

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 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) Two members of the public
APOLOGIES:	None

22.20 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

22.21 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident approached Cllr Davis at Swelling Hill Pond and complained that a dog had killed a duck. They were distressed and have put up a hand made sign requesting that dogs are kept on leads in this area. The resident would like a proper, permanent sign put in place and this will be discussed on the next Agenda at the April meeting.

Cllr Foster would like the issue of replacement fencing around the children's play area to be on the next Agenda following a complaint that a child exited the play area through a large gap caused by missing fence panels. The AEO will research options available in preparation.

The AEO advised that a resident had been in contact regarding the condition of the bus stop and railings along the A31. This has previously been discussed and the condition of the railings has been reported to HCC. The EO will write to a HCC contact directly regarding the railings and the AEO will investigate a replacement panel for the bus shelter.

Cllr Pullen questioned whether the crossing on the A31 was now fully complete as there are some issues and tasks that have not been completed, such as drain clearing and sweeping the chevrons. It was suggested that there may be some snagging and that the EO will query this with HCC in the same correspondence above.

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

22.22 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

22.23 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 following proposal by Cllr Foster , seconded by Cllr Davis , and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

22.24 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22.24.1 Storm damage – general overview and specifically at Swelling Hill Pond

Following the recent storm, the EO had provided the Council with an overview of damage caused. Aside from general debris, there are two main issues.

A large Oak tree has fallen across footpath twenty seven with the majority of the tree falling into neighbouring residential land and the remainder on PC owned land. The landowner had suggested that a contractor that they are already using is instructed to deal with the tree and after some initial investigation from the EO, the price is comparable to an independent contractor. The Committee RESOLVED to use the contractor that the resident is currently dealing with, providing that an invoice is sent directly to the Parish Council. The suggested method is to cut the tree, leaving the trunk to rot, and burning any debris on site. Cllr Pullen questioned whether the trunk could be repurposed as a bench, but it was decided that the location is not desirable. The EO also informed the Committee that sleepers and panels belonging to the angling club had disrupted by the storm and that she would contact them to try and get them moved.

The second major issue is an Ash tree which has lost a large limb, currently in the pond. Leaving the branch in the pond was discussed and dismissed due to health and safety issues. The EO is awaiting a quote to have the branch winched out of the pond and the potential removal of the tree itself.

22.24.2 E Scooter use at the Recreation Ground

The AEO advised the Committee that a resident made a complaint about a youth using an e-scooter at the Recreation Ground at night. The person involved had posted a photograph to their social media account at what appeared to be around midnight and they were outside the Parish office. It was then reported that he had ridden through the Meadowbrook estate.

There has also been another incident, although not on Council land or reported to the Council, of teenagers at Hazel Road on e-scooters and they seem to be growing in popularity. Currently, there is no specific mention of this type of vehicle in the limitations of use in the Recreation Ground Rules of Use policy.

In terms of the law, the Committee were advised that currently, there is a rental trial scheme that covers specified areas whereby scooters can be used in public. Four Marks or any surrounding areas are not part of this trial and so the general law on powered transporters applies. Under this legislation, e-scooter users must fulfil the same criteria as motor car users and as it is not possible at present to insure e-scooters, use on public land is illegal. Private land is another matter and e-scooters can be used with the landowners permission.

When considering whether to allow e-scooters at the Recreation Ground, the Committee were advised to note that there was a recent parliamentary discussion recorded in Hansard questioning the safety of e-scooters to the public following various reports of collisions, and also that in researching other Parish Councils, only bans on this type of vehicle were found.

The Committee RESOLVED to amend the Recreation Ground Rules of Use Policy to ban the use of e-scooters on Council land and have asked that there is a post on social media to inform residents.

22.24.3 WI bench on A31

The EO reported that although the WI meeting is scheduled for the 3rd March 2022, indications suggest that they may not be in favour of relocating the bench. It was clarified that the bench does not belong to the WI but was a gift to the village and they have maintained it. If it is relocated at any point, it is suggested that the resident who complained should cover the cost of any works.

22.24.4 Resident complaint on fly tipping waste from the Allotments

Cllr Davis reported that there had been some fly tipping on an informal path that is used as a short cut from the Meadowbrook development to the Recreation Ground. It is thought that this may initially have been done by an

allotment member, but that others have added to it. The path is well used and in bad condition and it was discussed that possibly this is leading to the mistreatment.

The AEO had a meeting with a Belgarum representative and suggested a combined effort whilst the ownership is being debated. It was agreed that Belgarum will allocate 2-3 hours to clearing the space, then the Parish lengthsman will spend the same amount of time, with the Allotment Association using a working party to clear the remainder. It was then suggested that some of the wood chippings from the tree removal at the pond could be used on the path to improve the surface, again with a combined approach to laying this. The representative from Belgarum has agreed to consider planting some shrubs in this area once the above has happened.

