

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 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) Four members of the public</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>None</b>

**22.29 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence. Cllr Tomlinson arrived 6.18pm.

**22.30 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Foster clarified the purpose and limitations of the Open Session and the application of Standing Orders when the meeting is closed for the benefit of the public.

The new Chairperson and Secretary of Alton and Four Marks Archers introduced herself. She made enquiries about some temporary extensions for various dates in the year and queried the process of booking the practise ground and the Pavilion. She was given an overview of how the booking system works with an invitation to drop into the Parish office for further information and was also informed that the Pavilion has a separate booking system.

A resident enquired about the planned meeting with Four Marks Football Club which was intended to take place after the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 with an Agenda item for feedback this evening. They were informed that unfortunately, despite responding to the request and agreeing to the meeting that was asked for, there had been no communication from the group. The resident commented that there was a good chance of the club being promoted but that they would like to see the group reach out to the community and give something back especially to Juniors in exchange for the support that they may need in the future to meet the requirements of their new league.

Cllr Bonter discussed a recent bike theft that had taken place at the Recreation Ground which has led to a resident attempting to fundraise for the victim. The resident has contacted Cllr Bonter, the Police and Damian Hinds MP and asked for support in this effort and Cllr Bonter suggested that the Parish Council make a donation. The Four Marks Parish Council Grants Policy excludes giving money to benefit individuals but the EO will research whether purchasing something directly for the victim would contravene proper financial practises. It was noted that there have been several victims of anti-social behaviour in the area and that it may be unfair to favour one over the others even if it is found to be technically permitted.

Cllr Bonter has purchased a security camera and proposed trialling it on the new pole at the Recreation Ground. The camera has a solar panel installed and connects to WIFI. The cost of the camera is approximately £800 and so the Committee welcomed the opportunity to trial its effectiveness before committing to purchasing one. If, in the future, it is decided to buy one, grant opportunities will be investigated to help with the cost.

**There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.22pm and Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **22.31 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

#### **22.32 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

#### **22.33 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

##### **22.33.1 Suggestion for play area on green space on Pine Road**

Two residents have been in contact regarding an area of green space opposite Pine Road. The AEO clarified that this area is owned and maintained by East Hampshire District Council. Contact has been made with District Councillor Tennyson who suggested that the Parish Council draw up some proposals and plans for either a planting scheme or a natural play area in response to the resident requests. Before any work is undertaken, District Councillor Tennyson was asked about the future maintenance of the area but there is no commitment at the moment.

There were discussions about the suitability of a play area in this location, what type of materials could be used and the fate of other play areas in the locality that have been maintained by EHDC. The AEO will continue to try and find out further information and specifically a decision on maintenance for future discussion.

##### **22.33.2 Dogs on Leads Signs at the Pond**

A resident has made a sign and displayed it at Swelling Hill Pond requesting that dogs are kept on leads and has signed it from Four Marks Parish Council in response to an incident involving a dog killing a duck. Cllr Davis noted that the resident was very upset when they witnessed it. The Committee considered that this was a one-off incident in a natural area and that it would be unreasonable to impose restrictions on dogs. It was RESOLVED to remove the hand made sign with no replacement.

##### **22.33.3 Extension for Four Marks Archers as per application**

This item was dealt with in the Open Session.

##### **22.33.4 Children's Play area fencing damage**

Following the recent storm damage, the children's play area fence has deteriorated further. There is now one large gap through which children are able to exit the play area which is a concern due to the proximity to an access road and several small gaps where panels are missing.

Previously, bow top fencing has been suggested and four quotes have been included for consideration. The AEO confirmed that there is a Supporting Communities Fund stream which could help meet the cost of new fencing. Applications need to be in by the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and this is a match funding grant where fifty percent of the project could be funded up to a maximum of £25000. Although the fencing replacement may not seem to be a natural fit for the project, the AEO has researched the projects that have been given funding over the past three years and there are similar projects that have been in receipt of the funding. If the Council do wish to apply for this funding, the shortfall could partly come from CIL funding of which there is an £8000 payment due imminently.

