

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 6th July 2022 commencing at 6.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

MEMBERS PRESENT: IN ATTENDANCE:	Cllrs Janet Foster (acting Chair), John Davis and Reg Pullen Jo Tsigarides (AEO) Sarah Goudie (EO) Cllr John Hammond Cllr Frank Maloney Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair)
APOLOGIES:	

22.60 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies given and unanimously accepted from Cllr Anne Tomlinson.

22.61 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee agreed to Cllr Hammond's request to bring Agenda item 6.4 to the beginning of the meeting.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.01pm and Standing Orders were applied.

22.62 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

22.63 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 1st June 2022 following a proposal by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Pullen, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Cllr Foster (acting Chair).

22.64 OS Nature Boxes

Cllr Hammond provided an update following site visits, research and consultation with experts in this area. Following an assurance that health and safety considerations were a priority in these meetings, Cllr Hammond informed the Committee that conclusions had been made following the various meetings that; Tit boxes would be the most suitable placed at a height that would prevent them from being vandalised, that Dormice provisions would not be suitable due to potential vandalism, and that an expert from the Hampshire Bat Group would conduct a full site survey and submit a proposal to the Committee. He also advised that the Scout group had offered to build Owl boxes.

District Councillor Tennyson has agreed in principle to meet the costs of these projects with the environmental allocation of Community Grant Funding at her disposal. The funding that would be requested would be to cover the bat survey, materials for the owl boxes and potentially the siting of the boxes by a professional. The Committee agreed that they are supportive of District Councillor Tennyson discussing the placement and maintenance of the boxes, including annual cleaning, with a contractor but that a cost would need to be given for this work.

Cllr Hammond also made some further observations about Swift bricks, amphibians and mammals which do not fall within the remit of this project.

22.65 OS URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22.65.1 Football pitch use and training area

The Committee were informed that there had been late notice that a proposed merger between the Four Marks football team and another club was no longer taking place. The only team that currently wish to use the pitch are the Veteran team who will continue to play on Sundays and maintain the pitch. It was noted that should the Saturday team manage to form in some capacity, that only one match should be played at the pitch each weekend to maintain the grass condition.

There was a discussion about the impact of the new community building on the practise pitch and the Committee were reminded that it had previously been agreed that a junior or practise pitch could be marked out on the former cricket pitch in the future with the option that the players could use the MUGA if the ground is too wet, or they require lighting.

The condition of the ground at the current practise pitch was discussed and the AEO was asked to get quotes for relocating the practise posts so that the ground can recover. This is to be done as soon as possible to prevent further damage and it was suggested that they should be placed ten ft away from their current location.

22.65.2 Christmas light installation dates

The Committee agreed to a later light switch on during the second week of December 2022 with installation any time before then. The timing of the tree and delivery will need to be confirmed.

22.66 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

22.66.1 The Greening Campaign

The AEO recently attended a mini-Greening Campaign conference and submitted a summary for the Committee. Following a recent social media post to promote the campaign, four residents have come forward to be involved and they seem very enthusiastic. It was stressed that a working party should be formed to run the campaign with no involvement from the AEO in an administrative capacity.

22.66.2 Solar Panels at the Pavilion

There has previously been an informal quote to install solar panels at the Pavilion and the Committee have been made aware that the Benians Committee are interested in pursuing this and possibly contributing to the project. The electricity usage of the building was discussed along with the real benefits of pursuing this. The AEO was asked to make further contact with the Benians Committee Chairman.

22.66.3 Suggestion to form an environmental group

The AEO has received a suggestion to form a separate working group due to the volume of environmental issues on the Agenda. It was agreed that as environmental issues are at the heart of the Open Spaces Committee's business, it should remain on this meeting Agenda in a prominent position.

22.66.4 Planting Scheme for the A31

A revised quotation and plan for the planting has been submitted with the contractor noting that they can source some mature Laurel plants to go around the perimeter. The Committee RESOLVED to accept the proposal and quote provided that the contractor is asked to place the Laurel plants sparingly due to their rapid growth and also that enquiries are made about watering the scheme.

The AEO advised that District Councillor Thomas had agreed in principle to support a Community Grant application for the funding and that contractor advised that the scheme would be planted in September 2022.

22.66.5 Wildflower Signs

The Committee RESOLVED to accept the quote for the wildflower signs featuring illustrations produced by competition winners from Four Marks School last year and felt that this was important to recognise the efforts of the school children and have these signs produced.

22.66.6 Bus stop cleaning schedule

The AEO advised that a resident has been persistently emailing regarding their frustration at the state of the bus stops and the residue that has been left from some signs. The bus stop cleaning company did try and remove the residue and some graffiti, but it is totally ingrained in the panels. The AEO advised that more regular cleans are recommended to try and break down the residue and the Committee asked for investigations to be made into the cost of Perspex and toughened glass replacement panels so that they could compare this cost that of more regular cleaning.

