

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 7th June 2023 commencing at 6.00pm at the Benians Pavilion**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Cllr Gebbett (arrived at 6.15pm Cllrs Knight, Speed and Medhurst
IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Tsigarides (Acting Clerk) One member of the public
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Black

In absence of the Chairman, it was confirmed that there was a quorum present, and Cllr Knight agreed to be the acting Chairman.

23.43 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Black sent apologies which were duly accepted by the Committee.

23.44 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The AC had been contacted by a resident who requested access through the side gate so that they could park their vehicle on the cricket pitch in order to present it to the Sailing Club on the 9th June 2023 and the Putting Club on the 6th July 2023. The Committee were all in agreement and the AC would plan for the collection of the key.

A resident had emailed to advise that Footpaths 8, 18 and 7 are all overgrown. The AC informed the Committee that the Council is not responsible for footpath maintenance but has historically done this as a gesture to residents. There is a priority cut sent to the access team in February each year for a cut that takes place during July/August. It was agreed that the Open Space contractor should strim the footpaths reported along with any that are used during the 10k.

It was noted that a second kissing gate would be installed at the entrance to Old Down Woods, at the end of footpath 19 by a team of volunteers.

The Cubs had asked for permission to use the area in front of the Scout hut to practise fire lighting on 19th June 2023 and the Committee agreed to this.

23.45 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23.46 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 following proposal by Cllr Knight seconded by Cllr Medhurst, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

23.47 OS REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE.

It was agreed to accept the current Terms of Reference with no amendments for approval at the June Full Council meeting.

23.48 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

23.48.1 To receive area update and supplementary report.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Allotments	Fencing	Completed	Completed 24/4/23
	Hedgerow improvement	In progress	AEO has not had a response from various agencies involved and has proceeded with a Woodland Trust hedgerow pack application. Improvements to this area would need to be planned for Oct 2023.
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Awaiting update
	Pine Road Area	In progress	Being considered by Estates Surveyor EHDC. Cllr Gebbett to review.
Cemetery	Full Cemetery inspection	Completed	All remedial works now fully completed.
	Replacement gate stops.	Pending	
	Replacement bench	In progress	AC to make District Cllr Grant app
Lymington Bottom Green	Wildflower area and signs	In progress	Signs delivered – to agree 2023 installation.
	Improvement project	In progress	Agreed to continue
	Village sign remedial works	In progress	Cllrs have agreed to make enquiries
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	Contractor agreed first week each month.
	Phone box/book share	In progress	Bid not accepted – investigation to purchase underway, potential DC Grant option, to present to new Committee. On Hold
Recreation Ground	Cricket equipment	Pending	
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
		In progress	Manor Colts Under 10's training/matches.
	Floodlights for training area	In progress	Costs have been requested.
	Footway along football pitch	In progress	Measurements and preference on finish have been sent to landscape architect. On hold
	QE Memorial Tree	In progress	Stainless steel plaque ordered. Cllr Speed to install.
	Children's Play area		
	RoSPA inspection	In progress	Annual maintenance agreed, AC to collate and get quotes.

	Water refill point		Service completed – contract expires October 2024, notice must be given July 2024 if contract is to be terminated.
	Skate Park		Working party to repaint surfaces – Autumn Graffiti removal after school holidays – to be arranged.
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 the tree at Cemetery – awaiting it to be in leaf to assess damage.
	Footpaths	Ongoing	Funding stream for replacement kissing gates has been noted and local walking group have been asked to feedback any damaged stiles. Damaged signage has been reported – byeway sign 21 at Parish Office and horseriding sign at FP4. – Now resolved.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Extinction Rebellion have been contacted regarding flyposting. Clean has been completed – Cllrs have agreed to put 'No Flyposting' stickers on.
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	In progress	Awaiting update from AGM – rep invited to June OS meeting.
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claim in progress
	Fencing replacement	In progress	Quotation for review at June meeting.
Station Gardens	General		Newly planted pear tree doing well. Resident complaint regarding fallen tree behind property dealt with.
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.		

The AC went through the report explaining the current situation with the various open space areas. In addition to the report, it was noted that;

- There had been a RoSPA play safety inspection report. The AC will collate a list of tasks which need to be actioned and the Committee agreed to instruct the company that usually does the routine annual maintenance to perform this as soon as possible. It was noted that training has not yet been booked in for Cllrs Coulson and Knight as there is no regional training available. Enquiries have been made about onsite training. It was suggested that the Councillors might familiarise themselves with the inspection sheets and the areas included.

-There was a discussion regarding a footpath 17b which may require a kissing gate to be installed due to horses entering Old Down Woods. Cllr Medhurst will provide further details.

- Cllr Speed requested a copy of a footpath map as he may undertake some maintenance work in the future.

-Cllr Speed has agreed to water the new trees around the Parish and it was noted that there are going to be high temperatures over the weekend. He has been provided with a high viz vest.

23.48.2 Swelling Hill Pond update

The AC met with the Chairman of the Angling Club and discussed various aspects of pond management. There had been some previous discussion about putting a formal license to occupy in place, but the Angling Club have confirmed that they have twenty five members who pay a nominal fee and do not wish to enter into costly negotiations. The AC has asked them to compile a list of their responsibilities that they have assumed over time and the Committee will then agree which type of agreement is the most appropriate.

It was also agreed that an open meeting with the aquatic company and the Angling Club where the Council pond representative, Cllr Black also attends would be arranged.

23.49 OS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

23.49.1 Lymington Bottom Green – overview of plans and consideration of resident contact

The Committee reviewed the comments from the resident but agreed to go ahead with the plans that had been made for this area.

23.49.2 Update from FMEG and appointment of Liaison

There was no update from the group, and it was noted that there has been a change in membership. Cllr Medhurst agreed to be a point of contact for the group.

23.50 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23.50.1 Request for composter at the Cemetery

There was a discussion about making the planting scheme self sufficient with leaf mulch that could be provided by a composter, but all agreed that it would need to be appropriate in terms of appearance and size. The AC was asked to consult the gardener to provide suitable suggestions.

23.50.2 Bin Request to EHDC

The Committee confirmed that they were supportive of this resident suggestion.

23.50.3 Request from local nursery to use area of Recreation Ground

The Committee confirmed that the nursery could use the area in front of the Scout hut for an event on Wednesday 12th July 2023.

23.51 OS Events update

The Council were informed that there is a lack of volunteers for the 10k. Cllrs Gebbett, Speed and Medhurst have agreed to help.

23.52 OS Councillors to note items for future meetings

CLr Medhurst questioned whether the meeting could be pushed back to a later time and there was a discussion about this. It will be monitored.

23.53 OS Next meeting 5th July 2023

23.54 OS Meeting Closed 7.25pm