

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 commencing at 6.30pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

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

22.38 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

22.39 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Davis reported that there had been a chemical attack which appeared to be malicious in a corner of the allotment gardens which is used as a communal orchard. Two trees have been killed and an area of grass damaged.

Cllr Foster advised that the gate between the football pitch and the Medstead Farm development has been damaged. The clip on the post is still there but the hasp has been removed meaning that the gate swings backwards and forwards. The AEO will investigate and organise a repair.

Cllr Foster has watered the new planted area at the Cemetery and will continue to do so. There has been a spell of dry weather and this area along with the newer planted trees will need to be monitored and watered.

The AEO read a website enquiry that had come through from a resident asking about the possibility of building a bike park in Four Marks. The Committee were pleased that an enquiry had come through to the website from a resident to express how they would like facilities improved and wish to encourage this, however at this time, it is not something that the Parish Council is able provide. Cllr Tomlinson suggested that the concept is remembered as a suggestion perhaps on a smaller scale for future building developments.

The AEO advised that the Christmas tree light order had now been secured with the various preferences considered and that the red bundle had been agreed. There is a slight increase but due to the initial problems with the invoicing, the company have agreed to absorb this.

The lengthsman visited on 28th April 2022 and pressure washed the wooden furniture at the Recreation Ground including the ladder board at the entrance. They were planned to move to other areas but had a machine malfunction. It is planned to ask them to clear the overgrowth on Lymington Bottom on the June visit.

The Parish office has now been provided with up to date contact details of the football committee from Cllr Knight. The EO emailed the group regarding the planned meeting discussed last month and the AEO emailed them separately regarding the Jubilee. Following a brief discussion with one of the recipients, there was a response to the AEO with an indication that they would be interested in being party of the Jubilee weekend and also that they would like to arrange a meeting. They will be providing days and times that are suitable to meet. As with all important email correspondence, the AEO and EO were asked to ensure that read receipts are used.

It was also noted that there had been a social media post over the weekend which had caused an issue within a local sporting club, where two Councillors had been named and reported as representing the Parish Council. It was suggested that this misinterpretation should be addressed by a public social media post to appease the club involved. Further discussions would take place under a closed session to discuss the item in more detail and the actions of those involved.

A resident had noted an item further on the Agenda to discuss a wind turbine and expressed their preference for solar panels.

There were no further items to raise under the Open Session, therefore the meeting commenced at 6.47pm and Standing Orders were applied.

22.40 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

22.41 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 6th April 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.

22.42 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

22.42.1 Storage facility for Four Marks Archers

Four Marks Archers have asked whether it would be possible to use the cricket storage container with a view to potentially buy it from the Council. Currently, it houses cricket machinery and other equipment. It was agreed that at some point, the container should be cleared, and any suitable items sold with some suggestions of individuals who might be able to advise on the resell of the mowers.

The Committee saw an opportunity to potentially stop using and remove the container all together as it was agreed that they are deteriorating, unattractive and difficult to open. In the long term, new storage options would be considered along with a request to the new building team that there could possibly be some storage provision there for the Archers.

In the interim, it was agreed that the Archers should ask the Benians Committee to store any equipment in one of the cricket changing rooms.

22.42.2 To discuss potential change of title for Open Spaces Committee and appropriate sub committee for community building project.

It has been suggested that a sub or special Committee is formed for the Community Building project as the project is at such a stage at the moment that the delegated financial authority that would be given to a proper sub-Committee is imperative in order to keep the project moving forward. It is suggested that the 'Community Building and Recreational facility' Committee is a sub-Committee of the current Open Spaces Committee. The meetings of the sub committee would not be bound by the normal legal, Agenda requirements offering greater flexibility and would be open to the public although closed for selected items.

Two of the Committee members suggested that due to the gravity of the project, a standing Committee should be formed which reports to the Full Council. They expressed that there should be full transparency and that they felt that the business of the project team is too important to feed into the current Open Spaces Committee. The AEO advised that due to the nature of the project (task and finish), it is not suitable to form a standing Committee as these are specifically for ongoing business.

The meeting was closed at 7.11pm, for a resident to speak. They expressed that they felt that the project team have been selected and chosen to do this task and should be permitted to act with autonomy rather than having to report to the Full Council on matters and involve all Councillors.

Meeting re opened at 7.12pm.

This matter has been deferred to the next meeting of the Full Council on 18th May 2022 for further discussion.

22.42.3 Uplands Lane/French drain strategy

The AEO advised that despite gathering information and quotes regarding the location of the stopcock and associated works to fix it, that South East Water had been made aware of the leak and have been on site today and fixed the broken stopcock.

It was agreed to pause the works to the French drain until the implications for this area from the new community building are known.

22.42.4 Installation of dropped curb at the Cemetery

Cllr Davis was approached by a resident at the cemetery regarding disabled access to the Cemetery, and it was agreed that a dropped curb in the centre of the pavement area would be suitable. The AEO has arranged a site visit and will advise the Committee further.

22.42.5 Area of land on Pine Road following update from DC

At the recent Full Council meeting, District Councillor Tennyson advised that she felt that a children's play area would not be appropriate here due to the proximity to the badger sett and also that if the Parish Council either wished to plant or build a play area here, they would have to look to adopt the land and organise ongoing future care. It was decided not to pursue this.

22.43 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

22.43.1 Resurfacing under junior swings

A site visit has taken place for the resurfacing under the junior swings in the children's play area. It was decided that this would be a higher priority than the fire engine due to health and safety concerns. The company that have provided the quote were originally accepted to complete the fire engine mulch subject to a separate site visit over some concerns regarding the zip wire mulch and so have reworked the quote. The AEO has discussed the quote with the company and following the site inspection, the representative advised that option two would be suitable and although it does not come with a full five-year guarantee, just one year, it would be expected to last as long.

Following a discussion about whether the necessity to do this work, it was RESOLVED to accept the second option.

22.43.2 Full tree inspection quotes

The AEO advised that full quotes are still pending and that they would be circulated when received in order to book a tree inspection in when the trees are in full leaf. Cllr Pullen questioned why this is necessary and was advised that in the Tree Management Policy, the Council has committed to have a full tree inspection every three years along with interim inspections. Although a full tree inspection took place last year, the report was not deemed satisfactory and so a repeat is necessary.

22.43.3 Wildflower signage

Although options and pricing were circulated for the wildflower signs featuring artwork from the children at Four Marks School, the AEO advised that there may be some issues with the wildflower areas and that a meeting is

booked with the gardener on 5th May 2022 to discuss the problems that have been recorded. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

22.44 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

22.44.1 Area Update

The AEO advised that a small working party had met and cleaned some of the skate park areas and applied the ramp and surround solution. The ramp paint had worked well and there has been some positive feedback, however, the surround solution has not dissolved the paint and has not left a very good finish. The resident involved in the working party will continue with this work, asking for Councillor help if needed. They have asked the AEO to order more supplies.

The Ash tree removal on Winchester Road has proved to be more complex than first thought due to the erection of a shed on the resident's land. The EO liaised with the tree surgeon and found a workable solution which has incurred some extra cost. A written update was provided to the Councillors and it was agreed to put an item on the next Agenda to discuss improvements to this area.

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31 Winchester Road	Ash tree cluster.	In progress	Removal in progress – due to complete 5 th May 2022
	Bus Stop	In progress	Bus shelter cleaning has been organised, along with request for quote for panel replacement.
Badger Close	-Boundary issue – private garden	In progress	EO awaiting update.
	-Play area suggestion	Completed	Agreed not to pursue
Cemetery	Full cemetery inspection	Pending	Planned Summer 2022
	Provision for disabled access	Pending	Site meeting 5 th May 2022 to discuss options with contractor.
Recreation Ground	- Tennis court flood light maintenance.	Pending	Information requested received and circulated.
	- Cricket pitch; Sale of cricket items.	Pending	AEO to liaise with suggested contacts
	-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	Quotes for see saw and junior swing mulch accepted, awaiting date.
	-Playground fencing	On hold	On hold until new community building implications are better understood.
	-Skate Park-Graffiti/vandalism	In progress	Working party in progress.
-Footway along football pitch	-In progress	AEO has begun researching options.	
	-Uplands Lane French Drain	On hold.	Stopcock has been repaired. French drain works on hold.
Swelling Hill Pond	Shoring works	Pending	Postponed until Spring/Summer 2021

	Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted - boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry -Tree damage after storm;	In progress In progress Completed	TR1 has been completed and awaiting update. Awaiting contact from resident regarding using the Oak Tree wood.
Climate Change	- Greening project	Pending	Agreed Launch for Sept
Open Spaces – General	PARISH TREES GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE VILLAGE SIGNAGE Phase two gateway signage LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD Decision to be made whether to approach Highways further following completion of works.	 In Progress In progress	 Concept accepted, awaiting production and installation.

22.44.2 Footpaths

Nothing to report.

22.44.3 Open Space contractor updates

The EO has recently reviewed the contracts for the open space companies. The report was read and it was noted that a new rate had been agreed with the individual that does the sweeping at Oak Green.

A meeting was held with the gardener to review invoicing, workload and hours. An agreement was made that they would complete up to four hours every three weeks and that the set areas of responsibility would be Oak Green Parade and Lymington Bottom Green with extra tasks given on an ad hoc basis. Since that meeting, some issues have been highlighted such as the wildflower areas noted above and also some information regarding a tree on Station Approach which was found to be incorrect. The AEO will meet with the gardener on 5th May 2022 to address these issues.

22.44.4 Update following information request regarding children’s play area fencing

The AEO advised that the play safety expert from RoSPA had advised booking an appointment for the upcoming inspection as this would give an opportunity to discuss the fencing in detail and ask for recommendations. Two of the companies that provided quotes indicated that bow top fencing would be the most suitable for this area, however, the Committee decided to pause this until a later date. There was a suggestion that it would be good to consider the aesthetics of the new community building when choosing a material for the play area and that even, in the future, it might be decided that the wood currently there may provide a natural element.

22.45 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

22.45.1 The Greening Campaign

Preparations are being made for the launch of the Greening Campaign which is due to launch on the 14th of September 2022 with a coming soon message being promoted by the WI at the Big Jubilee Lunch. The focus of

the campaign is that it is run by the community and the Committee agreed that a group or individual should be responsible for running this and rolling it out.

22.45.2 Wind turbine proposal

The Committee discussed the possible future erection of a wind turbine on the former cricket pitch. Cllr Bonter has previously done some investigation into this and advised that the pole could be placed on the corner of the Pavilion building, and that it would be approximately one and a half metres in diameter, sitting on a pole which is approximately six metres high. Cllr Bonter expressed that although there are environmental considerations and projects on the horizon, that these are small in scale and that he would like the Committee to be seen to be taking big environmental actions.

It was agreed that Cllr Bonter would investigate the costs of trialling this initiative. It was requested that any units placed are discreet.

22.46 OS COMMUNITY PROJECTS

22.46.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The AEO advised that the plans for the Jubilee are all in hand. There is still a lot to finalise, but good number of volunteers have come forward to help. There are some finer details that need to be resolved including transport of chairs and gazebos. Some suggestions were made of individuals that might be able to assist with this.

The Watercress Line and the Hampshire Cultural Trust have both committed to providing some items for the pop-up museum and Four Marks School have visited the Village Hall and planned their art exhibition. The Big Jubilee Lunch is also taking shape following a planning meeting which was held on the 3rd of May 2022, detailing where the stall holders would be located. This will be circulated to everyone in due course.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Closed session.

22.47 Following a discussion, it was agreed that the EO should make preparations to include this on the Agenda on the next Full Council meeting.

22.48 The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm