

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 commencing at 6.00pm at Four Marks Sports Pavilion**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs John Davis, Janet Foster and Reg Pullen</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Jo Tsigarides (AEO) Sarah Goudie (EO) Cllr John Hammond District Councillor Diana Tennyson PCSO Ben Lane One member of the public</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>None</b>

**22.49 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**22.50 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Tomlinson noted the recent resignation of Neil Bonter from the Parish Council and the Committee all wished to express their thanks to him for his time and technical expertise.

The new PCSO Ben Lane attended the meeting to formally introduce himself to the Committee and it was agreed that everyone is looking forward to working together.

A member of the public requested that the Cubs are given permission to have a small fire at the Recreation Ground in July 2022. The Committee agreed to this providing that the relevant risk assessments are provided.

A resident had spoken to Cllr Tomlinson about 'No Mow May' and asked why the Council is continuing to mow areas so frequently. It was noted that whilst the Council does support the initiative and has some set areas where the mowing is less frequent that areas at the Recreation Ground, for example, need to be mowed often due to the use for sporting clubs and that short grass allows better visibility of dog waste.

Cllr Tomlinson also noted that an email had been sent to the Committee regarding the Scope 'Let's Play Fair Campaign'. At the moment, this is at the petition stage and is encouraging people to sign up and place pressure on the Government to invest in a multi-million pound inclusive playground fund. This issue has previously been discussed by the Committee and they remain open to making the playground more inclusive in the future.

Cllr Davis informed the Committee that the allotment holders are being subjected to loud music from a neighbouring resident. It was suggested that as residential homes may also be affected, that it could be a good idea to get several people to complain together about the noise nuisance. Remedial works to the allotment boundary were also discussed.

The EO explained that there had been an issue with a burial at the Cemetery where a memorial was placed without permission. This was done some time ago and now a family member wishes to organise an ashes interment but there is difficulty in contacting the owner of the burial rights as they now reside overseas. The EO has contacted

ICCM for advice and they have made some suggestions to move this forward. As a starting point, the EO is going to advise the applicant to contact a solicitor to send an official letter to try and make contact.

The EO has managed to negotiate a new contact for a new lockable Biffa bin and waste collection resulting in a saving of approximately fifty percent per annum along with no further rental charge for the bin.

The EO advised that the production of the new village gateway signs has been held up due to manufacturer delays.

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

## **22.51 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

## **22.52 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 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.

## **22.53 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Cllr Davis queried the powers of non-Councillor Committee members and whether it is appropriate that they are permitted have a vote on decisions that are not financial. It was agreed that it is appropriate for them to have voting rights on non-financial matters as otherwise they would be unable to have any influence rendering their position on a committee pointless. A brief conversation followed about the reporting process of the Neighbourhood Steering Group.

## **22.54 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **22.54.1 Request for nature boxes**

Cllr Hammond has put forward a suggestion that he would like the Committee to consider implementing measures to improve habitats for birds, bats and potentially amphibians and dormice. He noted that the Council's open space areas are often more natural than private gardens and that there could be a real opportunity to help wildlife.

District Councillor Tennyson stated that she has a good knowledge of the area and often walks around the Recreation Ground making observations about the wildlife. She advised that there is some indiscriminate strimming around the Cemetery and often broken glass in the skate park area which could have an impact on wildlife. She expressed her concern that bird boxes could be a target for anti-social behaviour but that bat boxes could be a good option as bats have been seen flying around the Recreation Ground.

There were several elements to the discussion, which also included making improvements to the wildflower strip at the end of the cricket pitch. It was agreed that District Cllr Tennyson would complete a walk through of the open space areas with Cllrs Tomlinson and Hammond to identify anything that could be improved to help wildlife along with discussion potential sites for nature boxes.

### **22.54.2 Planting at the A31/bench area following tree works**

The AEO advised the following the completion of the Ash tree removal in this area, there is now a large exposed area where gardens could be seen from the main road and it is very unappealing. It was discussed that the residents of the exposed garden may in fact put a fence up but that also the Committee could consider fencing this area on the PC boundary.

