

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Four Marks Parish Council Held
on 15th April 2026 at the Village Hall, at 7.00pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Briggs, Smith, Coulson, Gebbett, Medhurst, Thomson, M Pullen, and R Pullen
STAFF:	Debbie Batley, Locum Clerk
PUBLIC:	Two members of the public
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs Davies and Cllr McAllister

26.41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Davies and Cllrs McAllister

26.42 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

26.43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs R Pullen declared an interest in point 11.1 the Grant Application for Four Marks Village Hall

26.44 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Upon the proposal of Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Gebbett and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 18th March 2026.

26.45 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cllr Briggs indicated that he had nothing to report.

26.46 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT -None

26.47 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st April 2026, were received and noted.

26.47.1 Letter received from EHDC regarding 17A Lymington Bottom – this letter refers to breach of planning condition where permitted rights have been removed but planning condition on trees has also been breached as trees have been removed to make way for the garden building.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order, 2015 (or any Order revoking-enacting or modifying that Order) no extensions and outbuildings otherwise permitted under Schedule 2, Part 1, Class(es) A, B, or E of said Order shall be carried out on the dwellinghouses or within their curtilage without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority. It is considered that further extension/alteration of these dwellings could result in an adverse effect upon the adjacent properties and/or the visual character of the area.

Any trees or plants which, within a period of 5 years after planting, are removed, die or become seriously damaged or defective, shall be replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable with

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others of species, size and number as originally approved unless a suitable alternative species are otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Note: The scheme shall include boundary treatment details. Specifically, the rear western boundary should comprise low level planting; to prevent overshadowing of neighbouring gardens and new fencing should the existing condition of the fence not be satisfactory.

Action - In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and to enable proper consideration to be given to the impact of the proposed development on existing trees.

- 26.47.2** **Potential purchase of land to be agreed, along with the correct process.** Upon the proposal of Cllr Gebbett, seconded by Cllr Smith and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED. to approach the owner of the land by way of a letter.
- 26.47.3** Late Applications : [EHDC-26-0273-HSE](#)
Application Proposal: Approval is sought for a single storey side/rear extension
Application Location: 4, The Maytrees Lymington Bottom, Four Marks, GU34 5AH
- No Objection to be made**
- 26.47.4** **Road Names for Mount Royal** – request made to EHDC by Clerk as per the choices given by EHDC of old historical names.
- 26.47.5** **Neighbourhood Plan Update** - Upon the proposal of Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Coulson and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED to approve the request from M&FMNP Steering Group for approval of the draft Vision Statement.
- 26.47.6** **NPSG Update** - it was confirmed the Parish Council had been updated on the briefing presented by the group on 7th April 2026
- 26.48** **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**
- 26.48.1** The minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026 were received and noted.
- 26.48.2** **An update on the Village Picnic:** Pitch Plan shared, Open Spaces are still working on the details and will update the Full Council at the next meeting
- 26.48.3** **Artificial Cricket Wicket** – Quotes have been received and need to be discussed as a site meeting is needed to progress with the project. A budget was requested of up to £20,000. Upon the proposal of Cllr Medhurst, seconded by Cllr M Pullen and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED to set a budget of £20,000.
- 26.49** **COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE**
- 26.49.1** The minutes of the meeting of the Community Facilities Committee meeting held on the 11th March & 8th April 2026 were received and noted
- 26.49.2** Update on Hampshire Highways and Planning in regard to the Benians Pavillion, a site meeting was held yesterday – with Hampshire Highway, advising that priority arrows traffic coming into Upland Lane, would be acceptable to HH. HH needs to see a plan from our Project before this progress - this may take up to two weeks.
- We would also need to ask Copper Beeches to trim their hedge.
- 26.49.3** Employee Agent - Three quotes have been received. It is noted that there is a large variation in costs from £20,000 to £50,000 it was proposed to take this to the next stage of asking for Tenders.
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Proposed by Cllr Medhurst and seconded by Cllr M Pullen, with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED to take the process to the Tender Stage

26.50 FINANCIAL ITEMS

26.50.1 Following reports for the Financial Year 2025/26 to 31 March 2026 –Please note: **All reports are pre accruals:**

- Expenditure against budget
- Balance Sheet
- Earmarked Reserves

10.2 To note bank balances at end of March 2026 and receive the Bank Reconciliations

10.3 To receive and approve the payments for March 2026

10.4 Approve Year End Reserve Transfers

Upon the proposal of Cllr Briggs, seconded by Cllr Smith and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED, that all reports and payments were approved.

26.51 GRANT APPLICATION FOR DECISION

26.51.1 Application from Four Marks Village Hall for a grant for improvements – due to the Parish Council not having the up-to-date Balance Sheets for the FMVH, this item was deferred until the next Full Council meeting.

26.52 POLICY

None

26.53 RISK ASSESSMENT

None

26.54 INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESS PLAN

None

26.55 ABCD ASSET MAPPING

26.55.1 **To consider an oral update on ABCD Asset Mapping.**

Cllr M Pullen explained that at the next meeting a website marketing all local clubs etc would be discussed.

26.56 PARISH MEETINGS

26.56.1 To consider an oral update about the requested extraordinary parish meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting that they were unable to secure a venue for the dates offered by Cllr Bowerman and had requested additional dates when she was available.

It was noted that seven clear days are needed to inform all parties concerned of the meeting.

6.56.2 To consider items for the agenda of the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 29 April.

It was confirmed that a Volunteer Celebration for everyone would be the theme of this year's

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meeting and that refreshment would be provided.

Cllr Briggs will organise the necessary display boards

26.57 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

26.57.1 Request which Committees would Cllr Thomson like to join – Cllr Thomson requested Planning

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

26.58.1 Allotments – No Update

26.58.2 Benians Committee – No Update

26.58.3 Oak Green - Cllr Briggs –Tesco insurance brokers have asked if we wish to make a claim regarding Tesco lorry damage to the wooden wall at Oak Green, claim has been requested. Investigate what is happening with the flagpole.

26.58.4 Village Hall – No update

26.58.5 Highways – Five Lanes project is still ongoing awaiting further update

26.58.6 EHAPTC – No update - No meeting arranged at the moment

26.58.7 Four Marks Primary School – no update received from Headmaster after meeting with Cllr Coulson

26.59 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council have the right to exclude the public and press from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest and may pass a resolution, without notice, to do so.

26.60 Cover for Clerk and Assistant Clerk - Upon the proposal of Cllr Gebbett, seconded by Cllr Briggs and with all Councillors in agreement it was RESOLVED, that the Locum's Clerk would have their Temporary Contract extended to the end of July 2026 and that any extra hours carried out by the Locum Clerk would be paid. That the Locum RFO would be retained until the end of July.

26.61 Correspondence from the member of the public, it was resolved that the Clerk would reply to said correspondence.

26.62 Meeting closed at 8.45pm

26.63 Next meeting: 20th May 2026