

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 16th March 2022, commencing at 7.00pm
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lymington Bottom, Four Marks**

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| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis, Kellie Knight, Reg Pullen, Mike Sanders, and Bryan Timms |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Sarah Goudie, Executive Officer (EO) District Councillor Diana Tennyson District Councillor Ingrid Thomas 9 members of the public |
| APOLOGIES: | Cllr John Hammond, Cllr Shaun McCarthy, Cllr Anne Tomlinson |

The Chairman opened the meeting asking all attendees to respect a Minute's silence in solidarity with those involved in the Ukraine conflict and reminding everyone to respect each other.

The Chairman then opened the meeting.

22.33 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Hammond, Cllr Shaun McCarthy and Cllr Anne Tomlinson, which were acknowledged and accepted.

22.34 OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident, noting in the recent Newsletter, that the funding was almost in place for the Community building project, thanked the Council for all the work involved getting to this stage, and hoped that the Council would work with the Scouts to ensure a smooth and workable transition from their old building to the new facility.

The Chairman of the Benians Committee read out a statement in response to the report given by Cllr Davis at the previous meeting, the content of which was noted. The Chairman suggested, and it was agreed, to bring Agenda Item 12 forward so the interested parties could leave after that Agenda item.

Another resident in attendance commented that it was a necessity for the Council to ensure it has the correctly completed legal paperwork in place with third parties, reminding of the Council's recent position in this regard.

There being no further items to raise, the Open Session concluded at 7.15pm. **Standing Orders were applied.**

22.35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22.36 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cllr Knight queried the accuracy of the Minute 22.30, and stated that all Councillors were not in agreement, and that she had not supported the proposed salary increases. The Chairman reminded all Councillors to be more coherent in their voting. Cllr Timms queried Minute 22.27 and that the report had not been attached as Appendix 3, merely the EO's summary. The EO stated that she had not attached the full report out of respect to the Benians Committee, however, and against the EO's original stance, Cllr Timms insisted that the full report should be attached, and this was duly agreed.

With the amendments agreed, it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 following proposal by Cllr Timms, which was seconded by Cllr Knight and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

22.37 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Sanders, Chairman of the Planning Committee, in summary following the circulation of the Minutes held on Wednesday 2nd March, reaffirmed that the Council had robustly objected to all three applications in Medstead, in support of Medstead Parish Council and an additional submission had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate with reference to the Appeal, Land North of Kia Ora, Lymington Bottom.

22.38 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING

In the absence of Cllr Tomlinson, the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee, in addition to the Minutes circulated of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022, Cllr Foster brought the following item to the Council's attention.

Cllr Foster, following the proposed change to prohibit E-Scooters at the Recreation Ground and a subsequent verbal assault incident, not to approach the persistent offender for their own safety.

Cllr Foster also advised that the Committee were now considering replacing the children's play area fencing as it was no longer cost effective to keep maintaining. The existing fence being totally unsuitable for a children's play area, would be replaced with a more appropriate type of fencing.

Finally, a reminder of the Great British Spring Clean Community litter pick on Saturday 2nd April 2022 from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Councillors were encouraged to participate.

22.38.1 To approve the updated Recreation Ground Rules of Use, following the prohibition of EScooters

It was RESOLVED to approve the amended Recreation Ground Rules of Use, following proposal by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Sanders, and agreed by all Councillors.

22.42 BENIANS PAVILION

22.42.1 To receive an update from the EO following the action agreed at the previous meeting

Following the Chairman of the Benian's Committee's response in the Open Session to the previous month's report, the EO confirmed that the action of setting up a meeting had not taken place, however a telephone call with follow up confirmation email had addressed some of the concerns raised. The EO confirmed that the proposed Licence to Occupy changes would be reviewed at the Finance and General Purposes meeting at the end of the month.

Cllr Knight queried why Councillors had not been made aware of the email communication prior to the meeting, whereupon the EO advised that the action from the previous meeting was to report back at this meeting, which she was duly doing.

