

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Four Marks Parish Council  
Held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at the Village Hall, at 7.00pm**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllrs Briggs, Coulson, Gebbett, McAllister, Medhurst, M Pullen, R Pullen and Smith</b>
<b>STAFF:</b>	<b>Louise Steele, Locum Clerk</b>
<b>PUBLIC:</b>	<b>One members of the public plus District Cllr Day</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Cllr Davies</b>

**25.159 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Davies.

**25.160 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation session.

**25.161 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Coulson declared an interest in Agenda Item 8.2 Late Planning Applications and specifically in EHDC-25-1127-TPO on the grounds that the application property is close to her home.

**25.162 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES**

Upon the proposal of Cllr R Pullen, seconded by Cllr Smith, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and the extraordinary Council meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**25.163 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Cllr Briggs indicated that he had nothing to report.

**25.164 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

District Cllr Neal Day reported about the question of speed cameras being supported by the Police quoting the example of Gloucestershire.

**25.165 BENIANS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**25.165.1 Planning application for the Benians Improvement Project**

Council noted that the planning application for the Benians Improvement Project had been submitted on 25 September 2025, and Cllr McAllister confirmed that the application had been recently validated.

**25.165.2 To consider the attached report setting out the business case for improvements to the Benians Pavilion Building and to revisit the Council's decision made at its extraordinary meeting held on Monday 28th July 2025. Specifically, to consider the proposal to apply to the Minister of State for permission to borrow £1,000,000 at a cost of approximately £68,000 a year over 50 years representing a 17% increase in the precept for the financial year 2026/27 being £16 a year for a Band D household.**

Councillors had received the business case for improvement to the Benians Pavilion building and indicated that since the matter had been discussed at previous meetings they had no further questions to ask. That being the case, upon the proposal of Cllr R Pullen, seconded by Cllr McAllister and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Minister of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £1,000,000 over the borrowing term of 50 years for the purpose of extending and improving the Benians Pavilion. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayment by 17% which is the equivalent of £35,000 a year (£16 per Band D household). This increase has been subject to a precept increase consultation. (The projected cost of the loan repayments is £68,000 a year but the balance of provision is already included in the Council's base budget).

**25.166 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**25.166.1 To receive the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1 October 2025.**

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1 October 2025 were received.

**25.166.2 LATE APPLICATIONS**

**EHDC-25-1127-TPO** 85 Lapwing Way, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5FD G1 - Field Maples - Reduce the trees form a height of 7m to a finished height of 5m

**EHDC-25-1151-TPO** Seven Firs, 86 Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5DJ -2 x Beech trees - to fell and replace with English Oak or Scots Pine trees

Upon the proposal of Cllr McAllister seconded by Cllr R Pullen it was RESOLVED that the parish council's comment on both applications should be to defer to the District Council's Arboricultural Officer.

**25.167 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**25.167.1 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18 June 2025 and 24 September 2025.**

The draft minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on 18 June 2025 and 24 September 2025 were received and a question of accuracy as to members' attendance was drawn to the Locum Clerk's attention. Council noted that the Committee's recommendations regarding the Internal Audit Report and the External Audit Report were elsewhere on the agenda

**25.168 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

As per minute 25.108 Council considered the detailed internal Audit Report dated 19 June 2025 and received the action plan recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Upon the proposal of Cllr R Pullen, seconded by Cllr Briggs and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED to adopt the action plan.

**25.169 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT**

Council noted that the 2024/25 audit is now complete; considered the external auditor's report and noted that two "other matters" were reported, one relating to the council's asset register was also referenced in the internal audit report and covered by the action plan agreed above. The second matter concerned the details of the minute relating to the appointment of the internal auditor. Council noted that the Finance & General Purposes Committee made no recommendations in respect of the External Audit Report.

**25.170 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

**25.170.1 To receive the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meetings held 1 October 2025.**

The draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 1 October 2025 were received.

**25.170.2** Upon the recommendation of the Open Spaces Committee Council considered the draft Food truck policy and agreed to refer the policy back to the committee to resolve questions as to charging and whether the actual level of charges should be included in the policy or in a separate schedule.

**25.171 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**25.171.1 Grant Application from Homestart (deferred from the June meeting).** This application was further deferred so that the Locum Clerk could request more up to date accounts from Homestart.

**25.172 TO NOTE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (as applicable)**

**25.172.1 Allotments** – Cllr Medhurst had resigned as representative – the Locum Clerk to act as representative for the remainder of her contract with the Council.

**25.172.2 Benians Committee** – the next Committee meeting will be in two weeks' time

**25.172.3 Oak Green** – Cllr Briggs reported on some tidying up that he had undertaken

**25.172.4 Village Hall** – Cllr Briggs reported that the Village Hall Secretary had resigned and a replacement is being sought.

- 25.172.5**      **Highways** – Cllr R Pullen reported that the next meeting with Highways will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- 25.172.6**      **EHAPTC** – Cllr R Pullen has nothing to report
- 25.173**        **Next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**
- 25.174**        **Meeting ended: 8.05 pm**

**Signed by Chairman**

**Date:**