

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 commencing at 6.00pm at Benians Pavilion**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Cllr Gebbett, Cllrs Speed, Medhurst, Black, Pullen and Coulson
IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Tsigarides Clerk
APOLOGIES:	No apologies

23.99 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

23.100 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The COGS had asked for permission to have a Christmas Carol event on Saturday 23rd December 2023 in the morning, which is an event that they have traditionally held, and the Committee had no objection to this.

A member of the public had contacted the Parish Office to ask for permission to do 'magnetic fishing' at Swelling Hill Pond. They had asked the Angling Club who had no issue with the activity and the Councillors confirmed that they would give permission for this activity to take place, provided that anything of value was returned to the Council.

An email had been received by a resident from Kingswood Rise in relation to various activities taking place in Kingswood Copse. They complained about the overflowing dog waste bin, damage caused by a neighbour, dumping of waste, and reported that drug dealing had been taking place. It was agreed that the drug dealing issues would be reported to the PCSO and that a meeting would be arranged for them to show Councillors the alleged damage. The Clerk would report the overflowing bin.

Cllr Black made comments regarding some of the resurfacing that had recently taken place in the village and noted that the pavements had not been sealed properly.

Cllr Medhurst reported that the wire fence that runs along from the kissing gate at the end of FP19 (entrance to Old Down Woods) had been cut. The Clerk is aware of the landowner and will report this to them.

23.101 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Pullen declared an interest in Agenda Item 6.3 and it was advised that as their potential application for the gardening position is deemed to be a pecuniary interest, they would need to leave the room when the matter was discussed.

23.102 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

23.103 OS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

23.103.1 FMEG Update/Review

Cllr Pullen gave an overview of the most recent Four Marks Environmental Group meeting and advised that the group are going to try and be more independent in the new year, with an aim to draft a constitution and hold their own funds.

23.103.2 Badger Orchard Restoration Project – update

A site visit had taken place with the Clerk, Cllrs Medhurst and Pullen along with representatives from the badger protection agency to address the issue with the orchard. It was agreed that the first course of action should be to clear a path around the orchard so that access could be made and there could be an evaluation of what work needed to be actioned. The Open Space contractor had been asked to do this as Phase One. The Clerk had drafted some letters for residents to advise them of the project and Cllr Black offered to distribute them.

23.104 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/REVIEW

23.104.1 Dog fouling at the Recreation Ground

There was a discussion regarding the ongoing issue of dog fouling at the Recreation Ground and Cllr Gebbett suggested that Councillors might like to volunteer to be the Recreation Ground warden. The role could be an area of responsibility and would involve litter picking, checking for signs alongside reporting anti-social behaviour and informing dog owners about where they are allowed to have dogs on/off leads. This volunteer would also try and help with the issue of dog fouling and note owners on their inspections that could then be reported to EHDC. It was agreed that this new role might need some further discussion.

As a local dog walker, Cllr Pullen agreed to talk to the dog owning community and try and collect their thoughts on what measures the Council could put in place to try and deter people from not picking up after their dogs. He will report back to the Committee.

As part of the discussion, it was agreed to move the practise goal posts back over to the football pitch so that users could have the benefit of the floodlights. It was also agreed to consult Cllr Smith regarding the required signage for the skate park as on the RoSPA course, it was advised that dogs should not be at the skate park.

23.104.2 Bus stop replacement panels – to discuss.

After reviewing the finish options, it was agreed that the bus stop panels should be replaced with polycarbonate panels as they are the most cost-effective option. The Clerk would get a final price from the company and check this with the Committee via email.

23.104.3 Contract Gardner vacancy – to discuss recruitment.

Cllr Pullen left the room for this discussion.

It was agreed that the deadline for applications should be the 30th December 2023 and that the current contract gardener should be asked to help with the initial interviews which would be held at Oak Green parade.

23.105 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

23.105.1 Recreation Ground – marking of parking spaces.

The contractor for both Agenda Item 7.1 and 7.2 had sent through a complete quotation which was beyond the Committees delegated financial authority and the Clerk was asked for a breakdown of costs so that the Committee could make a decision on the various elements.

It was agreed that the car parking spaces, should they be marked out, should be of a generous size to allow families to use them and also that two disabled parking spaces would be marked out outside of the pavilion.

23.105.2 Recreation Ground – pothole maintenance

It was agreed that the pothole maintenance was an urgent task as there had been several resident complaints about the condition of the access road. In the absence of a detailed quotation, the Clerk was asked to instruct the contractor to undertake the minimum works which would make the road safe for users.

23.106 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

23.106.1 To note area update.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Allotments	Hedgerow improvement	Completed.	
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Clerk investigating
	Badger Orchard restoration	In progress	KB to deliver letters. Awaiting initial clearance.
	Pine Road Area	In progress	ClIr Gebbett overseeing – update 2024
Cemetery	Replacement gate stops.	Pending	Clerk to follow up.
	Replacement bench	Ordered	Delivered – awaiting treatment MS
Lymington Bottom Green	Wildflower area and sign	In progress	Expanded - Signs to be installed. RS
	Village sign remedial works	In progress	To review.
Oak Green parade	Clock	In progress	Repair in progress
	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	
	Contract gardener vacancy	In progress	Deadline agreed 30 th December 2023
	Phone box/book share	In progress	Being constructed by Alresford Mens Shed Jan 2024
Recreation Ground	Cricket equipment	Pending	Clerk to organise. – Jan 2024
	Containers	Completed	Painting completed – 16/10/23
	Football pitch	Path along pitch. Training goal posts	S106 funding app in progress – awaiting costs. To be relocated onto football pitch.
	Signage	Completed	Signage review 11/12/2023

	Inspections	In progress	
	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	Repainted on 11/12/2023 HandymanNature camera to be installed.
Jubilee Green	Jubilee plaque	Completed	Plaque installed.
	Jubilee bench	In progress	Concrete base being reviewed by KB
Climate change mitigation	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	Pending	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit
	Nature boxes	Pending	Installed.
	Footpaths	Ongoing	Enquiries have been made re a kissing gate at FP17a
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Extinction Rebellion have been contacted regarding flyposting. Next clean April 2024 Replacement bus stop panels – chosen polycarbonate.
	Parish Trees	In progress	Outstanding tree at Cemetery inspection in progress. Sycamore reduction at LBG – awaiting quotation. Willow at Kingswood Copse reported – awaiting quotation.
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	In progress	Site meeting 14/12/2023 Funding approved.
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claims in progress
	Fencing replacement and small pond fencing.	In progress	Quotations being sought
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.		Resident complaint – overflowing dog waste bin, anti social behaviour and damage. Being investigated.

The area update was noted, with Cllr Gebbett advising that there would be no headway on the Pine Road area until 2024.

23.106.2 Update on Swelling Hill Pond

A meeting was booked for the 14th December 2023 with the Committee Chairman and the contractor to discuss the works and timeline. The Angling Club chairman would also be invited. The project will be discussed in detail and access arrangements will be considered. Cllr Gebbett will update the Council on the 20th December 2023.

23.106.3 Update on tennis court resurfacing project.

During a meeting with EHDC and the LTA, it was advised that the Council should undertake a professional clean of the tennis courts as the moss level at present means that it is a hazard to play on the courts.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Parish Council could take over the resurfacing project and that the courts would then operate on a pay and play 'Spark' membership basis in conjunction with the LTA.

23.107 OS EVENTS

23.107.1 Environmental event request/Village picnic – to discuss any recommendations for Full council.

This item would be deferred to the meeting of the Full Council which will be held on the 20th December 2023 for further consideration.

23.107.2 Christmas event at Oak Green Parade.

All of the arrangements had been made for the event due to be held on the 9th December 2023. A decision would be made at 10am in consultation with Rev. Howard Wright as to whether the event would need to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

23.107.3 10k 2024 arrangements

Cllrs Gebbett and Speed offered to help arrange this event in consultation with Four Marks and Medstead running club. The Clerk would set up a meeting for the new year.

23.108 OS Next meeting – will be confirmed on the 27th December 2023

23.109 OS Meeting Closed at 7.25pm.