Concerns were raised over the type of fencing included in the quotes and the AEO was asked to contact ROSPA and do further research on robust, metal fencing suitable for a rural setting with a minimum twenty five year guarantee that is ideally fitted vertically to stop people from climbing over.

### **22.33.5 Play area remedial works**

After waiting some time for a site visit, the AEO met with a contractor to discuss various remedial tasks including the replacement of the broken netting on the multi play, repair of the see saw base and the mulch around the fire engine.

The Committee RESOLVED to accept the quote for the see saw repair, before moving onto the other items. The Committee were reminded of the mulch resurfacing around the fire engine that was agreed some time ago subject to a site visit and explanation about the mulch that has been placed under the zip wire. At the site visit, the contractor confirmed that they considered that the grass that appeared to be growing in the mulch was airborne and from grass cutting. They stated that when the mulch was laid, a membrane was put in place to prevent grass from growing through, however they are also happy to apply a weed treatment to the area. The Committee would still like to proceed with the mulch resurfacing programme but would instead like to prioritise the junior swings, where the matting has started lifting and become a trip hazard. The AEO will gather costs for this area.

The multiplay is one of the original items of equipment that was placed in the play area and it was noted that in addition to the broken net, the climbing wall had started delaminating causing sharp edges. It was decided that the equipment is still useable currently and that in the future, options would be considered to replace it rather than fund the replacement net at such a high cost.

### **22.33.6 Tennis Club noticeboard**

The tennis club have asked for permission to site a notice board slightly in front of the fence where their current board is located. The Committee reviewed the proposal and RESOLVED to grant permission for the erection of the noticeboard on Parish Council land conditional on a confirmation of the size, exact location proposed and a site inspection by the contractor installing the board to consider electrical cables. The Committee asked about the funding of the board, and the AEO advised that they have made enquiries about Parish Council grant applications.

### **22.33.7 Christmas light scheme**

Following various enquiries, there has been difficulty in sourcing a supplier who also deals with installation or a company willing to supply such a small area. In conclusion, the only viable option appears to be the current supplier who have sent through a revised quotation that factors in increased installation costs. The AEO advised that there is some flexibility with the motifs and that she would circulate some options that she had been sent for consideration. Subject to agreeing the exact motifs, the Committee RESOLVED to accept the quote.

### **22.33.8 Oak Tree at Swelling Hill pond**

A resident has been in touch to ask for permission to cut up and remove some of the Oak tree remains currently on Footpath 27 at Swelling Hill Pond. Consideration was given to the type of machinery that would be used for this, and access difficulties. The Committee RESOLVED to allow the resident to cut and remove sections of the Oak tree providing that they have the relevant insurance in place, have completed a risk assessment beforehand and that the site is left clean and tidy, leaving no obstacles for the public.

## **22.34 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS**

### **22.34.1 Area Update**

The Committee were directed to the 'before and after' photos of the Cemetery. Cllr Foster then raised two points; firstly what was happening with the tennis court lights to which the AEO informed the Committee that the contractor is still fact finding for the information that the Committee requested and secondly the new signage for the Recreation Ground was queried. The AEO informed the Committee that this was the signage following the Committee review but that there have been delays with the company in question.

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. EO to liaise with HCC contact AEO organizing replacement panel.
	Bus Stop	In progress	
<b>Badger Close</b>	-Boundary issue – private garden	In progress	EO awaiting update.
	-Play area suggestion	Pending	AEO to investigate further
<b>Cemetery</b>	Full cemetery inspection	Pending	Planned Summer 2022
<b>Recreation Ground</b>	- Tennis court flood light maintenance.	Pending	Awaiting information from Contractor.
	- Cricket pitch; Sale of cricket items.	Pending	Future discussion
	-Mark out of junior pitch	Pending	To discuss with football club.
	- Public Spaces Protection Order;	Approved	To investigate with EHDC
	-Signage update	Pending	Signs in progress of being designed and ordered.
	-Playground -Various pieces of equipment require attention.	Pending	To arrange see saw remedial works, and get revised quote for swing mulch.
	-Playground fencing	Pending	To seek further options for consideration.
	-Skate Park-Graffiti/vandalism -Footway along football pitch	Pending -In progress	CLr Bonter to organise painting. AEO has begun researching options.
<b>Swelling Hill Pond</b>	-Uplands Lane French Drain	Pending	To prioritise stop cock repair.
	Shoring works	Pending	Postponed until Spring/Summer 2021
	Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted	In progress	TR1 has been completed and awaiting update.
	- boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry -Tree damage after storm; Oak Tree	In progress	To Action when above is confirmed.
<b>Climate Change</b>	Ash tree and limb in pond	In progress	
	- Greening project	Pending	Agreed Launch for Sept
<b>Open Spaces – General</b>	<b>PARISH TREES GRASS CUTTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>		
	<b>VILLAGE SIGNAGE</b> Phase two gateway signage	In Progress	Concept accepted, awaiting production and installation.
	<b>LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD</b> Decision to be made whether to approach Highways further following completion of works.	In progress	

## **22.34.2 Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

## **22.34.3 Uplands Lane Drain**

Previously, a contractor was accepted to clear the french drain on Uplands Lane but following some internal discussions, they concluded that actually the stop cock over on the other side of Uplands Lane is faulty and that this would be detrimental to the job. They insist that the Council has been aware of this for some time but there is no record of being informed. The AEO has enquired about the cost of fixing the stopcock as part of the job but the company would not provide a cost for the job, and just insisted that they would be fair in the pricing.

It was suggested due to the delays with the contractor, that the weather has now changed and so the job may not be as urgent as it was when there was heavy rainfall. There may also be implications for this area when the new community building is being developed for this area. The Committee decided that the priority should shift onto fixing the faulty stop cock rather than unblocking the drain and the AEO will organise a contractor to do this.

## **22.35 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

### **22.35.1 The Greening Campaign**

The first phase of The Greening Campaign has now been purchased, and the pack has arrived. The logo for Greening Four Marks is attached to the supporting documents and the Committee were advised that a launch date needed to be set. The initial meeting must be a meeting open to the Community and takes the basis of a working meeting, forming a working party and choosing the challenges. It was decided that September 2022 would be a good time to launch this as the Parish events diary is clearer and there would be ample time to get organisations such as the school onboard.

It was decided to embark on a 'coming soon' campaign and introduce the concept to the community at the Annual Parish Meeting and also at the Big Jubilee Lunch via the WI who could have printed logos to have on their stand. The AEO will give them further information before the event and this will tie in with their green hearts campaign.

### **22.35.2 Solar Panels at the Pavilion**

A resident who was reviewing solar panels at the COGS also visited the Benains Pavilion and concluded that the cost for 4.5kw solar panel system would be approximately £5000. The cost of this was considered, along with the amount of power they would provide and what would happen to excess power generated. Previously, this concept along with bike racks and electric charging points had been passed to the project team for the new community building and it was decided to keep to this as they are reviewing which eco elements can be included in that project.

Cllr Pullen did raise that SSE had a £1 million grant pot for energy projects such as this and the AEO will investigate.

## **22.36 OS COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **22.36.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Plans are progressing for the Jubilee weekend and it was noted that the leaflet that was inserted into the Parish Council newsletter was well received. The main issue facing the group at the moment is volunteer help especially at the picnic.

The Oriental Plane trees have now been planted on Jubilee Green with the AEO/EO deciding on the location as there was little notice of the planting. They have been arranged in a 'V' shape with a prominent space left for the bench that has been ordered. The trees have been pinned on the Queen's Green Canopy Map along with the hedgerow at the Cemetery which was part of a Woodland Trust pack.

**22.36.2 Litterpick**

The Council hosted a litter pick Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 to which twelve participants came. One resident completed two picks beforehand and the Beavers also did a thorough pick of the Recreation Ground on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. In total 13 bags of rubbish were collected and logged with Keep Britain Tidy who have recorded a total of four hundred thousand bags of rubbish for the event so far.

**22.37 The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.26pm.**