

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 commencing at 6.00pm at The Benians Pavilion**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis and Janet Foster
IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Tsigarides (AEO) Cllr John Hammond One member of the public
APOLOGIES:	None

21.37 OS CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Cllr Tomlinson opened the first face to face meeting of this Committee this year by welcoming everyone.

21.38 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

21.39 OS ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

It was decided unanimously that Cllr Tomlinson would continue to be the Chairman of this Committee. Proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Foster.

21.40 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public raised an issue with communication of meetings, commenting that they were the only resident to attend. They suggested that meetings are better communicated via social media. It was noted that the agendas are displayed on the noticeboards, in the Four Marks News and on Facebook but that social media notifications could be more consistent and would be reviewed.

The process of not publishing minutes in a short time frame was also questioned, with the member of public giving an example that the previous Full Council minutes and Annual Parish minutes were not yet on the website and thought it unacceptable that there is such a delay. The AEO will liaise with the EO and consider whether it is possible to publish the draft minutes once approved by the chairman.

The member of the public also made reference to Agenda item 9.4 and asked why an Oak tree had been selected as it appeared to have no link to the Parish Council logo. The response was that something had to be chosen that was appropriate and an Oak tree is included in the Council logo and has relevance due to Oak Green Parade. The member of the public also stated that they would favour the wording 'Welcome to Four Marks, please drive carefully'. It was noted that both speedwatch and streetwatch messages are going to be on the signs.

The AEO informed the Committee there had been a resident complaint about basketball being played at 5.30/6.00am in the morning. The complainant, who lives in close proximity to the MUGA, recalled that it had happened around Christmas time and had started again recently. He had approached a youth that was using the court early one morning and when asked to stop, he did. The resident has suggested opening the court at an appropriate time in the morning but, although a time lock was discussed, the Committee felt that locking a sports

facility or displaying signage to discourage use are not appropriate. As this is the only complaint to date, it will be monitored.

The AEO gave details of a quote that had been received to deal with the weeds on the cricket pitch. There was a discussion about whether maintaining the cricket pitch is worthwhile due to the lack of activity. Past attempts at attracting cricket clubs have been unsuccessful, but it was agreed that the AEO would have a final attempt at generating some interest. The Committee agreed to the works subject to clarification on where the debris would be left. There has also recently been an issue with dogs on the pitch and the EO had asked if there are any volunteers that would be happy to put some blue rope around the pitch to act as a deterrent. Cllrs Bonter, Foster and Tomlinson are happy to help with this task.

21.41 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Foster declared an interest in item 8.1

21.42 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 following a proposal by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Foster, 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.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.20pm. Standing Orders were applied.

21.43 OS REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee RESOLVED to adopt the recommendation made at Full Council on 5th May 2021 to increase the EO's delegated monetary authority from £500 to £1000. The Committee authorised expenditure will then change to £1000-£5000.

As per Standing Order 4, a quorum for a meeting of a Committee must be no less than three. It had been raised by some members that this could create difficulty as the Committee has only four members. The Chairman asked Cllr Hammond whether he would consider joining the Committee and in response, he expressed that he would like to have some input on the Committee but is unable to commit to attending all of the meetings. It was suggested that he could act as a 'reserve' or 'substitute' member and come to those meetings where he has a special interest or expertise. The AEO will research this as a possibility but thought that a reserve or substitute member may only attend where an ordinary member cannot. To be reviewed.

The Terms of Reference state that meetings are 'after each planning meeting' on the 'first Wednesday of each month'. Although the Committee does ordinarily meet once a month, it has been before planning. The Committee would like a revision of the wording, not detailing any specifics.

21.44 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

21.44.1 APPLICATION OF USE OF RECREATION GROUND BY COGS

The AEO has received two applications from the Family Support Worker at The Church of the Good Shepherd. One is for a COGS Tots Teddy Bears Picnic to be held on Tuesday 13th July 2021 from 1.30-3.00pm, where twenty people are expected to attend and the second is for Messy Church Family Picnic on Sunday 11th July 2021 from 3-5pm where fifty people are expected to attend. The applications and basic risk assessments are in order and by that time, all social distancing measures are expected to be finished.

There is an issue with toilet facilities as per the circulated email. The applicant has contacted a representative from the Benians Committee and has been reassured that providing the Government road map is as predicted, the facilities should be available for them to use. The Committee are unanimously supportive of this event and subject to the Covid-19 regulations and toilet facilities being organised, they RESOLVED to authorise both events.

21.44.2 APPLICATION FOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SPORTS PAVILION NOTICEBOARD

The AEO advised that a representative from the Benians Committee had asked for a contribution towards the new noticeboard at the sports pavilion. In their discussions, the Committee commented that they were surprised by the size of the board but recognised that they will not have an input on the dimensions of the board. The importance of promoting the various sports clubs and activities on offer at the recreation ground was noted. It was RESOLVED to make a contribution of £439.90 to the board subject to the Parish Council being given permission to display some standard items such as the full address including the postcode of the building.

21.44.3 VARIOUS ELECTRICAL/LIGHTING QUOTES FOR THE RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Bonter gave an update on the meeting at the recreation ground on 29th April 2021 and summarised the quotes that resulted from this. He noted that to date, he has been impressed with the work of the contractor involved.

Quote 13175

1, Tennis court floodlights - Cllr Bonter discussed the quote and keeping a stock of the parts at the Parish Office for future use so that contractors would not have to source parts. The AEO advised that she had been in touch with a contractor previously used for the Christmas lights who have the equipment to work at height. A much lower quote has been received but as this was too late to circulate, it was decided that it would be sent to the Committee for consideration and that Cllr Bonter would contact the company himself as this is his area of expertise.

2, Football Pitch – This matter has been put on hold as it was noted that the football club have not expressed further desire to have these lights installed and it was though unnecessary as it is on the training ground.

3, Distribution Cabinet – This matter was considered to be a health and safety issue and it was RESOLVED to accept this quote.

Quote 13174

The Committee RESOLVED to approve this quote to install a time switch/delay control over the football pitch lighting, similar to that currently in use in the MUGA.

21.44.4 QUOTE FOR RELOCATING THE TRAINING GOAL POSTS AT THE RECREATION GROUND

Further to a site meeting on Thursday 13th May 2021, a quote has been submitted to move the training goal posts diagonally, filling in sockets and supplying three new ones. It was noted at this meeting that to install a canopy would be in excess of £6000. The Committee discussed that the expenditure of £1357.70 was not justified due to only two properties being affected, and one resident complaining about the issue. It was decided that the situation would be monitored, and that although replacing the nets would not solve the issue, that there are several holes which may be contributing to the problem. It was RESOLVED to replace the relevant net.

21.45 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

21.45.1 Football disruption at the recreation ground on 10th April 2021

A confidential report had been circulated prior to this meeting regarding an incident that took place between Four Marks Football Club and a visiting team on 10th April 2021. The incident resulted in police attendance and was escalated to the FA. Their final ruling was to fine the clubs and ban the main protagonist from playing for twelve weeks.

The Committee were shocked by the behaviour demonstrated, particularly as there were young spectators. After a discussion of the various measures that the Committee could take, it was decided that in the first instance, the

AEO would draft a letter to the opposing club informing them that the Council would like to inform them that this type of behaviour would not be tolerated and ask for assurances that if they are to return, there would not be a repetition. If the response is satisfactory, no further action will be taken but if there were any further behaviour of this nature, the Committee would consider banning the club from playing at Four Marks recreation ground.

The AEO is reviewing the agreements in place with sporting clubs and has sent out a revised version of 'Hire of Council Facilities by Sports and Recreational Clubs'. This includes a clause stating that all incidents that take place on Council owned land should be reported within 24 hours to the Parish Council. No further amendments were suggested.

21.45.2 Badger Close resident complaint

Cllr Foster received a complaint about children playing in the dell and had visited the home of the children that were suspected to be involved to speak to the parents. Various options were considered, including putting a sign up, organising some fencing and trying to communicate with the parents in the area but it was decided that although it is a Council owned piece of land, the duty of care was to maintain the area as it should be, not to try and prevent children from playing there. Although this area is not a playground, it was acknowledged that children are attracted to such areas and that they would probably take little notice of efforts to deter them. It was also noted that brambles are soon likely to grow preventing access.

21.45.3 Verges/Mowing Schedule

At the APM, District Cllr Thomas raised a possible collaboration between the Parish Council and District Council in organising some wildflower areas/verges. The AEO followed up on this, and there is no plan in place of yet but in the interim, attended a webinar on 'Valuable Verges'. This included information from Plantlife, who are responsible for the 'No Mow May' campaign along with other speakers and information on some local trials taking place such as in Alresford where there is a multi-agency approach to managing verges. There is also a Parish Pollinator Pledge soon to be launched. The AEO will circulate the slides from the presentation on receipt and research this further.

21.45.4 Oak Tree Graphic for Village Gateway signage

Currently, two designs are being considered for the Oak Tree illustration to go on the village sign. The Committee compared the designs and considered how they look from a distance, and how accurate they were in their representation of an Oak Tree. An illustration had been sourced from a local designer and it was RESOLVED by majority vote that this design would feature on the village gateway signage with no revisions.

It was suggested that in light of the comment from the member of the public at the Open Session, that the wording of the speed message may be revisited when further signs are produced coming in from the main road. The wording will remain as agreed on the signs currently being produced.

21.45.5 Forming sub committees for environmental issues and events or making these standard agenda items.

Cllr Davis noted at the beginning of this item that it may be difficult to form sub committees for either of these points as there is already difficulty in garnering interest in the Open Spaces Committee.

There was a discussion about how much involvement the Parish Council should have in the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and what the community expectations of the Council are. It was noted that Cllr McCarthy had previously expressed an interest in this event and that the AEO would approach him for his input with the aim of facilitating a working party. It is hoped that representatives from various groups and organisation within the village will come together to organise an event to be held over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Cllr Bonter raised that although various environmental issues had been previously raised, he felt that they had lost their momentum and that they should be a priority. It was agreed to make environmental issues a standing item on the agenda and in preparation, some of the previous items that had not been put into effect would be revisited at the next meeting to discuss further action.

21.45.6 Food van on Lily Road

A report was circulated prior to the meeting that concerned a hog roast van that was situated on Lily Road on 3rd May 2021 from 12-4pm. Although the owners have not asked for permission to use the recreation ground, it was noted that they may have chosen this location due to its proximity to the recreation ground. It was agreed that the AEO would draft a clause regarding street trader specific wording to be included in The Recreation Ground Rules of Use Policy for adoption at Full Council on 23rd June 2021.

21.45.7 Creating a separate dog friendly area in children's play area

The AEO reported that there have been some complaints about people having to tie their dogs up outside and not having visibility of them. This, in the past, has encouraged people to take their dogs into the children's play area. At the site meeting with the contractor on 13th May 2021, some ideas were shared around creating a separate dog area, that would be fenced off. Subsequently, a quote was received but this and the idea of inviting dogs into the play area in any capacity was rejected unanimously. It was noted that there are rings available to tie dogs up, that the volume of dogs did not warrant the expense and that if the area was used by several dogs, they may become disruptive.

Cllr Foster raised a separate item on the contractor quote about a replacement gate for the children's play area and stated that the issue is the closer on the gate and that it has already been a big expense. It was suggested that the AEO contact the company who installed the gate if there are issues and that Cllr Foster may have an interim solution for the noise. The Committee is also awaiting the report from the RoSPA inspection on 18th May 2021.

21.45.8 Uplands Lane Drain

Cllr Foster noted that there is a build-up of debris on the French drains at the entrance to Uplands Lane. The AEO has been asked to contact the original contractor to see if they are able to clear the debris and if they are not able to undertake this work, an alternative company should be instructed to clear the drains.

21.46 Area Update

21.46.1 Update report

The AEO went through the update report, highlighting that the bench on the A31 is expected to arrive w/c 22nd June 2021 and that all of the installations of various signs would take place together.

In addition to the report, it was noted that the Ash tree works had successfully commenced but that although the AEO had not spoken to the contractor, it seemed that they were running behind schedule based on the works that had been completed on the 19th May 2021. She would speak to the contractor and update the Committee.

Cllr Bonter was asked about the security camera for the pavilion. He does have the camera and will confirm a date to install.

21.46.2 Mapboards

The AEO explained that we are still waiting for the graphic panel to be supplied and would follow up with them on expected delivery and installation. The maps for the railway station and Lymington Bottom Green are still awaiting the HCC logo which is necessary due to the grant funding but progress expected before the next Committee meeting.

21.46.3 Great British Spring Clean

Despite contacting various organisations within the village, the AEO has not had any positive indications that anyone would like to be involved in litter picking apart from the Beavers who will do a litter pick of the recreation

ground on Monday 24th May 2021. The promotion pack has been received this week and so, posters will be displayed in key noticeboards and a message has been put on Facebook. Cllr Bonter enquired as to whether the additional litter pickers have been purchased but as there have not yet been any requests to borrow any, this has been put on hold. Litter pickers have been sourced on Amazon and so can be ordered for next day delivery if anyone does contact the office.

21.46.4 Wildflower signs/ Do Not Mow

The AEO advised that following the judging before the meeting, letters would be given to the school along with the seed packet prizes. The Committee thanks Four Marks School for their involvement and thought that the standard of the entries was excellent. This message is reflected in the letters that will be given to the children. Photographs will be taken of the winning entries and submitted to Hampshire Print.

21.47 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 16th June 2021, 6.00pm, in person – venue to be confirmed.

21.48 OS The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.