

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 commencing at 6.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

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

23.01 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

23.02 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Maloney, representing the Four Marks Environmental Group, requested that a meeting is scheduled to discuss hedgerow improvements and tree planting in the village. The AEO will liaise with Cllr Maloney to arrange a date.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.05pm and Standing Orders were applied.

23.03 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23.04 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Cllr Davis raised a point of order regarding Agenda item 7.1, and it was explained that the original decision could not be implemented due to stock issues and so the inclusion of this point would serve as a minor amendment allowing the project to progress.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 3rd December 2022 following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Davis, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

23.05 OS SWELLING HILL POND

23.05.1 To discuss the contents of the report on the proposals for pond maintenance.

The Committee discussed the contents of the circulated report and documents, agreeing that due to the high level of expenditure involved in the project, a professional silt survey would be essential. There was a discussion about the timing of any works and ensuring that there is minimal impact on wildlife throughout the year and that expert advice should be sought.

23.05.2 To approve the expenditure for a detailed silt survey.

The Committee RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of £1800.

23.05.3 To discuss duck feeding signs.

District Councillor Tennyson had raised an issue with feeding waterfowl bread and suggested that signs are located at Swelling Hill Pond. The Committee requested that advisory Social Media posts are created and it was agreed that the issue would be monitored.

Whilst on the topic of Swelling Hill Pond, the EO advised the Committee that an Adverse Possession claim had been started for the southern end of the pond, including the car park.

23.06 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23.06.1 Graffiti strategy

Some racially aggravated graffiti had been burnt onto the bus stop opposite the firework shop and there had been several unsuccessful attempts to cover it up. It was agreed that the panels on this bus stop would be removed which would solve the issue and also allow the Committee to gauge public reaction to this as a future strategy. It was also agreed that there would be two shelter cleans booked (one in Spring and one in Autumn) and that the gateway signage would also be included.

There had been some additional graffiti at the skate park and the lengthsman will be asked to remove this on the 9th February 2023 using graffiti wipes. The wipes are kept in the office can be used on an ad hoc basis by office staff or Councillors if there is anything offensive and there is a Risk Assessment in place for this activity.

23.06.2 Kings Coronation – commemorative activity and potential event.

The Committee agreed that a picnic could be held on the cricket pitch on Sunday 7th May 2023 and provisionally agreed to fund the toilets and children's rides. Cllr Foster added that an additional large bin would be needed for the event. This picnic will be a low key event with families and residents invited to enjoy lunch together. The AEO will liaise with the small team of volunteers that have come forward and begin to make plans.

23.06.3 Fence along cricket pitch

Responding to concerns over the left-hand side boundary of the cricket pitch and specifically regarding the condition of the fencing, the AEO reviewed the area and noticed large gaps in the hedgerow leading through to a privately owned field. Following on from that, advice and funding were sought from both CPRE and EHDC/The Tree Council with both offering conflicting advice on how best to improve the hedge. It is hoped that a full report on both approaches and funding options can be produced imminently so that the Committee can choose how they would like to proceed.

It was agreed that due to the hedgerow improvement plan, the existing fence should be removed when these works take place and not replaced.

23.06.4 Footway along the football pitch

Whilst taking into consideration the needs of users and the sporting clubs, the Committee agreed to a pathway of 1.8m, with a minimum distance of 1m from the football touchline but ideally 1.5m distance. The various surfaces were considered with an agreement that the surface could not contain loose stones. The AEO will request samples in tile format of the resin bound and bond finishes in a variety of colours for the Committee to review and contact the landscape architect so that plans can commence.

23.07 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

23.07.1 Replacement Cemetery bench

The Committee were advised that the bench that was previously chosen was no longer available and agreed to proceed with option one.

23.07.2 Remedial and improvement works at Oak Green Parade

In response to an issue with surface water entering the florist unit, a quotation was sought with a solution offered to install an Acco drain. This along with some other basic remedial work was included in the quotation which the Committee RESOLVED to accept.

The EO requested that when the works take place at Oak Green parade, that the bollard which was recently damaged is checked for stability.

23.08 AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

23.08.1 To receive area update and supplementary report

In addition to the report, the AEO provided some updates on Jubilee Green. Firstly, that there had been an issue with the supply of the Holm Oak chosen as the Queen Elizabeth II memorial tree and so a Tulip tree has been sourced instead and is due to be planted on 6th February 2023. Secondly, that the tree seat has been installed and a plaque is on order.

On Saturday 21st January 2023, some log rings were placed on the verges outside the Cemetery to prevent parking in these areas and ten out of the eighteen that were placed have been removed. There were various Social Media exchanges about their placement and the EO has a call booked with Hampshire Highways to discuss the most appropriate method of discouraging parking in this area.

Area update

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Allotments	Fencing	Pending	Awaiting contractor date.
	Hedgerow improvement	In progress	AEO awaiting information from other agencies.
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	EO awaiting update
	Pine Road Area	In progress	Being considered by Estates Surveyor EHDC.
Cemetery	Full Cemetery inspection	Completed	
	Remedial works	In progress	Awaiting date.
	Replacement gate stops	Pending	Awaiting date
	Replacement bench	In progress	On order.
Lymington Bottom Green	Wildflower area and signs	In progress	Signs delivered – to agree 2023 installation. Shrub beds and wildflowers to be reviewed by gardener.
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing In progress	Contractor agreed first week each month.

	Improvement works (florist exterior etc)		Liaising with florist and contractor to organise date.
Recreation Ground	Cricket equipment	Pending	EO has agreed course of action to proceed with.
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Liaison with club on future use, hiring to others and any issues.
	Floodlights for training area	In progress	Enquiries have begun.
	Footway along football pitch	In progress	Information sent to landscape architect; samples of surfaces ordered.
	Skate Park – graffiti	In progress	Lengthsman 09/02/23
	Circular bench at Jubilee Green	In progress	Installed 22/01/23 – awaiting plaque
	QE Memorial Tree	In progress	Installed 06/02/2023. Plaque to be ordered.
Climate change mitigation	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit
	Nature boxes	Pending	Funding received – awaiting materials order.
	Parish Trees	In progress	P1 trees completed. P2 trees booked 20/02/23. Decision notice received.
	Footpaths	Ongoing	AEO liaising with Access team and residents regarding kissing gate on FP19 junction.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Clean booked April and September 2023.
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	In progress	Silt survey booking in progress.

	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claim in progress
	Trees	In progress	P2 tree works 20/02/23. Memorial Willow 16/02/2023

23.08.02 Brief on Parish Climate Change event held on the 1st February 2023

The AEO attended this event and will circulate a summary along with the slides once received in due course. One major element was the Greening Campaign, and the Environmental Group will be approached again about running this campaign as this is one of three of HCCs methods of delivering its 2050 strategy.

23.08.03 Upcoming events – 10k and Litterpick

It has been decided that the Four Marks 10k will be on Sunday 9th July 2023 and that the 5k route will be open to walkers following several requests last year. It was agreed that a community litterpick will take place on Saturday 25th March 2023 with a ‘pick your street’ event on Monday 8th May 2023 to tie in with ‘The Big Help Out’/Kings Coronation event.

23.09 FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/MATTERS ARISING

23.09.1 Councillors to suggest and note future items for consideration.

Cllr Davis made reference to the ‘Twenty-minute neighbourhood’ concept in planning and questioned whether the park and stride initiative potentially planned for the Recreation Ground in the future falls within this. Having timed the walk personally, the Councillor queried whether families would do this journey in twenty minutes or less. It was noted that many families currently walk this distance.

23.10 Next meeting 1st March 2023

23.11 Meeting Closed at 7.25pm