

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Four Marks Parish Council
Held on 19th November 2025 at the Village Hall, at 7.00pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Briggs, Davies, Gebbett, McAllister, M Pullen, R Pullen and Smith
STAFF:	Louise Steele, Locum Clerk
PUBLIC:	Two members of the public plus District Cllr Richardson
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs Coulson and Medhurst

- 25.175 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Coulson and Medhurst
- 25.176 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
There was no public participation session.
- 25.177 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**
There were none.
- 25.178 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 15th October 2025
- 25.179 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**
Cllr Briggs indicated that he wished to plan a way of marking Christmas, perhaps after the next meeting of Council – it was agreed to discuss the matter informally after the conclusion of this meeting
- 25.180 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**
No report.
- 25.181 PLANNING COMMITTEE**
25.181.1 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 November 2025 were deferred.
- 25.181.2 EHDC-25-1270-HSE** 43 Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5DF Approval is sought for a single-storey rear / side infill extension
Comment: No objection
- 25.181.3 EHDC-25-1251-HSE** 1 Gloucester Close, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5HX construction of detached double garage/workshop and attached single garage. New pitched roof over existing kitchen & proposed porch canopy roof. Following the demolition of existing single & double garages
Comment: No objection
- 25.181.4 EHDC-25-1276-HSE** Perivale House, 77 Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5DG Replacement of existing flat roof and parapets with a new lean-to roof over an existing single rear projection.
Comment: No objection
- 25.181.5 EHDC-25-1282-TPO** Fernholt, 84 Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5DJ T3 Beech and T4 Beech - reduce the lateral branches by 2.5m to mitigate against the chance of branch failure
Comment: Defer to the Arboricultural Officer
- 25.181.6** Late Applications – there were none
- 25.181.7** Council considered its position regarding two questions relating to planning application EHDC-25-0055-OUT. Those questions and the response recommended by the Planning Committee are given below:

Q: Would the Parish Council permit the creation of a pedestrian access point from the site into the Recreation Ground?

A: No, not under any circumstances as the proposed paths would stop archery, football and cricket for safety reasons plus potential damage to the cricket pitch. The Committee recommends that a cycle pedestrian access is made to Chaffinch Road as this connects to the existing pedestrian cycle route to the recreation ground.

Q: Would the Parish Council support the installation of a fence on its land to facilitate the continued operation of the Archery Club?

A: A 2m bund should be built on the developer's land and planted to create habitats. This would give the developer biodiversity net gain (BNG), reduce their landfill costs, look better and be low maintenance.

Council debated the matter and agreed that it was broadly in agreement with the Planning Committee but heard that further reflection and new information meant that a more flexible approach was required. No consent to a pedestrian access point from the site into the Recreation Ground would be granted but, unless the owners of a strip of Chaffinch Road consented, the access there would be impossible and an option of access adjacent to the allotments should be researched.

25.182 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

25.182.1 Cllr McAllister gave an update on the Benians Project and upon his proposal seconded by Cllr R Pullen it was agreed that a meeting of the Community Facilities Committee be called for 26th November 2025.

25.182.2 The quote from the Council's transport and highways consultants (Paul Basham Associates) for works regarding potential alteration to Uplands Lane was approved

25.183 FINANCIAL ITEMS

25.183.1 The following reports for the Financial Year 2025/26 to 31 October 2025 were received:

- Expenditure against budget
- Balance Sheet
- Earmarked Reserves

25.183.2 A schedule of payments for September and October 2025 totaling £49,496.07 was approved.

25.184 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

25.184.1 The draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5 November 2025 were received.

25.185 ITEMS FOR DECISION

25.185.1 **To approve a letter to the Football Association re Grass Pitch Maintenance** A letter was considered and approved. Members noted the ongoing financial commitment that the agreement with the Football Association would involve.

25.185.2 **To approve the Tree Management Policy** – the policy was approved.

25.185.3 **To approve an application to Police & Crime Commissioners Officer for funding for four speed indicator devices** it was agreed that an application be made to the PCCO for funding for four speed indicator devices and a net cost to the council of nil.

25.186 GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR DECISION

25.186.1 **Homestart** – A grant of £1,000 was agreed by majority vote

25.186.2 **Four Marks Village Hall** – A grant of £4,100 was agreed.

25.186.3 **Citizens Advice East Hampshire** - A grant of £1,000 was agreed.

25.187 CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were received and the contents noted:

- Armed Forces Day Convoy 27 June 2026
- 14.2 Letter from Payroll Provider
- 14.3 School thanks to Assistant Clerk

- 25.188 STAFFING COMMITTEE**
Cllr R Pullen gave a brief report on staffing matters a recommended one-off payment to the Assistant Clerk was approved and it was agreed that for December 2025 payday would be brought forward to the 23rd of the month.
- 25.189 TO NOTE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**
- 25.189.1 Allotments** –the Locum Clerk reported that there was a meeting to be held on 4 December but she would be unable to attend. Cllr Davies offered to represent the parish council.
- 25.189.2 Benians Committee** – Cllr Smith gave a brief account of the last meeting
- 25.189.3 Oak Green** – Cllr Briggs reported on some tidying up that he had undertaken
- 25.189.4 Village Hall** – Cllr Briggs had nothing to report.
- 25.189.5 Highways** – Cllr R Pullen gave a brief account of the meeting with Highways held on 28th October 2025
- 25.189.6 EHAPTC** – Cllr R Pullen had nothing to report
- 25.190 Next meeting: 17th December 2025.**
- 25.191 Meeting ended: 8.30 pm**