22.66.7 RoSPA remedial works – APPROVAL

Following a review of the quotes submitted, the Committee RESOLVED to approve the quotes provided by company one for a full maintenance service of the chain links/shackles on equipment and also for the specific work highlighted in the recent RoSPA report except for the removal of the nails/sharp edges at the skate park as Cllr Foster has completed this. It was noted that included in the price is the removal of visible graffiti at the skate park. The AEO reported that the matting under the junior swing had been replaced on Friday 1st July 2022 and also that the spring cover at the base of the seesaw had been replaced.

22.67 OS NON URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22.67.1 Laurel behind Scout hut

Photographs have been circulated of the Laurel by the Scout hut which is very overgrown and in need of maintenance. The EO has discussed this with the neighbouring resident, and they are happy for the work to go ahead as there is frequent fly tipping in this area. The Committee agreed that the EO should organise a hard cut in this area.

22.67.2 Additional bin on the Jubilee Green

It was agreed to monitor the amount of additional waste generated in this area following the installation of the new bench.

22.66.3 Fencing at the allotment

The AEO had a site meeting with a fencing contractor and was advised that there would be an approximate cost of £765 for closeboard fencing or £250 for stock fencing which is used further along the allotment perimeter. The Committee would like to pursue stock fencing, but the AEO has been asked to speak to the contractor about deterrent materials that could be placed on the fence. The repair to the hasp on the gate at the entrance to the housing development at the football pitch was also discussed at this site meeting.

22.66.4 Purchase of gazebo for event use

The Committee discussed the purchase of a gazebo but decided that a pop-up gazebo with no branding could be more appropriate if it was felt that there are enough events in the year to warrant purchasing one. Currently, the Council does have one donated by a resident. They, instead, asked the AEO to research purchasing additional event flags for the poles normally used for the 10k. It was agreed that these could be more versatile and cost effective.

22.66.5 Benches at cricket pitch

The benches at the cricket pitch were discussed with the AEO reporting that a resident had noted that there is nowhere to sit when the Archers are shooting. It was also noted that next to the Pavilion may not be an ideal location.

Some preliminary options had been prepared for the Committee, but they would like further options with different seating numbers and a weight would allow easy installation but would also be effective against anti-social behaviour. This item has been put on hold for further discussion at the next meeting.

22.67 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

22.67.1 To receive area update

The EO advised the Committee that an issue had been raised on social media regarding the use of children's motorised vehicles at the Recreation Ground and it was clarified that motorised vehicles are not permitted due to safety implications of other users in the area.

CLlr Foster asked the AEO to expedite the installation of the new tennis court lights.

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31 Winchester Road	Planting Bus Stop (s)	Pending Pending	Quote accepted, awaiting date AEO investigating replacement panels.
Badger Close	Boundary issue – private garden	In progress	EO awaiting update.
Cemetery	Full cemetery inspection Dropped kerb request	Pending Completed	Planned Summer 2022 Completed 4/7/22
Recreation Ground	- Tennis court flood light maintenance. - Cricket pitch; Sale of cricket items. -Mark out of junior pitch - Public Spaces Protection Order. -Signage update -Playground -Various pieces of equipment require attention. -Playground fencing -Skate Park-Graffiti/vandalism Footway along football pitch Relocation of training posts	Pending Pending Pending Approved Pending Pending On hold Pending On Hold Pending	Awaiting date for works. AEO to follow up. Future discussion. JD to do inventory of container. To discuss with football club. To investigate with EHDC – AEO to contact DC Thomas Signs in progress of being designed and ordered. Suggest pause non-essential Booked w/c 11/07/22 Above contractor to remove graffiti whilst completing playground works. AEO to obtain quote.
Swelling Hill Pond	Shoring works Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted	In progress In progress	Awaiting meeting with Angling Club. TR1 has been completed and awaiting update.

	- boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry	In progress	To action when above is confirmed.
Climate Change	- Greening project -Wind turbine - Solar Panels at Pavilion	In progress Future meeting On hold	AEO to contact interested parties and organise 'handover'' meeting. AEO to liaise with Benians chairman
Open Spaces – General	PARISH TREES GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE VILLAGE SIGNAGE Phase two gateway signage LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD Decision to be made whether to approach Highways further following completion of works. FOOTPATHS OAK GREEN	In progress In Progress In progress In progress In progress	Tree inspection booked end of August. Delay in manufacture. Various paths have been cut by the OS contractor OS contractor has completed initial visit to a high standard.

22.68 OS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

22.68.1 Four Marks 10k

The AEO reported that so far there have been 37 entries for the race. Butterflies Preschool have agreed to organise the children's races and the Scouting group are going to be doing the refreshments.

22.69 The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm