

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 5th July 2023 commencing at 6.00pm at the Benians Pavilion**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Cllr Gebbett, arrived at 6.15pm
	Cllrs Knight, Speed, Medhurst, Black and Coulson
IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Tsigarides (Acting Clerk)
	One member of the public
APOLOGIES:	None.

23.55 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Gebbett arrived at 6.15pm, Cllr Knight acted as Chair.

23.56 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public asked who is responsible for walking the Recreation Ground and doing relevant checks, noting that a bench on the cricket pitch had been damaged by a BBQ. They also noted that there is a high volume of litter and requested that a bin review is conducted.

They then asked what the priority projects are going forward to improve Open Space, and referred to an area of land at Pine Road that the previous council were hoping to adopt. They also noted that the football pitch grass cuttings are being dumped on the Recreation Ground. The AC advised that the area update shows the projects that the Committee have decided to progress and those that have been put on hold for the time being.

The AC had been contacted by a resident who wished to have an 'end of term' party of approximately thirty children on Friday 21st July 2023, hosting a gathering at the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that they use the football pitch due to club use of the other areas.

Following on from a discussion in the last meeting, the resident who had requested a more robust book storage solution at Oak Green parade had been in contact to ask what progress had been made. The current decision to put the project on hold was explained.

Cllr Coulson had been contacted by a resident regarding the use of 'drones' at the Recreation Ground and was informed that they would need to apply to the Council in line with the UAV policy available on the website.

23.57 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23.58 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 7th June 2023 following proposal by Cllr Coulson seconded by Cllr Medhurst, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

23.59 OS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

23.59.1 To note the Minutes of the FMEG meeting held on 22nd June 2023.

The Minutes were noted, and it was agreed that Cllr Medhurst would attend the next scheduled meeting on 12th July 2023. The environmental group have requested to be involved with the herb and poppy planting at Lymington Bottom Green when this takes place.

23.60 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23.60.1 Cemetery composter

The gardener provided a link to the type of composter that could be suitable for the Cemetery. The Committee were asked to consider whether this design was suitable for the location, and it was agreed to proceed with the suggested option, ideally placing it by the bins. It was agreed that the gardener should manage this composter and that they would be consulted about a solution for the grass on the football pitch.

23.60.2 Resident request regarding toilet facilities at the Recreation Ground

At the meeting of the Full Council on the 14th June 2023, a resident requested that the toilet next to the Parish office was made accessible. The Committee were reminded that the school holidays are approaching, that previous trials of opening the toilet had led to anti-social behaviour and that the appropriate cleaning regime and sanitary facilities are not in place. The Committee decided that a sign displayed to contact the Clerk if the code is required would be appropriate.

23.60.3 Resident request for speed humps at the Recreation Ground

The same resident that raised the above item, requested that speed humps are installed on the access road to the Pavilion. The AC had requested approximate costs from a groundwork person and will follow up on this for the next meeting on the 2nd August 2023.

23.60.4 To confirm the Christmas light schedule

The Committee agreed to an installation date of the 2nd December 2023, with the lights to be put on a timer from 4pm – 11pm.

23.60.5 To Review RoSPA report

The AC had summarised the main points of the report and highlighted the highest risk areas. The routine maintenance had already been booked with a contractor and two quotations were pending for the main works. The Committee agreed to review these by email so that the works could then be booked in before the school holidays if possible. It was agreed that costs for routine inspections would also be sought pending the formal training of Councillor Knight in October 2023. The Committee agreed to take it in turns to check the Recreation Ground visually each week.

23.60.6 Resident report of Recreation Ground Issues – children’s play area gate and containers.

The Committee were informed of an agreement in place regarding the containers on the Recreation Ground and it was agreed that the AC would review this agreement. The Archery group had been in contact to say that they had taken photographs and did not consider that there was a graffiti issue.

The Children’s play area gate is due to be fitted with a new damper and the Committee agreed to put any permanent works in this area on hold until the future of the new community building and recreational hub was known. The AC will liaise with the resident on this matter.

23.60.7 COGS request to use area outside of Scout hut on selected dates.

A request was received by the Family worker at the COGS to use the area outside the Scout hut on two dates in July 2023. The Committee approved this, on the understanding that the relevant insurance documents are received for the planned bouncy castle and that the Scouts are informed.

23.60.8 Scouts request to place bug hotel at the Recreation Ground

The Cub group had been in touch to ask for permission to build some bug hotels of approx. 18” high next to the containers at the Recreation Ground. The Committee had no objection to this.

23.61 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

23.61.1 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 in process of reviewing.
Cemetery	Full Cemetery inspection	Completed	All remedial works now fully completed.
	Replacement gate stops.	Pending	
	Replacement bench	In progress	DC Grant approved – Clerk to order.
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. Notice of S106 generic funding has been received, Councillors to formalise agreement to apply.
Recreation Ground	Cricket equipment	Pending	
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	Floodlights for training area	In progress	Manor Colts Under 10's training/matches. Costs have been requested.

	Footway along football pitch	In progress	Measurements and preference on finish have been sent to landscape architect. On hold – allocated S106 funding available.
	QE Memorial Tree	In progress	Plaque installed.
	Children’s Play area RoSPA inspection	In progress	Awaiting quotes for specific works, maintenance booked in. Awaiting costs for inspections.
	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 has taken place.
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	No horseriding signs to be ordered for 17a on advice of HCC Access team.
	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	Ongoing.		
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.		

23.61.2 Update on Recreation Ground maintenance

The AC noted that the graffiti had now been removed from the skate park, that the wire and post had been removed from the area, that the ladder rung had been mended and that the relevant graves will be topped up mid-July. It was reported that the parking sign had been driven into and damaged, so this had been disposed of. This will be replaced by a low cost fluted board to direct users to parking.

23.62 OS EVENTS UPDATE

Sadly, the annual 10k was cancelled in consultation with the race director, Philip Scrase. There were only thirteen entries for the 10k and one for the 5k, plus difficulty in getting any organisation to be involved with the children's races. The AC suggested that towards the end of the year, a Committee is formed which would include members of the Four Marks Running Club to plan next years event.

23.63 OS COUNCILLORS TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

No items were raised.

23.64 OS NEXT MEETING 2ND AUGUST 2023

23.65 OS MEETING CLOSED AT 7.24PM