

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 at 6.00pm at the Benians Pavilion.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Tim Gebbett, Cllrs Knight, Black, Coulson, Medhurst
IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Tsigarides ,Clerk
	Three members of the public
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Speed

23.66 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Speed had sent his apologies which were duly accepted by the Committee.

23.67 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident one raised issues with the Jubilee Green area and requested that the Committee reviews the concrete slab that the Jubilee bench was installed on. The Clerk did inform the Committee that issues were raised with the suitability of the concrete base at the time of installation but that it was considered that the cost of removing it was too high. Cllr Black agreed to investigate ways of covering it.

The resident also complained about the condition of the corten steel memorial plaque and reported that although the material naturally rusts, that the wording had completely disappeared. The Clerk noted that this plaque is the second one after a complaint had been made to the company for this reason and will source a replacement.

Resident two reference the installation of the path from the Cemetery and reminded the Committee that this is a dual purpose project; to give safe passage along Uplands Lane and provide a hardstanding for the football club.

The Clerk noted that a resident had been in contact regarding the basketball court. Their sons frequently use the facilities and they have asked that the nets are replaced. They also enquired about the resurfacing and were informed about the current position.

A resident had raised money for a commemorative bench for a local resident that passed away. Enquiries had been made to the Parish office and the Clerk is trying to contact the fundraiser.

There being no further items to raise, the Open Session concluded at 6.45pm and Standing Orders were applied.

23.68 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23.69 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 5th July 2023 following proposal by Cllr Medhurst, seconded by Cllr Knight, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

23.70 OS SWELLING HILL POND

23.70.1 To discuss desilting project and funding.

Cllr Gebbett had met with the Chairman of the Angling Club at the Pond. The following actions were agreed as a result of the meeting and the Committee decided to proceed with them:

-to contact another aquatic company to try and obtain a third quotation. If this is not possible, the second company agreed by the previous Open Spaces Committee would be awarded the contract. The S106 application has been made based on the second quotation.

-to fence off the small pond as this was now considered a public hazard. It was agreed that ideally this should be with recycled posts and wire to enable access for wildlife whilst ensuring public safety.

23.70.2 To discuss agreement of use/license to occupy.

It was agreed that the document sent through from the Chairman of the Angling Club would be reviewed and it was felt that a formal license to occupy would not be necessary.

23.71 OS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

23.71.1 To note any updates from FMEG representative.

Cllr Medhurst updated the Committee on the recent meeting. It was noted that as a result of the pandemic, the outside area at the School had been neglected. The meeting was closed at 6.56pm when a member of the public acting as a representative of FMEG informed the Committee that the School are in the process of identifying the works that they need help with. The meeting was then resumed at 7.03pm and Standing Orders were applied.

Cllr Coulson volunteered to be a representative and to liaise with the school on this and any other projects. The Clerk will add this to the next Full Council Agenda to be ratified.

23.71.2 To consider best platform for Alton Energy and Waste prevention team.

The Committee discussed representation from the above groups, and it was agreed to contact Four Marks Environmental Group regarding an environmental event that they are planning to hold.

23.72 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

23.72.1 To review bin provision at the Recreation Ground

At the previous Open Spaces meeting, a resident had requested that an additional bin is placed at the Cricket pitch. It was decided, after factoring in the cost involved in the purchase of a new bin and the additional lift, that the situation should be monitored.

The Committee briefly discussed the provision of dual use bins and Cllr Coulson noted that on speaking to the landscaping employee, who is tasked with strimming behind the tennis courts, it was reported to her that there is a high volume of dog waste in this area. As a result of the strimming, they are in close contact with the waste and the Clerk will put a post on Social Media to request that people do not allow their dogs to foul in this area.

23.72.2 To discuss prevention of vandalism at the Skate Park

Recently, there has been damage at the trim trail which is costly to repair. It was suggested that EHDC are contacted to supply a live feed monitoring camera. If this for any reason is not suitable, a nature camera or similar will be placed at the location.

The Committee also discussed the recent criminal damage to the Parish Office and comment was made about lack of facilities for older children/teenagers. Cllr Coulson suggested that a contact that she has runs a club or event for teenagers.

23.73 AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

23.73.1 To note area update and any reports.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Allotments	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	Cllr Gebbett reviewing.
Cemetery	Replacement gate stops.	Pending	DC Grant approved – on order.
	Replacement bench	Ordered	
	Composter	Ordered	
Lymington Bottom Green	Wildflower area and sig	In progress	Signs delivered – to agree 2023 installation.
	Village sign remedial works	In progress	Cllrs have agreed to make enquiries
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	Bid not accepted – investigation to purchase underway, potential DC Grant option, to present to new Committee. On Hold
	Phone box/book share	In progress	
Recreation Ground	Cricket equipment	Pending	Clerk to organise.
	Containers	In progress	Contact has been made with Archers to set up a working party.
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	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. S106 app – awaiting construction quotes
	Children's Play area	In progress	Annual maintenance has taken place, awaiting RoPSA works quotation.
	Inspections		Cllr Knight is booked in for RoSPA training in October 2023

	Water refill point		Service completed July 2023. – contract expires October 2024; notice must be given July 2024 if contract is to be terminated.
	Skate Park	In Progress	Working party to repaint surfaces – Autumn. Graffiti removal completed. District Councillor camera application.
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	Enquiries have been made re a kissing gate at FP17a
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Extinction Rebellion have been contacted regarding flyposting. Cleaning has been completed – Cllrs have agreed to put 'No Flyposting' stickers on.
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	In progress	S106 application has been made
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claims in progress
	Fencing replacement and small pond fencing.	In progress	Quotations being sought
Station Gardens	General		Newly planted pear tree doing well.
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.		Resident has alerted Council to dead Willow tree – to review/action.

The Clerk advised that they had met with the resident that complained about the condition of the containers and as a result had contacted the Archers to see if they would like to form a working party to paint them as a joint project. They have not responded.

23.73.2 Update on Recreation Ground maintenance

Two companies have conducted site visits to quote for the RoSPA works, but only one quotation has been received. This was not itemised and so this has been requested.

23.74 COUNCILLORS TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Clerk advised that the Tree Management Policy and Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan needed to be updated and it was agreed that the policies will be reviewed in the September 2023 meeting. It was agreed that the Oak tree at the Cemetery would be inspected as per the August 2022 report.

Cllr Coulson referring to an earlier point, asked that if she provided further information, an event is held for youth.

23.75 Next meeting 6th September 2023

23.76 Meeting closed at 7.25pm.