

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.45pm 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 Frank Maloney Cllr Anne Tomlinson
APOLOGIES:	

22.82 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Tomlinson sent her apologies which were unanimously accepted.

22.83 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Pullen informed the Committee that a speed indicator unit used by the Speedwatch group requires a new battery. The Council has always supported a multi-agency approach to tackling speeding issues in the community and has previously helped financially. It was requested that the Council either purchases the equipment and donates it to the group or that a formal grant from the Parish Council could be applied for. The EO is going to consider what the most appropriate option is and liaise with Cllr Pullen.

The EO advised that the water refill station rental may increase in price. A generic email has been received to suggest that all rental agreements will be subject to an increase, however, the Council does have a fixed agreement in place and so will await further details.

Following on from some investigations into replacing a broken slab under a bench at Lymington Bottom Green, the contractor has advised that an exact replacement for the slab cannot be sourced and after a discussion about the various options, the Committee agreed that they would like the contractor to replace the entire base.

The EO asked the Committee that they give some thought and consideration to future projects with the aim of creating a five-year plan. This may involve replacing equipment that has deteriorated along with new projects that the Committee may wish to pursue. This will assist with budget setting and will be an Agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Davis asked whether any further action can be taken about the amount of refuse that has accumulated around the glass collection area at Oak Green. The AEO and Cllr Foster have both reported this issue online and Cllr Foster has spoken to the waste and recycling team too.

The AEO noted that there has been a resident complaint about the putting holes in the children's play area and the potential health and safety risks that they may pose. The Committee has previously discussed this and decided that to cover the holes following one complaint would be disproportionate and unnecessary. The Committee were still of this opinion.

The AEO noted that the railing on the A31 opposite the firework shop has now been repaired by HCC.

Cllr Foster has been watering the planting scheme at the Cemetery regularly and asked that the original gardener that planted the scheme is contacted to maintain the area to ensure that it is given the correct care. The AEO will contact them.

The EO thanked Cllrs Davis and Hammond for watering several of the Parish trees. Councillors were reminded that when the trees are planted, a fee is paid for their care and maintenance and so no action should be taken by individuals without consultation with the EO who will seek advice from the relevant company.

Cllr Foster has been approached by a resident who would like to hold a 'car boot sale' at the Recreation Ground. Following a discussion, she will respond to the resident and ask them for a formal proposal for the Committee to consider which should include information about the proposed event such as specific dates and insurance considerations.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 8.08pm and Standing Orders were applied.

22.84 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

22.85 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 3rd August 2022 following 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 Chairman.

22.86 OS URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22.86.1 Tennis court floodlights

Due to a delay in the installation of the new tennis court floodlights, the AEO presented two revised quotes for the installation of six new LED lights. One was from the original contractor that had previously been awarded the job and one was from an alternative company that had originally quoted.

The Committee discussed both options along with the specifications of the lights previously circulated and **RESOLVED** to accept the second quote. The AEO will confirm the date with contractor who has indicated that they would be available in the first week of October 2022.

22.86.2 Football goal post relocation

Following discussion and consultation with the football community, it was decided that the goal posts on the training pitch would be relocated to accommodate a pitch size of 90m x 50m. This relocation to the former cricket pitch will take place week commencing 26th September 2022 and Cllr Pullen has agreed to attend the site when the date is agreed to advise the company completing the works.

Potential conflicts with the Archery club were discussed and it was confirmed that on the rare occasion that the training area is ever used for a football match, this would not be at the time when the Archers are using the area.

22.86.3 Swelling Hill Pond strategy for desilting

The EO had prepared a report on Swelling Hill Pond that provided a potted history of the relationship between the Parish Council and the Angling Club and the ongoing maintenance agreements between the two. Within the report were also full details of the desilting project that took place in 2019 along with details of questions that have recently been raised about this project.

Following a full discussion about the current state of the pond (specifically about the volume of silt and pond weed), the budget that has been reserved for pond works and the agreements that are in place with the Angling club, it

was agreed that the EO would investigate any suitable amendments to the current agreement that is in place, along with researching how other Councils deal with pond works. The EO will also contact the Fisheries department at Sparsholt College to obtain some independent advice to help with putting a strategy for future works.

The EO advised that the application documents had been returned from Land Registry with reference to First Registration of the front area of the Pond, confirmation of Registration is now awaited.

22.87 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

22.87.1 The Greening Campaign

The AEO advised that there is a meeting on the 14th September 2022 to try and try and form a full environmental working party to run and manage the Greening Campaign. The Committee reinforced that they do not want the AEO to be involved in the project after this initial meeting. Cllr Maloney is going to attend the meetings, but this will be in his capacity as Scout leader and not on behalf of the Parish Council.

22.87.2 Nature boxes – to receive update

The AEO has received a quote for materials for the five nature boxes to be placed around the Recreation Ground and is awaiting a quote for the installation costs to include on a District Councillor Community Grant Application to District Cllr Tennyson.

It was noted that during an email exchange, it was suggested that the bird boxes could be produced from reclaimed wood, specifically pallets. The AEO will make enquiries about the suitability of this as it is believed that there is a difference in the thickness of pallets versus the wood quoted for.

22.87.3 Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan – discussion of ideas for policy review.

The AEO noted that since the adoption of this policy in 2020, the Council has successfully completed several environmental projects not limited to, but including;

- Installing a new water refill station at the Benians Pavilion
- Ensuring events run by the Council are more environmentally friendly, examples are banning single use plastics and using environmentally friendly medals at the 10k.
- Creating of a wildflower area which will feature signs illustrated by Four Marks School
- Encouraging residents to form a working party to launch the Greening Campaign
- Planting enhancements around the village of native plants to encourage wildlife, specifically at the Cemetery and on the A31.
- Commissioning and installing footpath maps to encourage use of footpaths throughout the village.

The AEO made some suggestions of ideas that could be included in a new Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan, and it was agreed that the Committee would consider any changes that they would like made and feedback at the next meeting.

22.88 OS MAINTENANCE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

22.88.1 Bus stop replacement panels

The AEO presented a map and quotes for replacement panels at the bus stops throughout the village. On the list are only the panels that have engrained graffiti and sticky residue. Cllr Pullen has agreed to investigate the use of 'sticky stuff' remover on the panels and will report on his success to the AEO. If this does work, the AEO will pursue a revised quote and try to organise the sticky removal with a working party however, the Committee have provisionally **RESOLVED** to accept the full quote.

22.88.2 Clearance of grass cuttings from Laurel site at Recreation Ground

The AEO reported that although the clearance of the areas behind the Scout hut and neighbouring containers, the area behind the containers on the former cricket pitch and the orchard area at the allotments had all successfully

been completed, that the heap of grass cuttings and other waste at the site of the Laurel trees by the Scout hut had not been cleared. On investigation, the contractor found that the waste is not 'clean green waste' and that other waste including bricks and metal are present. They have estimated that the cost of sorting and removing this would be between £1000-£2000 but despite several requests have failed to provide a formal quote.

Quotes have been obtained for the hire of a skip that will accept this mixed waste and alongside finding the most competitive price for an appropriate six-yard skip, the AEO was asked to investigate the best method of filling this. This may involve a company who have appropriate machinery to clear it quickly.

22.89 OS NON-URGENT ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22.89.1 MUGA use by training dogs

The Council has been made aware that a resident is using the MUGA for the training of an assistance puppy. It was noted that this could possibly cause a health and safety issue due to dog excrement potentially being left in this play area.

It was agreed that providing the dog in question is a full assistance animal and has the correct harness and paperwork, that the Council would support the use of this area for training provided that as a courtesy, the Council is informed of the time that the owner intends to use the facility.

22.89.2 Bench provision at the Recreation Ground

22.89.2.1 Benches at the football pitch

Cllr Pullen suggested that Agenda item 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 are dealt with together as the Committee may wish to have a consistent bench design in both areas of the Recreation Ground. Following full consideration of the options available, the sizes and whether the benches should have backs, it was decided that the most appropriate bench was the 'moulded backless bench' (option one). The AEO will order four of these and make enquiries about any discounts available on the benches themselves and/or the fixing kits.

22.89.2.2 Semi Circular bench at Jubilee Green

As this bench forms part of a bequest, the EO has reviewed a copy of the original document and shared the request that a circular hardwood bench should be placed around the tree. As the original tree in the centre of the green sadly died, the replacement was planted in a different location in the corner of the green. The Committee agreed that a semi-circular bench would be more appropriate, and they would also like to pursue the purchase of a metal bench which would match the Jubilee bench in this area.

