

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 commencing at 6.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Janet Foster and Reg Pullen</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Jo Tsigarides (AEO) Sarah Goudie (EO) Cllr Frank Maloney</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>None</b>

**22.70 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence. Cllr Pullen arrived at the meeting at 6.08pm.

**22.71 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Maloney requested that Agenda item 6.2 be brought to the beginning of the meeting. The Committee all agreed.

Cllr Foster has been watering the new plants at the Cemetery and expressed concern over an imminent hose pipe ban that is coming into force in parts of the country. The AEO will contact the provider, South East Water, to seek clarification on whether Four Marks is subject to a ban and also whether if a ban is put in place, the Council qualifies as an exception.

The AEO advised that contact has been made with the Royal British Legion Shop and they have offered to supply a new plaque for the Jubilee Green following reports that the white writing on the plaque is being affected by the natural Corten steel rusting.

Cllr Hammond has emailed to report that the bench at the Cemetery which was presented to the village to mark a former resident's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is in disrepair. It was agreed that the bench is beyond repair and it will be discussed under Agenda item 8.2. Whilst on the subject of benches, Cllr Davis noted that some benches are in need of having a preservative applied and the AEO will enquire about whether the Lengthsman is able to do this in September 2022.

The AEO confirmed that the Village of the Year entry had been submitted in the community engagement category. The competition deadline was extended and so it is possible that the judging and final decisions may be delayed too.

**There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.10pm and Standing Orders were applied.**

**22.72 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

## **22.73 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 following proposal by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **22.74 Nature boxes**

The nature box project was discussed in detail and the Committee made some decisions about how they would like to move the project forward. The cost of materials, placement and relevance of the locations were discussed with a final decision made that the Cubs would be asked to make five Tit boxes to be placed at the Recreation Ground. One Tawny Owl box will be purchased and placed at the Dell. The next step in this phase is for the Cubs to send a quote for materials and the AEO to submit a community grant application for this phase.

It was decided to put the bat box project on hold for the time being.

## **22.75 OS URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **22.75.1 Recreation Ground advisory signs**

Following a recent BBQ and overnight camping incident at the Recreation Ground, it was decided that some visual signs should be produced with minimal wording to highlight the conditions of use. It was agreed that they should be placed on the various entrances to the Recreation Ground, using the back of the posts of the 'dogs on leads' signs if possible and also potentially on the fence at the entrance to Jubilee Green or on the fence at the Bowls Club. The AEO will organise some proofs for approval and review options to site a larger sign around the Jubilee Green. These will be placed subject to a site meeting with any Open Space Committee members that wish to attend.

### **22.75.2 Tennis Court floodlights**

The AEO advised that she has been in contact with the contractor for the tennis court lights and they have made an assurance that the job will be completed by the end of August. Contact has been made with the second company that provided a quote as a backup plan to check the pricing and see if there are any revisions to the original price.

## **22.76 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS – UPDATE**

### **22.76.1 The Greening Campaign**

The AEO advised that several interested residents had come forward to be on the working party for the Greening Campaign but that due to summer holidays and clashing dates, a date had not been organised for an initial meeting. Instead of launching the campaign to the community on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the AEO has suggested that this meeting is used to properly form the working party, appointing key roles and organising a working plan with the aim of then handing the project over to the group. Funding of £500 is available for the project which the Parish Council has obtained through a County Councillor Grant and the AEO and Councillor Maloney will endeavour to attend the meetings.

### **22.76.2 Solar Panels; Benians Pavilion**

The Chairman of the Benians Committee has been contacted and they have advised that they are keen to pursue the placement of solar panels. They have arranged for a full quote and survey to be undertaken and the Committee will wait to receive communication from them.

Insulating the roof was also discussed in terms of whether this is a more suitable environmental project as a whole and also with respect to whether the current level of insulation would support the effective use of solar panels.

**22.77 OS NEW PROJECTS/ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

**22.77.1 Swelling Hill Pond**

The EO gave a potted history of the Angling Club detailing the ongoing relationship between them and the Parish Council and the joint efforts to maintain the pond. It was decided that it would be appropriate to have a meeting with the new Chairman and the EO is going to set a date to meet them with Cllrs Tomlinson and Foster.

**22.78 OS NON URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**22.78.1 Bus Stop replacement panels**

The AEO has been in contact with the bus stop maintenance company who also offer a refurbishment service. They are able to undertake refurbishments where single panels are replaced and will do a site visit to establish the cost of improving the bus stops where there is either graffiti or sticky residue. This company offer a complete service in comparison to those who just supply the panels and it was agreed that it is preferred to have a full replacement and fitting service. The AEO will also organise 'no flyposting' stickers to be placed on the bus stops following the refurbishments.

**22.78.2 Provision of the new seating at the Recreation Ground; to discuss type and possible location**

Following a discussion about Recreation Ground users and demand for seating, it was decided to place some new benches; two benches with backs at the former cricket pitch, two benches without backs at the football pitch and one bench at the Cemetery which is in keeping with the others already there to replace the damaged bench. The AEO will investigate the various options and also make enquiries about anchor kits and installation in preparation for the next meeting.

It was also agreed that it would be an appropriate time to place a half- circle bench around the memorial tree on the Jubilee Green. The tree and the bench formed a bequest to the Parish Council and the funding is available to complete this.

**22.78.3 EHDC areas, ongoing maintenance for discussion**

There has been a recent issue involving the mowing schedule of the verges around the village. This was caused due to a contract issue and has now been resolved.

The EO noted that previously, the Council had been made aware of a Stewardship Scheme run by EHDC where a body adopts an area of land and maintains it. There is an area of land opposite Pine Road which residents would like improved in terms of maintenance and use and the Committee agreed that rather than undertake a Stewardship programme, they would like the EO to make enquiries as to whether EHDC would be willing to transfer ownership of the land to the Parish Council without charge and add it to the Council's open space provision. By doing this, the Council could maintain it fully and possibly place some natural play equipment in the future. The EO will report back.

**22.78.4 Platinum Jubilee bench; to discuss ideas for mitigating concrete impact**

The Committee discussed various options to cover the concrete base, including laying turf, seeding the area and also painting the base but it was agreed to allow some time for the base to weather before a decision is made. This will be reviewed in Spring 2023.

**22.79 OS AREA UPDATE AND OTHER MATTERS**

**22.79.1 To receive the Open Spaces area update, and any matters arising**

Two quotes have been obtained for the relocation of the goal posts on the training ground to allow the ground to recover. Both companies have advised that they would only concrete the sockets in due to health and safety and insurance implications. Company one has quoted £925 including materials and Company two have quoted £600 not including cost of the brackets. The Committee agreed to relocate the training area to the former cricket pitch, adhering to the dimensions of a junior pitch. The AEO will review the required area needed and finalise a plan for approval.

The EO gave a brief update on the Football Club, informing the Committee that currently a merger with the Ropley team is planned for 2023. It was agreed that the Committee would like to receive communication going forward about which teams are using the pitch.

CLlr Pullen reported on the condition of the area behind the Scout hut and containers. There has been some anti-social behaviour here, along with dumping of material and grass which is attracting rats and is generally unpleasant. The Scouts have done some work but informally enquired about the possibility of a Parish Council Grant to meet the cost of clearing and improving this area. The Committee agreed to arrange a waste management company to clear this, along with the area behind the containers on the former cricket pitch and the removal of waste from the recent clearing at the allotments. The AEO will organise this.

CLlr Pullen made enquiries about the slabs on one of the benches at Lymington Bottom Green. The AEO had hoped that the contractor installing the Jubilee bench would be able to repair this and will make further contact with them.

CLlr Pullen advised that the Ash tree outside the Village Hall will be removed on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The EO had received some news to indicate that the Recreation Ground is now covered by a PSPO and is going to seek guidance on the definition of an authorised officer and how fines can be administered. This PSPO is in force until 2024.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
<b>A31/Winchester Rd/Telegraph Lane</b> <b>Open Space Triangle</b>	Planting	Pending	Planting booked 26/9/22.
<b>Allotments</b>	Fencing	Pending	Awaiting contractor date.
	Waste removal	Pending	Site visit to establish quote 9/8/22
<b>Badger Close</b>	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	EO awaiting update
	Pine Road Area	In progress	EO to liaise with EHDC about formally adopting.
<b>Cemetery</b>	Full Cemetery inspection	Pending	To commence 9/8/22
	Replacement gate stops	Pending	EO to organise
	Oak tree overhang	Awaiting inspection	Inspection 1/9/22
	Replacement bench	In progress	

			AEO to present at September meeting
<b>Lymington Bottom Green</b>	Village Green registration	In progress	EO to liaise with HCC
	Wildflower area signs	In progress	On order, funding received.
<b>Oak Green parade</b>	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	
<b>Recreation Ground</b>	Tennis court floodlights	Pending	Contractor to complete works by the end of August 2022
	Cricket equipment	Pending	Inventory to be completed to prepare for sale of equipment.
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Liaison with club on future use, hiring to others and any issues.
	Training goal post relocation	Pending	AEO to complete a plan for approval.
	MUGA – new basketball hoops requested	Pending	New basketball hoops requested.
	Skate park – new sign and painting	Pending	New sign in progress, painting to be completed after school holidays.
	Signage	In progress	AEO to organise new signage and submit to Committee for approval.  Possibly to include information on PSPO awaiting further information.
	Replacement playground fencing/pedestrian walkway on football pitch/drainage	On Hold	Pending new facility proposals.
	Hedge/general maintenance, specifically Laurel.	Pending	Awaiting date.
New bench provision	In progress	AEO to investigate options for four new benches around RG and one at Cemetery.	
Circular bench at Jubilee Green	In progress	AEO to investigate options.	

	Fly tipping and misuse of area behind Scout hut.	In progress	AEO to arrange clearance of this area along with allotment and other waste.
<b>Climate change mitigation</b>	Greening project	In progress	Meeting of working party set for 14/9/22
	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman
	Nature boxes	Pending	Awaiting costs for phase one for grant application.
<b>General Open Spaces</b>	Parish Trees	Pending	Full tree inspection booked 1/9/22
	Village gateway signage	Pending	Awaiting installation date for remaining signs
	Area opposite Rivers (LBR)	In progress	EO to liaise with HCC on future maintenance
	Footpaths	Ongoing	To check relevant paths prior to 10k

**22.79.2 Four Marks 10k**

The AEO advised that the decision was made to postpone the 10k to the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 due to the temperatures that were predicted. Currently there are 45 entrants with only one refund being processed. There were no charges or penalties from the organisations that were rescheduled.

**22.80 OS Date of next meeting; Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**22.81 OS Meeting Closed at 7.52pm**