

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 6th January 2021 commencing at 6.00pm
This meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis and Janet Foster
IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Goudie (Executive Officer - EO) Jo Tsigarides (AEO) Cllr Simon Thomas (for open session only) One member of the public
APOLOGIES:	None

21.01 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed all Councillors and attendees and asked if anyone had anything to raise under the open session.

Cllr Simon Thomas, in attendance, wished to raise the Committee's attention to an issue on the border of Medstead and Four Marks of mass tree felling at Woodlea Farm, Cllr Tennyson had taken the lead on this and was negotiating with the landowner, Forestry Commission and the tree officers at EHDC. The area abuts an Open Space provision detailed in the Neighbourhood Plan, and does contain some trees awarded protection, although noted the landowner is entitled to carry out such works on their land, in the current climate emergency, the loss of so many trees in one area is devastating.

The EO raised the issue with the cricket square barrier fencing, having taken quite a battering in the recent inclement weather, and whether the Committee thought the work to restore it was worthwhile, as very time consuming. After discussion it was agreed to contact the contractor and seek advice.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.15pm. Standing Orders were applied.

21.02 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

21.03 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21.04 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Davis, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting in person.

21.05 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

21.05.1 Replacement guttering for the pavilion

After a discussion it was agreed that quote one was preferred, being the more cost effective and detailed and therefore, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint the contractor who had provided quote 1. It was noted, however, that quote two had provided for a different style of guttering, but it was agreed that, due to the potential for vandalism, it would not be appropriate, nor cost effective long term, to go for the deep flow guttering.

21.05.2 Pavilion drainage proposals

The EO advised the committee, that as previously thought, the drain by the pavilion goes nowhere, so therefore once filled with silt, it will only overspill. The contractor had jet washed it all out but confirmed that it would not be long before the problem reoccurred. The EO also noted that the drain cover was higher than the tarmac, so the water just sits until it dissipates. The contractor had agreed to provide quotations for a solution to the problem, however it would involve a soakaway either in the car parking area or on the scrub land (not owned by the PC), and that as this was not causing any real problem or damage, apart from mud mess at times, consideration needed to be given as to whether this would be financially viable. Cleaning the channels between the kerbing had not worked due to the fact the soil was still backed up against the kerbstones.

It was agreed no action would be taken at this time, but the EO advised that the proposal to be considered in the next Agenda item may alleviate the issue to some degree.

21.05.3 Additional open space maintenance – Uplands Lane

The EO, following discussions with the owner of Uplands, would like to propose that some hard pruning works to cut back the overgrowth and overhang from the area to the South of the pavilion and re-introduce a hedgerow be carried out. It would be beneficial for all parties, being more aesthetically pleasing and a more secure boundary between the Recreation Ground, Uplands, and the scrub area, a denser haven for wildlife, and could potentially resolve some of the drainage issues referred to in Minute 21.05.2.

It was agreed, and therefore RESOLVED to contact the open space contractor to carry out the work as discussed.

Cllr Davis raised the issue with reference to Japanese Knotweed. The EO confirmed that, as far as she was aware, it had all been treated, but this would need checking again next Spring, as it is likely that some will regrow as it is very hard to eradicate completely once spread with one treatment.

21.05.4 Purchase of replacement floodlight lamps for tennis courts and training area

Cllr Bonter had raised the suggestion of purchasing new lamps, rather than replacing the bulbs, for the tennis court floodlights in the open session at the previous meeting, and after discussion it was agreed:

- To contact a contractor with an elevated platform (Cllr Foster had the number of the contractor who erected the Christmas lights and agreed to forward the number) for hire quotation.
- To contact a local electrician and discuss whether they could carry out the works of replacing the lamps if the Parish Council purchased them. (Cllr Foster also agreed to forward the number of the electrician to the EO)
- To contact the Tennis Club for access to the meter and check code for padlock.
- To check the football club floodlights to see how many need to be replaced, as it would make sense to do both at the same time if hiring a platform. Cllr Bonter agreed to check the football lights.

21.06 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

21.06.1 Pedestrian safety signage

The EO had forwarded the email from the Highways contact with reference to the introduction of similar signage as that seen in Beech. Having noted the content, and the fact that it was more complicated than envisaged, a new suggestion was proposed to approach Highways for one of their own signs. The Committee agreed that this would be worth pursuing, noting that the area of most concern was on Brislands Lane, where the footpath ends and there is no verge. The EO agreed to contact Highways.

21.06.2 Additional tree works – Kingswood Copse

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting, that had been received from a local resident suggesting some additional works at Kingswood Copse to a tree in close proximity to a residential garden. The EO confirmed that following a site visit from the tree management company, the tree (a goat willow) was over two metres away from the fence line and that there was no reason to remove the tree. However, as a gesture of goodwill it was agreed to remove one or two overhang branches. The EO had also reported that two properties had been mowing a corridor into the copse adjacent to their fence lines, which was understandable to keep the natural growth away from causing any damage, it was in excess 2 metres and looking more like extensions to domestic gardens. It was agreed to contact the residents concerned and ask them to reduce the corridor to one meter and allow the natural ground cover to re grow.

21.06.3 Cemetery – breach in regulations

A photograph of a plaque that had been affixed to a memorial stone had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. Any additional works to memorial works must be applied for, agreed by the Council as the Local Burial Authority and a fee paid, none of which had taken place. After discussion it was agreed that this was a breach in regulations, and to allow would set a precedent and therefore the next of kin should be written to and asked to remove the plaque and apply for permission as appropriate. The EO also confirmed that the out of parish fee had been waived for the same family as when the deceased had left Four Marks, they had gone straight into a care situation, and the burial fees state that they would still be classed as Four Marks residents if this is the case. After further discussion on this issue, it was however agreed that this stipulation should remain with no time limit enforced, but that each case should be at the Council's discretion on a 'case by case' basis.

21.06.4 Community payback initiative

An email approach had been circulated for discussion. It was agreed that the Council could perhaps take advantage of this initiative, specifically for litter picking, and the EO was asked to make contact for further details.

21.06.5 Local Community Engagement Officer

As Minute 21.06.04, an email approach had been received on the suggestion of creating a role as detailed above, which was discussed in detail. The EO had also contacted the Town Clerk at New Alresford Town Council for further information and advice. Councillors did not believe that one person should co-ordinate all village entities, believing that the Parish Councils and Parish magazines have their own roles to play in publicising news, documents and events within their own demographic, and did not therefore agree that, although the good intention was noted, a joined-up approach would be appropriate. The EO agreed to respond accordingly.

21.07 OS AREA UPDATE

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31 Winchester Road	- Proposal to replace bench and notice board, wild-flower planting and bin	Ongoing	Notice board ordered Wildflowers awaiting planting [wildflowers do not mow signs required] Bench to be ordered - DC grant applied for Bin (from Oak Green) to be installed
Allotments	-Fencing, estate side, and wildlife corridor breach reports	Pending	Awaiting site visit
Badger Close	- Replacement fencing - Wildlife corridor inspection, wild cherry now removed, shrubs to be planted to replace	Awaiting action Pending	Contract awarded, awaiting installation
Cemetery	- VE Day memorial tree now planted awaiting plaque - <i>Update of burial regulations and consideration for new procedures (F&GP)</i>	Ongoing	
Kingswood Copse	- Ash Tree, maintenance works and planting - Additional works to be considered following residents enquiry	Awaiting action Agenda item	Work to be carried out January 2021
Lymington Bottom Green	- Wildflower Planting -To the Pond sign	Awaiting action Pending	Area to be prepared and seeds to be planted Location agreed, but issue with sign, awaiting action
Oak Green	-Christmas tree and lights, to be removed 5 th January 2021	Ongoing	
Recreation Ground	- Training area and tennis courts floodlights; agree purchase of replacement light housings, electrician to be contacted for costs for installation - Vandalism and CCTV – - Security lighting approved, contractor awarded contract, awaiting installation - new CCTV motion activated camera to be installed at the Pavilion to attempt to curb night time anti-social behaviour - Children's play area. - fencing repaired and new basketball nets installed - Cricket pitch; no further action until Spring - Public Spaces Protection Order; awaiting response to	Agenda item Pending Pending	Awaiting date of installation from contractor Awaiting installation

	alcohol free zones request outcome		
Station Gardens	- No reported issues		
Swelling Hill Pond	Shoring works Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted - boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry - refurbishment of Well - open space works including silt spreading and logs moved now carried out, wildflower seeds planted	Pending Awaiting response Awaiting confirmation of boundary registration	Postponed until Spring/Summer 2021 Contractors to be contacted for quotes Seek quotations
Footpaths	Footpath 2 - hard surfacing laid, laurel obstruction removed Footpath map boards - awaiting amendments Kissing Gates - FP27 and FP18/7 – ROW request to remove stiles Footpath 13 Diversion	Awaiting action Ongoing Pending Now under Consultation	 To be updated at meeting Support comment submitted
Benians Pavilion	- Blocked Drain; now cleaned as far as the pipe goes - Roof and guttering; some loose tiles an all guttering requires replacement	Agenda item Agenda item	Drain now cleaned, further options to be discussed Quotations submitted, attached to report for approval
Climate Change	- Water refill station	On hold	
Open Spaces – General	PARISH TREES Ash tree removal Tree planting -Swelling Hill – 5 trees -Recreation Ground – 13 trees Species to be agreed GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE Hedges to be reduced to annual cut only (except Cemetery which will be as necessary) BUS SHELTERS Maintenance/Cleaning VILLAGE SIGNAGE Gateway signage; Lymington Bottom Road /Boyneswood Road Gateway signate: A31 LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD	Ongoing Awaiting Action On hold Pending	Planning application to be submitted Quotes to be sought for job S106 applications on hold, however enough funds available to go ahead Review in Spring Awaiting contact from HCC design technician

	<p>Awaiting Pedestrian crossing works, site will then be cleared, and once carried out, decision to be made whether to approach Highways further</p> <p>NOTICE BOARDS Proposal to replace Lymington Barns board 50/50 using S106 contributions</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Awaiting quotations</p>	<p>MPC leading project</p>
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Matters arising. The EO presented the latest version of the footpath map, and although one or two comments were noted, the EO agreed to circulate to Committee members, for further comment before responding to the designer.

21.07.1 Kissing gate update

The EO confirmed that one of the landowners' contacted had responded that, if a kissing gate was not to be installed, they would not be supportive of the removal of the stile, which had recently been renovated.

The second landowners had yet to respond.

21.08 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

21.09 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.30pm.