The AEO has met with the garden designer, and they have sent through a proposal for the area which was sent as a late circulation. For the benefit of those who have not seen this, the AEO went through the plan. It was

agreed that the planting under the canopy was suitable but that rather than the suggestions for the perimeter, that the existing Laurel is enhanced and added to. The AEO will feedback to the garden designer and ask for an image of the design similar to that which was produced for the Cemetery planting before finalising.

### **22.54.3 Resident request for picnic benches**

A resident has made contact to inform that they do not consider that the number of benches in the Recreation Ground area (not including the children's play area) to be satisfactory. It was noted that aside from the two on the former cricket pitch and one on the football pitch, the other benches and specifically those that you could sit and eat lunch at are in the children's play area.

There is a new bench to go in the Jubilee area that is due to be installed week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and it was noted that District Councillor Tennyson would be happy to help fund additional seating and could potentially contribute up to £360 towards this.

The area between the Pavilion and the tennis courts was suggested for two new picnic benches and it was agreed that the recycled plastic benches in the children's play area have worked well. The AEO will present options at the next meeting.

### **22.54.4 Dogs on leads request at skate park**

Recently a resident volunteer was doing some work at the skate park and noted that several dog owners walk through the area on their way to the former cricket pitch and do not have their dogs on leads. Although this is not currently a 'dogs on leads' area, they noted that dogs are not permitted in the children's play area and that this area also has children's equipment and suggested that the same rule should possibly apply. The Committee felt that this would not be a workable policy to have in place and decided not to pursue the request.

The EO noted that there had been further graffiti in this area. The AEO advised that there is still some paint and some mini rollers, and it was agreed that a small working party should be formed to paint over the graffiti after the half term holiday.

### **22.54.5 Camera suggestion for skate park**

When the same resident concerned in the above item was repainting the riding surfaces, they arrived one morning to find that a freshly painted surface had been vandalised. Although this has not happened since, it was understandably frustrating given that it had only been painted a matter of days before. They suggested that a camera should be placed in the area, even if it were only a decoy camera to try and dissuade this type of behaviour. It was noted that the Parish Council does own a suitable camera and once this is located, the height and fixing of it will be investigated.

### **22.54.6 Provision of average speed cameras through village**

Cllr Pullen noted that the Speedwatch group had received numerous complaints about the speeding issue on entry and exit through the village. It was suggested that ANPR cameras could be situated at the entry and exit points and Cllr Pullen expressed that one with speed displays are preferable. It was agreed that once the costs have been investigated, that Cllr Pullen could organise a petition and gather support for the cameras. Suggested funding options were also discussed.

### **22.54.7 HALC Village of the Year competition**

The competition was discussed, and it was agreed that the Council could apply for this under Category A which is the Best Parish Council Community Engagement Project. The named project would be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee projects which have been collated and overseen by the Parish Council. In comparison with other villages, it appears that there is a great deal of activity in Four Marks to mark this event.

## **22.54.8 Storage solutions for clubs on the cricket pitch**

Following on from the last meeting the AEO has been in contact with the Archery club and advised that temporarily, they could ask for permission to store their excess items in the cricket changing room as suggested by the OS Committee. During this conversation, the AEO was advised that the current Archers container has become infested with rats that have chewed through the base of the container posing a health and safety risk.

Moving forward, Cllr Davis has offered to help clear out and tidy the Parish council container so that an inventory to sell can be produced. It has been noted that the community building group have been asked about storage solutions for clubs but that it is unlikely that this will be a possibility.

The Committee discussed the option of building a new storage facility on the former cricket pitch bordering the allotments but before proper investigations can be made, the Archers need to provide details about the amount of storage they realistically need along with any funding that they can provide towards the project.

## **22.55 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **22.55.1 Installation of dropped kerb at Cemetery**

The Committee unanimously RESOLVED to accept the quote provided.

### **22.55.2 Full tree inspection quotes**

The Committee RESOLVED to accept the quote from contractor one subject to some background research into the company along with a further attempt to find some reviews.