As the above preferences do not meet the conditions of the original bequest, it was agreed that the EO would write to the son of the deceased in order to obtain his blessing for the Council's proposed plans.

22.89.2.3 Bench at Cemetery

The Committee decided that in keeping with the other benches at the Cemetery, they would like the AEO to make further investigations into a suitable hardwood replacement for the memorial bench. Enquiries about the supplier of the bench opposite provided by the Four Marks Lunch Club in 2018 have not been successful.

22.89.3 Recreation Ground signage for approval.

The Committee approved the design of the vinyl 'no fly-posting' signs to go on the bus stops once they have been either cleaned or had their replacement panels but have decided to pause the order of the graphic signs due to the cost. The original concerns, which prompted the discussion of the new signage were unlawful barbecues and overnight camping at the Recreation Ground but as these issues are seasonal, the Committee concluded that this project is not urgent. This will be revisited next year but the AEO was asked to enquire about a vinyl or similar more cost-effective sign to be placed near the bowls club as a single sign as this is such a prominent entrance.

22.90 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

22.90.1 To receive area update

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
A31/Winchester Rd/Telegraph Lane	Planting	Pending	Planting booked 26/9/22.
Allotments	Fencing	Pending	Awaiting contractor date.
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	EO awaiting update
	Pine Road Area	In progress	Awaiting further response from EHDC after initial enquiry sent.
Cemetery	Full Cemetery inspection	Completed	Awaiting quotes AEO to organise AEO to source options for October 2022 mtg.
	Remedial works	Pending	
	Replacement gate stops	Pending	
	Oak tree overhang	Completed	
	Replacement bench	In progress	
Lymington Green Bottom	Village Green registration	In progress	EO to liaise with HCC
	Wildflower area signs	In progress	Delivered – installation to be agreed for 2023. AEO to liaise with contractor to replace base.
	Remedial works required to slab under bench on bottom right-hand corner	In progress	
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	
Recreation Ground	Tennis court floodlights	In progress	Booked w/c 3/10/22
	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 post relocation	In progress	Booked w/c 19/09/22
	MUGA – new basketball nets requested	Pending	AEO to organise
	Skate Park – new sign and painting	Pending	New sign in progress, painting to be completed after school holidays.
	Signage	On hold	On hold until 2023 except one sign for Bowls Club entrance. AEO to organise.
	Replacement playground fencing/pedestrian walkway on football pitch/drainage	On Hold	Pending new facility proposals.
	Fly tipping at Laurel site near Scout Hut	In progress	AEO to organise
	New bench provision	In progress	
	Circular bench at Jubilee Green	In progress	EO to make enquiries.
	Greening project	In progress	Meeting of working party set for 14/9/22
Climate mitigation change	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit
	Nature boxes	Pending	Awaiting costs for phase one for grant application.
	Parish Trees	In progress	Tree inspection – Agenda item Oct 22
General Open Spaces	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	

22.90.2 HALC Village of the Year competition

The AEO reported that the presentation to the VOY panel went well, and that positive feedback was received on the day. The outcome is not known until the awards ceremony on the 29th September 2022. Cllr Foster noted that there are four spaces, and it was agreed that the EO, AEO and Councillor Foster would attend and that the

member of the Jubilee Committee that organised the flower festival would be invited as it was such a crucial part of the celebrations.

22.90.3 Archery club update

The Chairman of the Archery club has submitted a summary to the AEO of the current financial state of the Archery Club. A series of events has meant that the club are now unlikely to be able to finance a new storage container and that they may have to review their expansion plans.

22.91 OS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

22.91.1 Four Marks 10k

The AEO noted that there are forty-four entries for the 10k and seven for the 5k and that entries will close on Friday 9th September 2022 at midday. Sadly this year, there will be no children's races due to lack of volunteer support.

A new card machine has been purchased to allow both card and contactless payments on the day which will hopefully alleviate the issue that has been previously caused with giving change. The machine can then be used in the Parish Office to take payments.

22.92 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5TH OCTOBER 2022

22.93 OS MEETING CLOSED AT 10.05pm