

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 1st September 2021 commencing at 6.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

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

21.69 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

21.70 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Foster had noticed an issue during her recreation ground checks in that screws from the agility beam at the skate park have repeatedly been loosened. Prior to the meeting, she had circulated some suggestions on how best to deal with this including purchasing replacement screws, instructing a contractor to deal with the issue and also putting epoxy resin in the heads so that they cannot be loosened. Following a discussion of the options presented and confirmation that it would not affect access to the equipment for future maintenance, it was decided that Cllr Foster should purchase and apply the resin as this would provide a solution and prevent it from happening again.

The member of the public expressed that they had noticed the new gateway signage and that they had been impressed with it. They did state the opinion that on the phase two signs, they would prefer; 'please drive carefully through the village', as opposed to naming organisations such as Speedwatch which visitors may not be aware of. Following some research on the official boundary of Four Marks, they also suggested that the phase two signs should be placed adjacent to Oakhurst Drive and Barn Lane to reflect the true boundary.

The member of the public asked the Committee what measures would be in place to evaluate the success of the water refill station. Namely whether there was a meter or device that could be installed in order to see how frequently it is being used and also what the maintenance arrangements are. The Chairman informed them that the Committee would make an informed judgement at the end of the three year period based on seeing the frequency of use from the Parish Office and the AEO informed them that via the agreement, all maintenance is included but that vandalism is very rare and will be dealt with on a case by case basis with the company. The area that the water refill point is due to be sited is directly in front of the Parish office and has good CCTV coverage. It was noted that the water refill station was an initiative that was undertaken to try and support sustainability in accordance with the Councils environmental actions.

Cllr Pullen referred to the new gateway signage (phase one) and asked whether the new signs were now in their correct location. He was informed that the contractors had made a mistake initially which was quickly raised by the EO and rectified.

Cllr Davis noted that some additional signs had been displayed regarding dogs in the children's play area and that there is a high volume of signs displayed around the recreation ground. There was a discussion about whether the community read these signs and if they have the desired impact. The deterioration of the existing signs and

volume in general had been noted by the EO and AEO earlier that day and it was decided that an audit of signage should take place in the near future.

The EO informed the Committee that she had obtained a copy of the Parish Council Byelaws 1973 which were put in place on the purchase of the recreation ground. She will distribute these documents for future review. The member of public asked that if this is to be a future Agenda item, that a copy is distributed to the Public with the supporting documents.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.21 pm and Standing Orders were applied.

21.71 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21.72 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 4th August 2021 following proposal by Cllr Tomlinson , seconded by Cllr Davis , and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

21.73 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

21.73.1 Goal post relocation/arm press repair breakdown of costs

The AEO advised the Committee that the contractor had supplied a breakdown of the separate tasks as requested and that they have advised that if a minimum order value of £825 is not met, that the cost of the individual jobs would increase. Cllr Foster asked that if the contractor is going to complete these tasks, that they look at the seesaw in the children's play area too as she considers this to be unsafe.

The Committee concluded that all of the tasks were essential, especially the resetting of the gym equipment as it was a RoSPA recommendation and RESOLVED to approve the quote in full.

.21.73.2 Mulch resurfacing around the fire engine

The AEO advised that the final quote had now been received for the resurfacing around the fire engine and so now the full three quotes are available. There was a discussion about the various types of material and based on what the companies had said, and consultation with the EO, it was concluded that the materials are all of similar standard. The Committee considered approving the quote from company one but was raised by Cllr Davis that there is now grass growing through the mulch under the cable way which this company installed. The AEO will query this with them and report findings before formally accepting the quote.

Cllr Foster asked about different colour options but the AEO informed the Committee that this is more costly as there is a minimum order applied. The autumn mix/brown is generally in stock and so a special order does not need to take place.

21.74 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

21.74.1 Tree inspection update

Following on from the previous meeting, the AEO has been in contact with other contractors. Previously both in the original tree survey and the interim survey, a negative return report has been given. Company One have provided costs for both a negative return and a full survey where all trees are recorded. The second company is the one that completed the interim inspection and they have quoted to complete a repeat of their survey. The Committee RESOLVED to accept quote two.

21.74.2 Christmas Tree options

An appointment is going to be scheduled to select the 2021 Christmas tree. A photograph was provided of the 2020 tree for reference purposes and the Committee concluded that although the tree did look good, that the tree this year should be taller, at approximately 15ft.

21.74.3 Village gateway signage phase 2

The EO provided an update on the village gateway signage project as she has had locations through for phase two. She confirmed that the locations are not negotiable and that Hampshire Highways have sent the locations through for information rather than approval and also that as it is a joint venture, there would need to be some community funding.

In terms of the design, it was noted that a request had been made by another Councillor to incorporate the Oak tree illustration that had been used in phase one and the Committee were in favour of using this if possible. The EO advised that regarding the format, that there would be white gate style supports as these are striking and would get the attention of the drivers entering the village. Cllr Pullen raised concerns over shrubbery and was told that this may be an issue and that it would be the responsibility of Hampshire Highways to keep this under control.

Various options including wording such as 'welcome to Four Marks' and 'please drive carefully' were discussed. The EO will feedback to Hampshire Highways and ask them to send through some designs for review.

21.74.4 Dog Policy at the Recreation ground

Following previous discussions and complaints from the football club about dog fouling at the football pitch, it was suggested that the football area of the recreation ground becomes a 'dogs on leads' area and that the cricket pitch side becomes a 'dogs off leads' area in the hope that it will encourage owners to be more responsible. It is thought that if there is an issue of dog fouling, if the owner is near the dog and it is on a lead, they are more likely to pick it up. Following a discussion, the Committee RESOLVED to adopt the new policy and asked that pending proper signage, laminated signs be put in place to expedite the implementation. The AEO was also asked to communicate this via social media and also to post a link on the website to a report about the dangers of dog fouling to health. It was noted that it was important to communicate and explain why this policy is needed.