22.24.5 Football Club – review of grant awarded

Following a recent detrimental social media comment from a member of the Four Marks Football Club Committee indicating that the Parish Council are not supportive of the football club, specifically referring to the loss of the dug outs, the EO confirmed that despite numerous requests, the club have not claimed the grant that they were awarded in September 2021 for two replacement portable dugouts. . It was also noted that efforts have been made to accommodate some formal requests from the Football Club including an agreement to mark out a junior pitch and install hard standing along the main pitch but that despite the EO contacting the Football Club, there has been no uptake on these offers.

A new member of the Football Club Committee has made contact through the website requesting a meeting with a Councillor who has sports within their portfolio as they have several concerns. Although the individual was informed that they were welcome to attend the Open Spaces Committee meeting tonight or at any time, neither they, the Chairman or the Secretary could attend.

In order to move forward with the Football club and maintain a good relationship, a meeting will be arranged with their representatives and Cllrs Tomlinson, Bonter and Davis(with Cllr Foster being a reserve) where their concerns can be discussed. Feedback will then be provided on 6th April 2022 at the next Open Spaces Committee meeting. Until this time, the grant and approved plans are on hold.

22.25 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

22.25.1 Area Update

The AEO noted that the tree removal had gone well at Swelling Hill Pond and that the Badger Closer removal is planned for Friday 4th March 2022. It was also noted that the water refill point had been installed at the Pavilion and that despite initial mixed reactions, it has been well used over half term.

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31 Winchester Road	Ash tree cluster.	In progress	Quote accepted for tree removals. – awaiting date. Greenhouse repair completed.
Badger Close	-Boundary issue – private garden	In progress	EO awaiting update.
	-Ash tree removal	In progress	Quote accepted – works booked for 4/3/2022
Cemetery	Planting schedule to take place	In progress	Site meeting taken place, plan agreed, awaiting delivery of hedge plants – to be completed by mid March
	Full cemetery inspection	Pending	Postponed until Summer 2022
Recreation Ground	- Tennis court flood light maintenance.	Pending	Quote accepted/awaiting date.
	- Cricket pitch; Sale of cricket items.	Pending	Future discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mark out of junior pitch - Public Spaces Protection Order; -Signage update -Playground -Various pieces of equipment require attention. -Playground fencing -Skate Park-Graffiti/vandalism -Footway along football pitch -Uplands Lane French Drain -Land by allotments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending Approved Pending Pending Pending Pending In progress In Progress In progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss with football club. To investigate Signs in progress of being designed and ordered. Quote received – Agenda item for April Agenda item for April Cllr Bonter to organise painting. AEO has begun researching options. Awaiting date To be designated as Jubilee area, tree planting etc. to take place.
Swelling Hill Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoring works Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted - boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry -Tree damage after storm; Oak Tree Ash tree and limb in pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending In progress In progress In Progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postponed until Spring/Summer 2021 TR1 has been completed and awaiting update. To Action when above is confirmed. EO to liaise with resident and instruct their contractor re Oak tree. Seek quotes for branch in pond and Ash tree removal.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greening project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEO to purchase initial pack.
Open Spaces – General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PARISH TREES GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE Hedgerow to be installed along access to pavilion road. VILLAGE SIGNAGE Phase two gateway signage LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD Decision to be made whether to approach Highways further following completion of works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress In Progress In progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor accepted/awaiting date Concept accepted, awaiting production and installation.

22.25.2 Badger Close boundary issue

The EO had no further update on the boundary issue but did report that there was some tree damage in this area. Cllr Pullen raised the issue of replacing trees, as in line with the Tree Management Policy, two trees are planted for each tree removed. It was noted that this does not apply to those that come down naturally or due to weather

but that the Committee would implement a planting strategy in the Autumn to try and compensate for the trees lost.

22.25.3 Footpaths

The Committee were reminded of an offer from the Alton Ramblers about footpath four which runs from Telegraph Lane into Weathermore Copse. They have advised that if the Council provides the materials, they would be happy to help lay the new surface. When this has been previously discussed, it was agreed that this path is rural as it leads into the woods and the Committee were still of this opinion and agreed that it should not be resurfaced.

22.26 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

22.26.1 The Greening Campaign

Following the previous meeting, County Councillor Kemp-Gee has been approached and is supportive of a grant to use for the Greening Campaign and the costs of launching it. The WI have agreed to help launch the campaign at the Big Jubilee Lunch.

22.27 OS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

22.27.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Following a recent full update at the February Full Council meeting, the AEO confirmed that plans were still in hand and that the leaflet had gone to print along with the Council newsletter and would be distributed imminently. It was also noted that the Four Marks News Group had been approached for a grant towards a bench for the Jubilee Green area but that an official response had not yet been received.

22.27.2 Litterpick

The AEO advised that the litterpick is scheduled to take place on Saturday 2nd April from 10am -12pm. Some village groups had been in contact to express an interest in taking part and it was confirmed that anyone who could not make the village pick could still borrow equipment by arrangement with the Parish Office. The AEO has arranged to borrow extra equipment from COGS.

22.28 The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.46pm.