

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 5th April 2023 commencing at 7.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

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

23.22 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

23.23 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Foster informed the Committee that the clock on the shelter at Oak Green facing Alton had stopped and suggested that both sides are set to 12pm to avoid future issues. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Hammond enquired about the progress of obtaining a telephone box for the book exchange and the DC gave an update. An application had been made to BT for a community box under a scheme that they run and the cost of purchasing one is also being investigated.

It was noted that the Cemetery tap is not working, and the DC advised that this was isolated at the same time as the tap on the football pitch which was vandalised. The plumber has been asked to resolve the issue and restore both taps to working order.

The EO had received a request for a second inscription on the reverse of a head stone. The Committee considered this unprecedented request and although agreed in principle, concluded that their preference would be a flat tablet in front of the existing headstone so that uniformity is maintained in the Cemetery.

There were no further items raised under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 7.11pm and Standing Orders were applied.

23.24 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23.25 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Pullen, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

23.26 OS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

23.26.1 Lymington Bottom Green improvements

The Committee were provided with a proposed allocation of works. The Cubs had offered to complete some of the tasks with possible oversight from the gardener and the environmental group had offered to help with the hedgerow restoration. The DC will liaise with the Cub leader to ensure that appropriate Risk Assessments are completed, and that the insurance company will be contacted regarding the scope of 'volunteer' insurance in relation to children.

The Committee unanimously approved the quotation provided by the gardener for the other improvements and the DC advised that they could begin works on the 6th April 2023.

23.27 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23.27.1 Request for use of football training pitch

The organiser of the Manor Colts U10s team had previously approached the Committee regarding use of the training pitch and had made contact to revisit the conversation. The Committee were supportive and would like to encourage youth football in Four Marks. There are some points that would need to be agreed (marking out the pitch, training schedule and relevant safety measures regarding goals) and the DC will discuss these areas with organiser for follow up with the Committee.

23.28 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

23.28.1 Surfacing of footway along football pitch

The Committee were given approximate quotations for the resin bound surfaces that they had previously selected. One needed to be chosen before the landscape architect could begin working on the general arrangement plan and detail for the path which will then be used in the tender process. There was a discussion about the justification of proceeding with the path as a standalone project unrelated to the Community building and it was concluded that providing safe passage to pedestrians was imperative.

It was confirmed that the plan is for the path to go through the Cemetery up until a point adjacent with the access to the parking area and that this project would be eligible for grant funding as part of the improvements to Uplands Lane. There is also CIL funding available.

The Committee preferred the Rhine Gold finish, and the DC will confirm the choice and measurements with the landscape architect.

23.28.2 Village sign maintenance plan

The sign on Lymington Bottom Green has been in situ since 2017 and reports were made of deterioration. It was explained that the company that originally produced and installed the sign do guarantee the finish but only for two years, thereafter maintenance work should have been carried out to prevent deterioration. The sign has been included in the schedule of the bus shelter and village gateway sign clean and a quote to restore the metal work had been requested. The contractor had advised that the cost would be high due to access issues and the provision of scaffolding.

Cllr Pullen enquired as to whether the sign itself could be removed to be worked on and it was thought that this would not be possible.

23.29 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

23.29.1 To receive area update and supplementary report

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Allotments	Fencing	Pending	Booked w/c 03/04/2023
	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.
	New padlock on Badger Sett	Completed	Digital padlock now in situ
Cemetery	Full Cemetery inspection	Completed	
	Remedial works	In progress	Work booked April 2023.
	Replacement gate stops.	Pending	Booked w/c 03/04/2023
	Replacement bench	Oh hold	
Lymington Bottom Green	Wildflower area and signs	In progress	Signs delivered – to agree 2023 installation.
	Improvement project	In progress	DC to liaise with contractor, Cubs and environmental group.
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	Contractor agreed first week each month.
	Clock face maintenance	In progress	. Agenda item May 2023
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.
		In progress	Request from Manor Colts Junior team.
	Floodlights for training area	In progress	Enquiries have begun. On Hold.
	Footway along football pitch	In progress	DC to progress
	QE Memorial Tree	In progress	AEO to source stainless steel plaque.
Climate change mitigation	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit

	Nature boxes	Pending	Boxes produced – awaiting installation
	Parish Trees	Completed	All trees in the report dealt with except for tree at Cemetery – awaiting it to be in leaf to assess damage.
	Footpaths	Ongoing	FP19 delivered, awaiting installation.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Clean booked April and September 2023. – panel removal and gateway signs included
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	In progress	Awaiting information
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claim in progress
	Cherry Laurel	In progress	Quote accepted
	Fencing replacement	In progress	Awaiting quotations

The DC informed the Committee that there had been a delay in the Tennis Club submission for a CIL funding grant and that although an extension was requested, it was denied. As the club have done so much work on the application, this could be used for a Supporting Communities grant fund which would be relevant to the project.

Cllr Foster advised that some ‘Extinction Rebellion’ posters had been stuck on the bus stops and asked that the DC contacts the company about this.

The EO had received a quotation for the works to the Cherry Laurel at Swelling Hill Pond and the Committee were happy for her to use her delegated financial authority to accept the quote.

23.29.2 Swelling Hill Pond update

A communication trail between the EO and the Chairman of the Angling club was discussed where essentially clarification was sought about who was responsible for which tasks relating to the pond and fish restocking. It was decided that a formal License to Occupy should be drafted to clarify matters for both parties. A representative of the Council has been invited to the Angling Club AGM which is to be held on Friday 28th April 2023 and Councillors were asked to contact the EO if they would like to attend.

23.29.3 Events schedule and progress

The AEO informed the Committee of the following event schedule and progress;

7th May – Coronation Big Lunch 12-2pm

There had been challenges in gathering support for a full committee to organise this event, but Councillor Maloney has been helping with the planning. Children’s rides, the Rock Choir and the toilets have been booked with various community groups being contacted to have stalls on the day with the understanding that they will need to provide their own equipment.

8th May – Pick your street event.

This event will tie in with the Coronation ‘Big Help Out’ and residents will be able to borrow litter pickers and use them in their own street/area.

9th July – 10k – 10am

Plans are underway for the 10k race and once a Stripe Account has been set up in conjunction with the new accounting software, this will be linked to the event page, and it will go live.

23.30 OS FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23.30.1 Councillors to suggest and note future items for discussion.

Cllr Pullen reported a broken Speed Indicator Device and requested that a repair is funded by the Council as they purchased the device. He had already changed the battery, which was unsuccessful, and Cllr Foster asked to examine the equipment. It was noted that HCC had agreed to provide a grant for two new machines and the EO will follow up on this.

Cllr Pullen advised that he had made an application on the EHDC website for a new automatic speedwatch kit and will update the Committee on the progress.

23.31 Next meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2023 to be held at FOUR MARKS VILLAGE HALL.

23.32 Meeting closed at 8.00pm.