As there is a PSPO order in place, how this policy could be enforced will be investigated and enquiries will be made to East Hampshire District Council.

21.74.5 Bus stop on A31

A complaint has been received by a resident regarding the bus stop along the A31 and photographs were provided for the Committee to review. It was noted that the graffiti was inoffensive and had been there for some time but that the bus shelter cleaning company should be asked about removal in the future. It was agreed that the state of the railings was not acceptable and that the AEO would report this to Hampshire Highways in hope of having them repainted or replaced.

21.74.6 Uplands Lane Potholes

This had been a previous Agenda item and although initial enquiries had been made to find a solution to the potholes, it was put on hold due to the potential traffic from the new community building. The issue has been raised again and as a temporary measure, the AEO has been in contact with the contractor that refurbished the well at Swelling Hill Pond. They used excess materials to fill in the car parking area in that location and have agreed to do the same on Uplands Lane as and when they have materials from other jobs. They did suggest that they could quote to undertake the job fully but the Committee were satisfied with an 'as and when' approach as it involves no expenditure.

It was also noted that the contractor who will hopefully look at the french drain on Uplands Lane may be able to free up some materials. The AEO has been unsuccessful in contact with this company and so the EO will follow this up.

21.74.7 Additional SLR's

Cllr Pullen advised the Committee that there is a proposal to place two speed limit repeater signs along the A31 by Cedar Vets and the Travelodge. He then discussed the various display options for these signs detailing what surrounding villages have in place. There are some displays available such as a smiley face which people seem to react better to. It was then noted that Streetwatch are canvassing the Police and Crime Commissioner for new kit that has become available at a cost of £4500.

21.75 Area Update and reports

21.75.1 Area Update

The AEO advised that the site at the A31 junction with Telegraph Lane had now been cleared and the installation of the new items for this area along with the additional dog waste bin at the recreation ground would take place this week. The additional two mapboards are due for delivery on Monday 6th September 2021. One will be installed on the existing posts on Lymington Bottom Green and the other is going to be delivered to Medstead and Four Marks Railway Station for a bespoke frame to be made.

The new gardeners were successfully given the contract of maintenance of various village locations following last months meeting and have made a good start on Oak Green Parade, clearing the weeds from the area and tidying. Although this took longer than anticipated, the area is now much improved and they are currently working on a planting proposal. The AEO will meet with them to hear this proposal and also discuss the wildflower areas with them. A meeting is also scheduled in with the garden designer on 9th September 2021 to discuss the options for the Cemetery planting project.

In terms of other pending tasks, the electrical contractor has been booked in during the third week of September 2021 to complete various approved electrical quotes and the maintenance of the Uplands Lane overhang is due to be completed at the beginning of the school year.

The company that provided the quote for the tennis court flood lights are unable to revisit their quote and so the AEO has contacted the company who have previously cleaned them to see if it is something that they could assist with. The EO informed the Committee that the tennis club have a general meeting planned and asked whether any of the Committee would like to attend or whether she should go. It was decided that if the tennis club should be invited to the next Open Spaces meeting to report on their meeting.

The EO reported on several issues that she has been dealing with at Badger Close. There is a resident who appears to have fenced off some Council land and incorporated it into a private garden. The EO has not managed to establish contact with his Power of Attorney and now believes that she resides in Australia. A letter has now been sent to the resident in hope that someone will contact the office to resolve the matter. As an additional line of enquiry, the EO has also contacted the fencing contractor who completed the job to gain further information.

There has also been complaints about badgers causing damage and also that someone has removed a tree from the badger run, both of which the EO is investigating. Due to the number of issues in this area, a letter will be sent to all residents informing them that an inspection will be taking place at the end of September 2021.

21.75.2 Footpaths

The AEO reported that although there had been several social media complaints and comments regarding various footpaths in response to a post about leaving pavements clear when gardening, that only one complaint had been made to the office regarding footpath 6. Although there are several resources available to maintain the footpaths, unless residents raise the issues, it is difficult to know when they are overgrown. In response to this, Cllr Bonter suggested that the Streetwatch team could incorporate footpath checks into their patrols and the AEO has provided him with a footpath map. He will confirm whether the team are in agreement following their meeting on 2nd September 2021.

It was also noted that previously, the footpaths had been divided between the OS committee to check and that this could be implemented again.

The AEO reported that the Ramblers had been in contact and reported that they had done some maintenance work on footpath 19. When they were completing their works, it occurred to them that the Kitwood Place junction can be a hazard and that a sign would be beneficial to warn cars that walkers may be exiting onto the junction. The EO has contacted Hampshire Highways to pass on this request.

The Ramblers have also offered to help with footpath 4 as some time ago, there was a complaint that the surface is unacceptable. At the time, due to the cost of the quotes obtained, the Committee decided not to proceed with it, but the Ramblers have offered their time to lay scalplings if they were provided. The AEO will look into the cost and report back.

21.76 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

21.76.1 Review of climate and nature emergency action plan

The review of this policy was deferred to the next meeting.

21.76.2 Update on water refill point

The AEO informed the Committee that in order to install the water refill point, a base would need to be put into the ground in order to house the water and waste pipes from the toilet in the Pavilion. A quote, inclusive of VAT, has been obtained from a recommended plumber and they are able to start the job w/c 6th September 2021. The Committee RESOLVED to approve this quote.

21.77 Four Marks 10k Update

The AEO provided an update of the Four Marks 10k. So far , there have been 33 entries, 27 of them for the 10k and 6 of them for the 5k.

21.78 The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm