

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020, commencing at 6.30pm  
Held remotely via Zoom video conferencing**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman)</b>
	<b>Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis, John Hammond, Shaun McCarthy, Bryan Timms, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Jo Tsigarides, Assistant to Executive Officer (AEO)</b>
	<b>Two members of the public</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Cllr Tim Brake</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>Cllr Mike Sanders</b>

**20.94 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of public to the meeting, briefing all attendees on how the meeting would proceed. The Chairman then invited items for discussion under the open session.

**20.95 OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public raised the reopening of the children's play area. She explained that she felt that the area should be reopened as it is an outdoor space where transmission levels are known to be lower, that children are not considered to be 'super spreaders' and that with the correct signage in place, parents should be able to choose to take their children to the park. She works for the NHS and has three children herself and felt passionately that these facilities were needed explaining that she thought that soon, members of the public would start to take matters into their own hands and climb over the fence to gain access.

**Cllr Hammond entered the meeting shortly after the member of the public started to speak.**

Cllr Tomlinson raised a request that had been received by the EO concerning a basketball club. In a new proposition to the village, an ex-NBA player would be coaching children aged 11+ on a Saturday morning. The club are enquiring about hiring the MUGA and access to the pavilion and would like to hold a meet and greet session to gauge interest. All 'leaders' are DBS checked and Covid-19 guidelines would be adhered to. Cllr Thomas expressed the opinion that this should be supported and felt that this initiative was outstanding. It was agreed that this should be discussed later in the meeting once a decision had been made about the outdoor areas.

Cllr Foster raised a request from the putting club that the play and putt area is opened for their annual putt which is due to take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. It was decided that this should be discussed later, after the agenda item.

***There were no further issues to raise, the Chairman closed the open session and opened the formal meeting at 6.45pm Standing Orders were applied.***

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#### **20.96 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Brake, the apology was noted and accepted. Cllr Sanders was absent, no apologies received.

#### **20.97 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman reminded all Councillors of their obligation to declare any declarations of either pecuniary or personal interest in any Agenda items.

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **20.98 RE-OPENING OF CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

The Chairman began the discussion of this item by asking the Council to consider whether the outdoor areas (the children's play area, MUGAs and adult multi gym) should be reopened. She asked the Councillors to share their views in turn before voting and asked that they consider, alongside the Government Guidelines of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and the risk assessment completed by the EO, that Covid-19 could be in existence long term, that other Councils did initially keep their play areas closed but have now reopened and also that the residents of Four Marks do have large recreation areas to enjoy.

Each Councillor gave their opinions and discussed the following factors:

- That the area could be manned by Councillors if this were deemed necessary on a rota basis
- That play is important to children and families
- The infection rates are relatively low in this area and that risk cannot be totally mitigated
- That there is growing pressure from the community
- The children's play area is often frequented by families and judging by their behaviour when there were previous issues with litter, they are responsible and care about the play area

Following the three minutes that each councillor was given, the potential use of the toilet at the pavilion was discussed. Several people have become aware of the combination code and the toilet is being misused. It is not being cleaned and is not a public toilet. Cllr Foster suggested that a basic padlock with no combination is put on this toilet.

As a result of a unanimous vote, it was RESOLVED to approve the motion to open the children's play area, MUGA's and adult multi-gym and to monitor for compliance on a regular basis, reserving the right to close any of these areas if there is a conflict with any Government or Four Marks Parish Council guidelines, if required.

Cllr McCarthy raised that a date was needed for the reopening and Cllr Foster suggested Thursday. This will allow time to get the signage in place and review if there needs to be any changes in light of the training session that the AEO is attending on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which is 'Safely Back to Public Spaces'. It was agreed that once open, there should be clear communication via social media about the reopening and conditions of use.

The earlier discussion regarding both the putting club and basketball club were revisited and it was decided that the EO should obtain a copy of the Covid-19 risk assessments from both organisations.

#### **20.99 NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

#### **20.100 The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.20**