



Minutes of the Four Marks Annual Parish Meeting

Held on the 31st May 2023, 7.00pm

Councillors present:	Cllr Howard Briggs, (Chairperson) Cllrs Knight, Gebbett, Medhurst, Coulson, Black, Speed, Smith and McAllister.
Other attendees:	Jo Tsigarides (Acting Clerk) County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee District Councillor Neal Day Terry Norton (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) Fifty-six members of the public.

1. Chairman's welcome and introductions.

2. Presentation from Terry Norton.

Terry Norton delivered a presentation discussing the nine key priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner. He pledged an increase in police presence and neighbourhood policing.

Q1 – MOP: What was the number of police on the streets before the budget cuts?

ANSWER: TN noted that the aim was to try and get up to one thousand officers back out on the streets. The number pre 2010 was approximately seven hundred.

Police officers were receiving increased training and there is much more understanding of mental health issues within the police force.

Q2 -MOP: When is Alton Police Station going to re-open?

ANSWER: TN replied that this could be included in part of a wider programme of re opening police stations but that there was not an exact date.

Q3-MOP: Can you guarantee that until the other relevant agencies are up and running again, that the police will still deal with mental health issues?

ANSWER: Not a hard no but police resources are extremely stretched currently.

Q4:-MOP: What priority is given to restorative justice?

ANSWER: A large part of what the police do is in the pursuit of restorative and reparable justice, and a multi-agency approach has been adopted such as working with the probation services to enhance this.

3. PRESENTATION FROM FIGHT 4 FOUR MARKS

A representative from Fight 4 Four Marks delivered a presentation outlining the work that the Interest group does and gave an overview of the specific planning issues relating to Four Marks.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Pullen – another commitment.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING.

On the proposal of Cllr Knight, which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 27th April 2022.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson gave a report which included some information on manifesto of the newly elected Council. There was also some detail given about the review of the Community Building project and the work that was being undertaken.

7. DISTRICT CLLR REPORT – CLLR NEAL DAY

Cllr Day introduced himself as one of the new Ward Councillors and gave a brief presentation of his aims going forward.

8. COUNTY COUNILLOR REPORT – MARK KEMP-GEE

Report attached.

9. PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

Community recognition awards were presented to:

Anna Parrett, School crossing patrol assistant.

Simon and Ingrid Thomas, services to Four Marks. (accepted by Simon Thomas).

John Hammond, community service.

10. GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

MOP

With reference to the community building, the member of the public proposed that there should be a Parish Poll and nine electors supported this. As there needed to be ten electors, the Parish Poll request was not carried.

MOP

In relation to the Community Building, a Fields in Trust Covenant had come to light in the last few months – where was this information found and why was £65 000 wasted on plans that could be prohibited by the Covenant? Two years ago,

concerns were raised over the increase in the precept and the cost of the project. The monies collected should go back to the community.

The Chairman stated that the new Council was in the process of reviewing this and that it would take some time. The documents were in the fireproof safe at the Parish office along with all of the land registry deeds.

MOP

When the position is clarified on the Deed of Covenant, could this information be shared in the Four Marks News so that the community are kept informed?

The Chairperson confirmed that the Council intends to be as transparent as possible when it comes to any information about the community building and will use any available methods to update the community.

Cllr Knight claimed not to have known the information about the Deeds being in a safe at the Parish office and suggested that the Council should be appraised of any information before it was presented to the public. She was informed that as this meeting was not a formal Council meeting, that Standing Orders did not apply and so the Councillors could discuss items that were not on a fixed Agenda.

Cllrs Briggs and McAllister both commented that any information found should be shared with the public at any possible opportunity.

MOP – Could we please ask the Council to introduce themselves?

All Councillors then introduced themselves to the public.

Meeting closed at 8.24pm