In further discussion Cllr Timms disagreed with Cllr Davis that the EO had a conflict of interest as mentioned in Cllr Davis's report but suggested that Cllr Davis had himself a conflict of interest, stating the Localism Act 2011, Chapter 7, paragraph 28 (2) (b). However, the Chairman advised that many Cllrs had 'two hats', and that did not necessarily constitute conflict of interests.

Cllr Knight advised that had there been a clearer explanation on the Agenda item, with hindsight should perhaps have declared an interest. However, the Chairman, advised that you can declare an interest at any time during the meeting, including during the Agenda item itself.

Cllr Davis responded that the intention was not to offend, but that his aim was to be constructive and ensure that there was a robust and effective scheme of management before a more formal lease was put in place and had offered his assistance.

To progress the meeting Cllr Timms, moved to propose the motion as detailed in Minute 22.44.2, following Cllr Knight's request to bring this item back to the Agenda. The Chairman stated that it was for Cllr Knight to propose as it was her request to bring the item back to the Agenda, and that Cllr Timms could second the motion if he chose. Cllr Knight said she still wanted to make the proposal.

22.44.2 To receive a proposal from Cllr Knight, supported by Cllr Timms, to rescind the recommendations as agreed at the previous meeting (as per Standing Order 7) and allow a right to response from the Benians Committee prior to any further recommendations being agreed.

Cllr Knight proposed to rescind the recommendations as agreed at the previous meeting, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Timms, with the proposer and seconder for the motion, and four Councillors against, with the Chairman abstaining, the motion was not carried, and the original recommendations stand.

Cllr Bonter added that communication between both parties could be improved moving forward.

22.39 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

22.40 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

District Councillor Tennyson's report is attached as Appendix 1.

Cllr Tennyson, in attendance, was approached directly by Cllr Timms and asked, with reference to the refusal of the Incinerator application, whether she thought they would put in an Appeal. Both District Councillors in attendance thought it unlikely due to costs, and it was very much hoped not.

Cllr Thomas advised that HCC had now taken back traffic regulation and parking from EHDC, but was unsure at this stage, when asked, as to whether this would include EHDC owned car parks. This is due to take effect from next April.

Both District Councillors had sent their apologies for the Annual Parish Meeting next month, however it was hoped that Cllr May would be able to attend to give the District Councillor report.

22.41 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

22.41.1 To receive the Executive Officer's report, correspondence and recommendation to change the current correspondence notification procedure

The EO, as per the report (attached as Appendix 2) asked the Council to consider her recommendation to remove the correspondence list from Council paperwork and within the monthly report include relevant items or items that require further discussion or action. The Chairman supported the change in procedure and there were no objections.

The EO brought the following late item of correspondence to the Council's attention, a notification from South East Water on a drop in session to be held in Alton on Tuesday 5th April, and if any Councillors were interested in attending to request a copy of the email.

The EO gave a brief reminder of two events the following evening, the ETE meeting at HCC, which both Cllr Foster and Cllr Pullen were planning to attend. The EHAPTC meeting being held at the same time, is also virtual, and to contact the EO for log in details if any Councillor can attend on the Council's behalf.

In addition to her report, the EO reported that the only negative comments so far on the Newsletter had been with reference to its material, however, the printer confirmed that the paper used is made using a mixture of materials from FSC-certified forests, recycled materials, and/or FSC controlled wood. While controlled wood is not from FSC certified forests, it mitigates the risk of the material originating from unacceptable sources and is recyclable.

The EO advised that Greening Campaign, Phase I pack had now been ordered. It had been suggested that the initiative was to be launched at the Jubilee lunch in June however to get things moving it had been

suggested that the APM may be a good platform for the launch. The EO expressed concern that the Annual Parish meeting may not generate enough community engagement, but it was agreed that this would be the starting point to advise the community. At the recent SLCC clerks meeting, other Clerks whose parishes were already participating confirmed that communities do seem happy to engage and were embracing the initiative.

In addition, also from the SLCC meeting, HCC had given a presentation on Climate change with advice on how town and parishes can support them. HALC are launching a new more 'user friendly' website at the beginning of April and each Councillor can have individual log ins, further details to follow.

The most important issue raised, however, was that NALC had advised that Town and Parish Council's do not have the power to purchase speed detection equipment in the form of SIDS or ANPR's. After discussion and further investigation, it does appear that the advice that NALC has given is incorrect, and that the Parish and Town Councils have extensive crime prevention powers under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 (section 31) and can use those powers to assist a wide range of schemes aimed at detecting or preventing crime, including CCTV and the provision of machines displaying (to drivers and others) the speed of each passing vehicle.

22.41.2 To consider the Council's response to email request for Council Engagement from the Four Marks South consortium on their new LDS Evidence submission and development proposal

The meeting was closed briefly to allow District Cllr Thomas to speak who advised that any approaches like this should be referred to the Planning Policy Team. After a brief discussion it was agreed to respond to the email, as suggested, and the only engagement would be through the Policy team as with the Medstead sites.

It was noted that there are several traffic survey's being carried within the village, in particular at Lymington Bottom and Lymington Bottom Road at the junction with the A31, although it is not sure whether instigated by Highways or developers, as the previous survey was carried out in 2019.

22.41.3 To agree support for Medstead PC's request for Weight Limit Signage through Medstead

After a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED to support Medstead Parish Council's approach to HCC for weight limit restrictions through Medstead, which would necessitate some signage in Four Marks.

22.41.4 To receive an update on the Queens Platinum Jubilee event weekend.

In the AEO's absence, the jubilee update had been included in the EO's report. Cllr Timms advised that the beacon needed a new gas bottle and the lighter had been returned. The EO agreed to liaise with the AEO accordingly.

22.43 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING REPORTS

22.43.1 To receive and authorise February 2022 payments and bank reconciliations

It was RESOLVED TO approve the February 2022 payments, as detailed below, and reconciliations following proposal by Cllr Davis, which was seconded by Cllr Pullen and agreed.

List of Payments made between 01/02/2022 and 28/02/2022

| <u>Date Paid</u> | <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Authorized Ref</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 05/02/2022 | Talk Talk Business | DD | 35.94 | | Telephone/b/band |
| 09/02/2022 | Lloyds Bank Credit Card | DD | 3.00 | | Credit card fee |
| 17/02/2022 | John Watson | BACS | 312.50 | | Consultancy fee |
| 17/02/2022 | Currys | BACS | 284.99 | EO | Brother Printer |
| 17/02/2022 | Wildly Upbeat Printers | BACS | 12.00 | | Letterhead stickers |
| 17/02/2022 | Four Marks Village Hall | BACS | 62.50 | | January Hall Hire |
| 17/02/2022 | SSE Southern Electric | BACS | 80.34 | | Oak Green |
| 17/02/2022 | Howard Carpenter | BACS | 338.41 | | Allotment expenses |
| 17/02/2022 | W & P Garden Services | BACS | 240.00 | | Open Space Maint |
| 17/02/2022 | Eddie Hodkin | BACS | 255.00 | | Open Space Maint. |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 17/02/2022 | Loos for Dos | BACS | 423.00 | QPJ event |
| 17/02/2022 | Vision ICT | BACS | 259.20 | Annual email fee |
| 17/02/2022 | Howard Carpenter | BACS | 137.18 | Allotment expenses |
| 17/02/2022 | C&D Trees Limited | BACS | 984.00 | Ash tree removal |
| 18/02/2022 | British Gas | DD | 269.96 | Pavilion – January |
| 24/02/2022 | SSE Southern Electric | DD | 241.77 | Pavilion - January |
| 28/02/2022 | S J Heath | BACS | 800.00 | Water fountain |
| 28/02/2022 | Staff Costs | BACS | 4098.63 | January |
| Total Payments | | | 8,838.42 | |

**Bank – Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 28th February 2022
Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances**

Bank Statement Balances

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 28/02/2022 | Unity Trust Bank | 32,879.83 |
| 28/02/2022 | CCLA Deposit Fund | 191,675.68 |
| 28/02/2022 | Benians Trust National Savings | 38,560.61 |
| 29/01/2022 | Lloyds Bank Credit Card | 0.00 |
| | | 263,116.12 |

22.43.2 To receive and authorise the March 2022 payments

The EO advised of two additional payments received since the payment schedule was circulated, Greening Campaign for £50.00 and Hampshire Woodlands for £288.00. A third, Direct Debit to British Gas £211.95 also not on original circulation. The EO also advised that one invoice was being disputed as work had been invoiced without authorisation, and the second for the software support was being held pending the decision to be made under Minute 22.42.4.

Noting the additional payments, it was RESOLVED to authorise the March payments to date as presented, and detailed below, following proposal by Cllr Timms, which was seconded by Cllr Knight, and agreed.

List of Payments made between 01/03/2022 and 31/03/2022

| <u>Date Paid</u> | <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Authorized Ref</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 03/03/2022 | Home-Start Hampshire | BACS | 250.00 | Minute 22.26.3 | Home-Start - Donation |
| 03/03/2022 | MIW Water Cooler Experts | BACS | 757.58 | | Water fountain - 6 mths rent |
| 08/03/2022 | Talk Talk Business | DD | 36.28 | | Feb phone/b/band |
| 14/03/2022 | Lloyds Bank Credit Card | DD | 279.88 | | Credit card payment |
| 17/03/2022 | Four Marks Village Hall | BACS | 18.00 | | February Village Hall Hire |
| 17/03/2022 | Eddie Hodkin | BACS | 255.00 | | Oak Green Maint. |
| 17/03/2022 | Howard Carpenter | BACS | 547.50 | | Allotment expenses |
| 17/03/2022 | C&D Trees Limited | BACS | 1,140.00 | | Ash Removal - Badger Close |
| 17/03/2022 | Veolia Environmental Services | BACS | 565.56 | | Soil Condition (progrow) |
| 17/03/2022 | Paul Vince (W&P) | BACS | 300.00 | | Open Space maint. |
| 17/03/2022 | Greening Campaign | BACS | 50.00 | | Greening Campaign Phase 1 |
| 17/03/2022 | Hampshire Woodlands Ltd | BACS | 288.00 | | Storm damage - Badger Cl. |
| 18/03/2022 | British Gas | DD | 211.95 | | Pavilion Monthly gas a/c |
| 20/03/2022 | Biffa Waste Services | DD | 220.74 | | Trade Waste collection |
| 24/03/2022 | SSE Southern Electric | DD | 223.54 | | Pavilion montly electric |
| 31/03/2022 | Unity Trust Bank | BANK | 29.25 | | Qtr Bank Charges |
| Total Payments | | | 5,173.28 | | |

22.43.3 To approve the reviewed Fixed Assets Schedule

Following circulation of the updated Fixed Asset Schedule, it was RESOLVED to approve the Fixed Asset Schedule, following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Davis, and agreed.

22.43.4 To discuss and approve the Council's change in financial software provision

This item was deferred from last month awaiting additional information on improvements to the current financial software. After a detailed discussion, it was agreed, primarily due to the proximity to the year end to wait until the trials on the existing software's Cloud option had been completed, so a better comparison could be made before entering a new contract with either provider. This item would be reviewed again at the July Finance and General Purposes committee meeting.

22.44 TO NOTE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

22.44.1 Allotments. Cllr Davis

Cllr Davis advised that all vacant plots have now been let and that he was no longer the Committee Chairman but remained on the Committee for liaison between the Allotment Committee and the Council.

22.44.2 Oak Green. Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster advised that there were currently issues with broken bins, which she was currently investigating and due to continual cases of fly tipping, had requested some new notices which would be put up at the weekend.

22.44.3 Village Hall. Cllr Pullen/Cllr Foster

There were no updates to report at this meeting.

22.45 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND RECREATIONAL HUB

Cllr McCarthy, the project lead was not in attendance but had sent apologies due to illness, he had also sent the Chairman his resignation from the Council earlier that day. He had, however, agreed to stay on as Project Lead at least in the short term.

Cllr Sanders then advised the meeting that, following the intervention of Damian Hinds MP, the Council had received notification that the application to borrow £1m from the PWLB for the project had been agreed in principle. As had been agreed at a recent meeting with the Scouts, they would be notified at the same time as the Council and public, so they had the opportunity to email all parents prior to the release of the news. Cllr Timms expressed his delight at this news.

A meeting had taken place the previous evening to prepare the Architects brief, with a follow up meeting next week to work through the project phasing.

The Chairman wished to express her thanks to all involved in getting the project to this stage, including District Councillor Thomas and former councillor, Simon Thomas. The Chairman would also write a formal thank you to Damian Hinds for his assistance in this regard.

22.46 NEXT MEETING:

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at the Village Hall, at 7.00pm unless advised otherwise.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th April 2022, Village Hall, at 7.00pm.

22.47 The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

APPENDIX 1

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – MARCH 2022

Veolia Incinerator application: I was very relieved to hear that this proposal by Veolia has been refused by HCC. I made two objections against building a massive incinerator with no proven, local need, and that it would be inappropriate to build it in the Wey Valley, etc. We thank Cllr. Mark Kemp-Gee, Cllr. Andrew Joy and Cllr. Robert Mocatta for speaking at the hearing on 23 February. There is in my view already sufficient incinerator capacity in the Southeast to meet our needs.

Climate Change Committee EHDC: This year our sub-group, 'natural environment' is also covering 'land', including farmland, both grazing land and agricultural land, as part of our remit. We have been dealing with trees (planting and maintenance), green open spaces and verges, nature reserves, etc., since early 2021. Farmland is important because we can expect more extreme weather events, e.g. storms and high winds due to Climate Change. Recent extreme weather cannot be viewed as a 'once in a lifetime' event, unfortunately and will become more common. Pictures of flooded areas in Lymington Bottom Road and Chawton Park Road have been forwarded to planning officers with a report, and we understand that this information is being retained on file.

Tree Wardens and tree planting: Training continues and we covered 'Trees and the Law' in February. Stewart Garside, arboricultural officer for East Hampshire, participated and provided some valuable input, as well as answering questions. Interestingly we discovered that fines are now unlimited for felling, or harming a protected tree. The amount of the fine was previously set at £20,000, so in some cases a developer might feel it was a small price to pay compared with the profit if planning permission were granted.

Our parish councils have done particularly well with tree planting during 2020/21 and a total of 164 trees have been planted, as well as several new hedges incorporating native species. District councillors contributed towards tree planting with EHDC community grants.

Land at South Medstead: This remains as a possible site although planners are presently considering other large sites. District and parish councillors were invited to a briefing, described as a 'workshop' in February. Parish Councillors were able to comment, but District Councillors were only able to observe. We understand that the information put forward and discussed remains confidential, and not in the public domain, so I am unable to comment or reveal any information whatsoever to our residents. Apart from issues relating to flooding, access via the narrow Victorian railway bridge is concerning, and I still hold the view that amount of traffic using the A31 could block local roads and narrow lanes, and cause gridlock at peak times.

East Hants new green corporate strategy: This has been launched for the next financial year. The Council is dedicated to wellbeing and welfare, as well as 'stepping up its game in relation to the green agenda and doing everything it can to tackle climate change'. The Council is determined to ensure that it can reach net zero carbon by 2050.

It is also 'challenging central government thinking about the planning system and pushing to ensure the highest environmental standards can be achieved through the planning process'. The new Local Plan is expected to challenge the boundaries set by government to 'deliver a far reaching, innovative plan that delivers zero-carbon homes in the right places.

The following priorities are being focused on over the next three years:-

'A fit for purpose council, a safer, healthier and more active East Hampshire, a thriving community with infrastructure to support its ambitions, and an environmentally aware and cleaner East Hampshire'.

The Council claims its green plans have always been bold, and a Green Team will shortly be launched to examine the Council's work and see where improvements can be made. A total of £250,000 has been put aside for Planning Services to help deliver the greenest ever Local Plan, so that developers build zero carbon homes for the future. Additionally, an extra £150,000 is being invested to ensure that planning enforcement can make sure developers comply with the rules.

Charity Walk for Peace: This year the walk commences and ends at the Hogmoor Nature Reserve on 21st May. Over the years it has raised over tens of thousands of pounds for local charities. I went along to the presentation of cheques to charities in 2019 before the pandemic struck, and last year the event was slightly smaller to comply with coronavirus restrictions. Any organisation or charity wishing to be a beneficiary, or anyone requiring further information should contact Lisa Clements on Tel: 01730-234384.

Dementia Festival: This will take place again on 8th April at the Festival Hall, Petersfield, see www.easthants.gov.uk/dementia-festival for further information.

Councillor Community Grants: Applications by charities and non-profit making concerns are again able to apply for funding from EHDC from 1st April. Please check the EHDC website where you will find an application form and information on how to apply.

War in Ukraine: **Lastly and most importantly, residents are telling me they have delivered much-needed items for refugees in the Ukraine, to be transported from Romsey and delivered to centres in Poland. The humanitarian crisis is expected to deepen and a Disaster Emergency Appeal has been launched. It is important to note that the best way of helping is to donate online. The charities to check online are:- UNICEF, The International Rescue Committee (to assist people whose lives have been affected by conflict and disaster), Vostok SOS, Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Sunflower of Peace, Save the Children UK, to mention but a few.**

APPENDIX 2

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Following last month's meeting, I was contacted by EBP South, the other previously deferred grant application, with an offer to come and present, however upon further investigation, they only currently work with Eggars and none of the Four Marks catchment schools, so they will not be making any further requests at this stage.

Last month the Council awarded a grant of £250 to Home-Start Hampshire and the question was raised as to whether Medstead Parish Council supported this charity. I can confirm that Medstead Parish Council awarded a grant of the same amount.

The Council did suffer from Storm Eunice, and works are underway to clear the damage and debris. The pond not unexpectedly took the biggest hit and a veteran Oak took out some additional trees in the neighbouring property as it fell, and one of the remaining Ash Trees lost a large limb, which fell into the pond. The one tree that the Council owns adjacent to footpath 2, also chose to fall and balance itself precariously over the footpath in an arch and into a neighbouring property but was quickly cleared with no resulting damage. However, due to the Council's tree inspection regime, there was, thankfully, very little additional damage.

The Parish Council newsletter has now been circulated to all the houses within the Parish of Four Marks, and so far, it appears to have been well received. The only comments have been that it should have been on recyclable paper, and another querying the location of the proposed new Community Building. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to offer thanks to the resident who distributed the newsletter in less than a week, this has saved the Council some £300 in distribution costs, so is very much appreciated. Due to GDPR restrictions and until I receive their confirmation, I have not named them in this but would be happy to do so within the Minutes, with their permission. With printing costs of just £111 for 2000 copies, this means that the newsletter has only cost just over 5p per edition, obviously I haven't included my design time! Although it has been confirmed that if you can tear it, you can recycle it, it may be prudent however, to ensure any future editions are more easily recyclable.

One of the action points from the recent open spaces meeting was to contact HCC to report the damage to the new railings as well as the non-clearing out of the drains where the new pedestrian crossings were installed and the fact that chevroned area was never swept after the works. In addition, I am still trying to get the railings by Footpath 16 and the bus stop just down from the firework shop replaced or repainted, and hopefully all these tasks can be combined. All issues have been noted, and hopefully will be addressed in due course.

I would also like to remind Councillors of the scheduled EHAPTC meeting on Thursday 17th March, via Zoom, if anyone is able to attend.

I attended a Clerk's on line conference last month and I had hoped to have a report on all the sessions of note, however, as there were some sessions that I missed due to clashes, I am now working my way through those sessions on line and will have a summary report next month.

I also attended a webinar session on the upgrade to the Cloud with our current financial software, and have prepared a short summary including the costs in a separate summary report under Agenda item 10.4.

Correspondence

The Parish Council received an email from Froyle Parish Council offering thanks for support with the Veolia application. The content of which is after the correspondence list.

Recommendation with reference to the listing of correspondence items.

I have this month highlighted correspondence items of note or that are linked to Agenda items, however as the listing of correspondence items is an extremely time consuming activity each month, I would like to propose that, in future, only correspondence items of interest are noted and/or circulated and other general press releases or monthly newsletters are no longer listed unless specific to Four Marks. Anyone can sign up to receive the EHDC news bulletins through their website.

Sarah Goudie

Executive Officer

9th March 2022