

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 commencing at 6.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis, Janet Foster and Reg Pullen</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Sarah Goudie (EO) Jo Tsigarides (AEO) Cllr Hammond</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Three members of the public None</b>

**22.11 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**22.12 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Pullen requested that item 6.2 be discussed at the end of the meeting in a closed session due to the confidential nature of the item. The Committee were in unanimous agreement.

A member of the public informed the Committee that since the rubbish bin had been relocated from the WI bench situated on the A31, there had been a resident complaint citing that there was now a litter issue and that rubbish was being dumped into the nearby hedge. The AEO will liaise with HCC to raise the issue and request a bin for this site.

Cllr Hammond requested permission to speak when Agenda item 7.3 is discussed. The Committee were in unanimous agreement.

A member of the public questioned the planting costs for the cemetery as the budget had grown from £250 to £1250 due to a successful District Councillor Community Grant application. He was informed that following a site meeting with the gardener, they are working to the new budget and the breakdown is £1000 for design and materials and £250 for labour.

The EO informed the Committee that the website host had experienced a server issue on the morning of Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and that as a result, several documents had not been available on the website including meeting documents. An apology has been received from the provider.

The AEO advised that a planning meeting for the annual 10k had taken place and the date had been set for the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The Great British Spring Clean is due to take place from the 25<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April and the Committee were asked whether they wanted a community litter pick organised provisionally for the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. It was suggested that the AEO liaise with the litter picking group at COGS to organise.

The AEO informed the Committee that the gardeners have reported that two plants have been stolen from the Oak Green flower beds (an azalea and a hellebore) and that Cllr Foster had noted that two heathers are also missing. The gardeners have some excess plants from another job that will be suitable and will replace the stolen plants free of charge. This area is not visible on CCTV unfortunately.

The Lengthsman is scheduled to visit on 9<sup>th</sup> February and the Committee were asked whether they would like them to concentrate on the leaf clearance on Uplands Lane or pressure washing the wooden outdoor furniture. It was decided that the leaf clearance is the priority as the width of the access road is greatly reduced due to the leaves.

**There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.18pm pm and Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **22.13 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Pullen declared an interest in Agenda item 6.2 but was granted dispensation to speak on them.

#### **22.14 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Pullen, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **22.15 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

##### **22.15.1 TENNIS COURT FLOODLIGHTS**

Two quotes for the replacement of one court (six lights) have been provided. Both contractors have declined to quote for alternatives to LED's due to cost implications and it was noted that in contact with contractor one, they stated that normally for tennis courts/football pitches, the trend is now to use LED lights only.

There was a full discussion about the merits of LED lights, the possibility of getting an initial site visit to ascertain the exact lamps currently in situ (which was dismissed due to high cost of approximately £500), the Lawn Tennis Association guidelines and the idea of future proofing the lights.

It was RESOLVED that subject to ascertaining whether there is a guarantee in place for the LED lamps, a confirmation from the contractor that the parts meet the LTA guidelines and following receipt of a full risk assessment and insurance details, that contractor two would be awarded the job.

#### **22.16 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

##### **22.16.1 THE GREENING CAMPAIGN**

The AEO attended an information session on 'The Greening Campaign' in December 2021. The campaign and the four phases were briefly discussed with the AEO recommending that Phase One would be achievable and suggested that the summer could be a good time to implement this as challenges such as not using a tumble dryer etc would be more achievable in good weather.

The Committee were advised that although Alton Town Council were included in the information session as an example of a group that were on Phase Two, that they are no longer involved in the programme and were unable to advise on how successful the first phase was.

The Committee were agreed that they would like to pursue this project. It was explained that for £50 per phase, a pack is supplied to help with the implementation and community engagement and it was suggested that County Councillor Kemp-Gee is approached to help with the funding of this. It was decided that the Big Jubilee Lunch could be a good platform to launch this concept to the community.

##### **22.16.2 PLANTING AT 'JUBILEE GARDENS'**

A professional opinion has been received regarding suitable species' to plant at Jubilee Gardens and following a discussion, it was RESOLVED to order three Oriental Plane trees. The exact location will be decided at a site

meeting with the contractor. Cllr Davis noted that 'Jubilee Gardens' may not be a suitable name for the area and suggested that instead, it was named 'Jubilee Copse'.

### 22.16.3 Painting Schedule for the skate park

Following another incident of (non offensive) graffiti at the skate park, Cllr Bonter has agreed to paint the area with the paint that he has sourced and the riding surface paint that is at the Parish Office. Other Committee members also offered to help with this and asked that he could notify them of when he intends to do this.

### 22.16.4 Badger Closer Fencing Options

The EO advised the Committee that there is a meeting arranged for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 with two contractors who are knowledgeable about the area and historical demarcation of the boundary in question. Following an initial issue with one resident, another problem with a separate property has been identified. The EO suggested various options with the Committee agreeing that re establishing the original boundary would be preferable. Feedback will follow after the site meeting.

## 22.17 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

### 22.17.1 Area Update

The EO stated that clarification has been given that the Parish Council have assisted with clearing the area on Lymington Bottom Road where there is an issue with overgrowth over the soakaways. Cllr Pullen noted that there is hedge cutting in this area but that it is never enough and that there may be issues over the summer. The EO will continue to have contact with County Councillor Kemp-Gee about this area.

The EO advised that following a recent meeting, there would be no lengthsman provision after December 2023. It has been suggested that clusters of Parishes contribute to keep the service going but that there had not been a positive response to this.

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
<b>A31 Winchester Road</b>	Ash tree cluster.	In progress	Quote accepted for tree removals. – awaiting date. Greenhouse repair completed.
<b>Badger Close</b>	-Boundary issue – private garden -Ash tree removal	In progress In progress	EO meeting 3/2/22 – to feedback regarding boundary issues. Quote accepted – works booked for 7/3/2022
<b>Cemetery</b>	Planting schedule to take place Full cemetery inspection	In progress Pending	Site meeting taken place, plan agreed, awaiting delivery of hedge plants. To finish Feb 2022
<b>Recreation Ground</b>	- Tennis court flood light maintenance. - Cricket pitch; Sale of cricket items. -Mark out of junior pitch  - Public Spaces Protection Order; -Signage update  -Playground -Various pieces of equipment require attention. -Skate Park-Graffiti/vandalism	Pending Pending Pending Approved Pending Pending Pending	Quote accepted/awaiting date.  Awaiting response from football club.  Liaise with EHDC for regular patrols  Signs in progress of being designed and ordered.  Cllr Bonter to organise painting.

	-Footway along football pitch -Uplands Lane French Drain -Land by allotments	In progress In Progress In progress	AEO has begun researching options. Awaiting date To be designated as Jubilee area, tree planting etc. to take place.
<b>Swelling Hill Pond</b>	Shoring works  Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted - boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry -Ash tree removal	Pending In progress In progress In Progress	Postponed until Spring/Summer 2021 TR1 has been completed and awaiting update. To Action when above is confirmed.  Quote accepted – works booked 04/03/2022
<b>Climate Change</b>	- Water refill station	Pending	Contractor accepted – to be installed 14/2/22
<b>Open Spaces – General</b>	<b>PARISH TREES GRASS CUTTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b> Hedgerow to be installed along access to pavilion road.  <b>VILLAGE SIGNAGE</b> Phase two gateway signage  <b>LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD</b> Decision to be made whether to approach Highways further following completion of works.	In progress In Progress In progress	Contractor accepted/awaiting date  Concept accepted, EO to finalise.

## 22.17.2 Footpaths

There have been several footpath issues raised to the AEO recently, none of which are on areas that the Parish Council takes responsibility for. These have been reported on behalf of the residents that contacted the Parish Office.

## 22.17.3 Village Gateways Project

Cllr Hammond noted that the original objectives of the Festival Committee in their 'Welcome Signage Project' were to provide an illustrated sign with a welcome message to help provide a sense of identity to the village. Following a presentation at an Open Spaces Committee meeting, it was hoped that the Festival Committee and Parish Council could work collaboratively in their aims but subsequently, it was decided that this would not be practical and could not satisfy both groups and their objectives.

It has been noted that in the new drafts for the Parish Council Gateway Signage Project, a 'Welcome to Four Marks' message has been included along with a small illustration of an Oak tree. Cllr Hammond expressed that some members of the former Festival Committee had become anxious that there may now be an overlap in the

projects and that concerns had been raised that the HCC representative may now feel that the objective of an illustration and welcome message had now been satisfied and not support the Festival Committee's plans.

The Chairman and the Committee reassured Cllr Hammond that it was not their understanding that the signs were conflicting and that they felt that the Festival Committee's sign would work in harmony with the Parish Council's sign. The Committee agreed to support the Festival Committee should a situation arise whereby HCC consider that there would no longer be a desire to continue with the Festival Committee's Illustrated Welcome sign.

The Committee RESOLVED to approve the new design and asked the EO to finalise these plans subject to confirming that the 'Please drive carefully' message would be on the 40mph sign and clarified that they did not consider that it should wait for Full Council approval. Cllr Hammond raised concern over the use of the Oak Tree Illustration, and that it was important to note that it was not a logo and had only been intended for use on the boundary signage. He did, however, acknowledge that as the new proposed signs are to be located on the boundary, the illustrator had confirmed that this would be acceptable.

#### **22.17.4 Tennis Club Meeting update**

The EO recently attended a Zoom Tennis Club meeting and has circulated an update to the Committee. Contact has been made with Headley Parish Council and they have been advised on best practices with regard to the Tennis Club there. They have a process of 'earmarking' £1000 per annum for tennis court maintenance and the Committee agreed that this would be a good discipline to have in place and RESOLVED to do this from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

#### **22.17.5 Queen's Platinum Jubilee update**

The AEO advised that good progress had been made with the Jubilee celebrations. To promote the programme of events, a leaflet is being designed to distribute with the Parish newsletter and through working with local groups, the golf club, school and local businesses, each of the individual events was taking shape. A new member to join the working party has come forward and they are going to help co ordinate the 'Big Jubilee Lunch' which is the finale of the weekend. It was noted that the working party now wish to use the former cricket pitch rather than the football pitch and that the Allotment Association have been approached to hold an open allotments event.

Alongside the District Councillor funding that the project has received to date, the AEO also noted that an application has been made to the 'Let's Create Jubilee fund' which is run through the Arts Council but it was doubtful that funds would be received as the focus of this fund is towards more long term arts projects and also that areas with the highest indices of deprivation were prioritised.

### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

#### **22.18 Donation from the Four Marks News Group**

This item was discussed under a closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussion of the following items where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.

Cllr Pullen discussed a confidential matter with the Committee who were in supportive of his proposal.

#### **22.19 The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.22pm**