## **22.56 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS**

### **22.56.1 Area Update**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>A31 Winchester Road</b>	Planting Bus Stop	In progress In progress	AEO to provide feedback to designer . Accepted quote – awaiting date for clean and replacement panel
<b>Badger Close</b>	Boundary issue – private garden	In progress	EO awaiting update.
<b>Cemetery</b>	Full cemetery inspection Dropped curb request	Pending In progress	Planned Summer 2022 Awaiting date

<b>Recreation Ground</b>	- Tennis court flood light maintenance.	Pending	Awaiting date for works.
	- Cricket pitch; Sale of cricket items.	Pending	Future discussion. JD to do inventory of container.
	-Mark out of junior pitch	Pending	To discuss with football club.
	- Public Spaces Protection Order;	Approved	To investigate with EHDC – AEO to contact DC Thomas
	-Signage update	Pending	Signs in progress of being designed and ordered.
	-Playground -Various pieces of equipment require attention.	Pending	Awaiting date for see-saw and quote for other RoSPA advised actions.
	-Playground fencing	On hold	
-Skate Park-Graffiti/vandalism	In progress	Working party to be formed to repaint areas.	
Footway along football pitch	On Hold	Camera to be located and installed.	
<b>Swelling Hill Pond</b>	Shoring works	In progress	Awaiting meeting with Angling Club. TR1 has been completed and awaiting update.
	Land Registry boundary issue - boundary registration, now submitted	In progress	
	- boundary fencing, seek further quotes ready for confirmation from Land Registry	In progress	To Action when above is confirmed.
<b>Climate Change</b>	- Greening project -Wind turbine	Pending Future meeting	Agreed launch for 14 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Open Spaces – General</b>	<b>PARISH TREES GRASS CUTTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	In progress	Tree inspection contractor agreed and to be accepted.
	<b>VILLAGE SIGNAGE</b> Phase two gateway signage	In Progress	Delay in manufacture.
	<b>LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD</b> Decision to be made whether to approach Highways further following completion of works.	In progress	
	<b>FOOTPATHS</b>		Nothing to report.

## 22.56.2 Update on OS contractor areas

Following on from the previous meeting where the wildflower signs were discussed, the AEO has met with the OS contractor at Lymington Bottom Green to discuss these areas. Although they are not as they were anticipated to be, there are some wildflowers coming through here in contrast to the cricket pitch where they do not seem to

have taken. The contractor was perplexed about this as informed the AEO (which is also reflected in the invoicing) that these areas were heavily seeded.

At this meeting, the AEO asked the contractor to look at the shrub beds as there is couch grass and they have lost their shape becoming very unkempt. Following this, Cllr Foster raised that there was horsetail in the Oak Green flower beds and the AEO had flagged some flowers that were out of control previously.

The horsetail has been dealt with but there are several outstanding tasks in all the areas of responsibility of the gardener. It was agreed to discuss this further outside of a meeting environment.

**22.56.3 Update from the Angling club**

A meeting will be held with the representative from the angling club when they return from their holiday to discuss the shoring works further.

**22.56.4 Liaison meeting with Four Marks Football Club**

No dates and times have yet been provided by the football club. It was noted that the club's Annual General Meeting is due to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and it was agreed that Cllr Davis will attend this.

**22.57 OS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

**22.57.1 The Greening Campaign**

The WI have some posters about the launch of the Greening Campaign in Four Marks and will promote it at the Big Jubilee lunch. They are also going to collect data in a GDPR compliant way about who is interested in being involved in it so that a formal working party to run the campaign can be formed.

**22.57.2 Feedback on the Fighting Climate Change NALC seminar**

The AEO attended the Fighting Climate Change webinar recently and has circulated a recording of the session for the Committee to review. The emphasis of the session was on the impact that Parish and Town Councils could have on climate change despite them often thinking that they can make little difference. The session discussed different tools that could be used when deciding on climate change policies such as a carbon profile of your area and a map of EPC ratings that could help impact initiatives.

**22.58 OS COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

**22.58.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The community events are due to launch on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and all preparations are in hand.

**22.59 The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm**