clearance work and where the new signs were required.

Hedge encroachment complaints. One of the problem areas, the hedge had recently been removed, the other area was not deemed to be a serious hazard, but would monitor the location prior to sending a letter to the owner.

The third location had been advised to Hampshire Highways due to substantial encroachment onto a public footway.

**18.89 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018, **7.00pm**.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME, MEETING TO PRECEDE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING.

**18.90 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.30pm.**

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**Chairman**