

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 commencing at 6.30pm
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lymington Bottom, Four Marks**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Janet Foster (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter and John Davis
IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Goudie (Executive Officer - EO) 7 members of the public District Councillor Diana Tennyson
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Anne Tomlinson

20.10 OS OPEN SESSION

The Chairman invited items for discussion under the open session.

Six members of the public were in attendance to question the Parish Council's decision to introduce dogs on leads at the Recreation Ground, and a lengthy debate took place on the pros and cons of the proposal. All points were taken into consideration and noted. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council were as frustrated as the attendees over this issue. She confirmed that various suggestions had been implemented, including increasing the bin emptying frequency, and the purchase of a new bin, about to be installed providing bags. She asked those in attendance to help the Parish Council by policing the area and reporting offenders. Whilst noting it is not easy to approach them, the EO reminded attendees that if they can report incidents with approximate dates and times, it saves hours of time going through CCTV footage. The EO also reminded all attendees that this was primarily a sports and recreation ground, and children and adults should be able to play sports without the threat of falling or treading in dog mess. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored until the District Council's PSPO comes into force, and if there is a noticeable improvement the decision may be rescinded. There was another member of the public in attendance who supported the Parish Council's decision highlighting the dangerous diseases that dog mess can pass on, which is the sole reason why dogs are not allowed in the children's play area at any time.

A further question was raised with reference to the proposed traffic surveys within Four Marks and would the Parish Council consider including some areas of Medstead in the survey, as the traffic moves from one village to the other. It was suggested that Medstead Parish Council is contacted to see if they would be agreeable to including some locations, to be identified, and share the cost.

Cllr Tennyson raised a couple of issues, one referring to the lack of lighting on the school route. It was noted that there are lights at the school, but not on the routes to and from. Cllr Tennyson advised she would be responding directly.

There being no further items in the Open Session, the formal meeting commenced at 19.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.

20.11 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence received from Cllr Tomlinson, which was noted and accepted.

20.12 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20.13 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 following proposal by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Bonter, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting, following one typographical change, and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
 - The EO referred to the cemetery gates and advised that the additional bolts for the gates had not yet been ordered but was on the action list.
 - The EO advised that the playground inspection course had been changed to March at Alton, Cllrs Davis and Foster to attend.

20.14 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

20.14.1 Swelling Hill Pond

No response had been received with reference to the land boundary proposal, and the EO agreed to chase.

The quotation for replacement fencing had not been received in time for the meeting, so this item was deferred.

The new steps had now been completed, and the EO showed members a photograph, although the concrete at top and bottom had not set and now contained footprints, the EO would contact the contractor and get the issue resolved, and area cordoned off until the concrete had set.

New bench would be installed on the East side of the pond once the quotation had been agreed.

20.14.2 Bins

It was agreed and RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Foster, to increase bin emptying to weekly throughout the year, rather than just Summer months, to try and alleviate the regularly overflowing well used bins.

20.14.3 Traffic Surveys

Following agreement in principle to the quotation for the volume and speed analysis survey of £1,300, it was agreed to defer going ahead until Full Council meet, giving Medstead Parish Council time to confirm whether they wish to be included.

20.15 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

20.15.1 Badger Close

Following further communication with reference to the Ash Tree in the wildlife corridor at Badger Close, the EO had responded informing the enquirer, that a further detailed inspection would be carried out in the Spring, see Minute 20.05.6, and any decision on action required would be taken after the inspection. Due to its location, the tree will need to be removed by platform from the adjoining property, so access permission would need to be sought as and when appropriate.

Ash Trees in the Dell do need to be removed, as per the two previous surveys, and it was agreed that this would be the next project. The existing broken fence would then be replaced. Advice needs to be sought on how to re-establish the natural grass growth, and wildflower planting, on the grassed area of the Dell.

20.15.2 Bench Installation and other jobs

The EO had received two quotations to date and each was discussed. It was agreed to go with the lower quotation, being the most cost effective and, as the contractor who provided the quotation had previously carried out satisfactory work for the Parish Council, were confident awarding the work to this contractor.

20.15.3 Recreation Ground/Benians Pavilion

Recreation Ground:

Dog fouling. The EO reported she had received a number of emails, including a freedom of information request (to be discussed at Full Council), with reference to the proposed introduction of dogs on leads at the Recreation Ground once the District Council's PSPO was in place. A detailed discussion had taken place in the open session and following that discussion it was agreed to defer the decision temporarily to see if the situation improves following the actions currently being implemented.

Dug outs. The Football Club had suggested that, instead of removing the dug outs, putting a door or roller shutter on them to prevent access, to try and resolve the anti-social behaviour issues. The EO had investigated the viability of this proposal, which would incur costs in excess of £500 for materials and fitting, however concern was raised that this would be a target for vandalism and unlikely to resolve the problem just add different ones, and would end up with the dug outs having to be removed anyway, thus being a waste of public funds. There had been further reports, both by email and on social media, over the weekend of antisocial behaviour resulting in bottles being thrown over the nearby resident's fence. One quotation had been received to remove the dug-outs and it was agreed to wait for a second quotation for comparison before awarding the contract. A further discussion took place on what could be provided in their place, and it was agreed to install two permanent benches a certain distance apart, and if required, provide portable shelters that could be kept in storage.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to remove the dug outs, once the second quotation had been received, and install two permanent benches in their place.

Temporary closure of the pitches. The EO advised the Committee of an email received from the Archers with reference to the temporary suspension of the use of the pitches. They have offered, in future, to check the pitch prior to each use to ensure it is not too wet, and moving target areas to avoid over-use. It was agreed that, should there be no further rainfall by the weekend, they could start re-using the pitch, and would be notified accordingly. The Committee also agreed to them laying bark at the entrance to the container until a more permanent solution was reached. The EO would also confirm in her response, that she was the point of contact and spoke on behalf of the Council as a whole.

The EO suggested a change to the Recreation Ground regulations to cover this issue in the future, which was agreed.

Benians Pavilion. The proposal to use the Benians Pavilion for the community cupboard had been raised, but not supported by the Committee due to lack of space and availability, however the District Councillors had suggested Changing Room 2, which would hold a fridge and has separate access. A further proposal, if no other venue had been identified, would go back to the Committee. Noting the proposed expansion has been earmarked to start July, so this may only be a temporary measure. The EO is checking other issues with reference to the expansion as per the F&GP committee's discussion.

20.15.4 Oak Green; bin relocation

The EO when recently at Oak Green, noticed one bin overflowing by the bakers, which had been previously noted by the Chairman, with the one by the notice board underused. It had been suggested to move the bin by the notice board, however, it was agreed not to pursue this course of action, particularly now the emptying has increased to weekly all year.

20.15.5 A31 Telegraph Lane; provision of new notice board, bench and bin

The EO asked the Committee to consider a new bench and bin in addition to the proposed new footpath map signage and notice board to brighten up the small area. It was also suggested that an attempt is made to improve the open area with grass, as the wildflower planting had not established, although acknowledged that the canopy cover may not be conducive to grass growing. The EO had noted that HCC cleared this area as part of their verge cutting, so they may be unaware of the ownership of the land. It was agreed to replace the bench, using re-cycled materials, when the notice board is replaced, but that a bin was not necessary. EO to action in due course.

20.15.6 Annual Tree Inspection and planting plan

Inspection:

The EO reminded the Committee that works still needed to be carried out as part of the previous two inspections and a follow up inspection will be due in the Spring. Cllr Tennyson had provided the EO with a new contact to carry out the interim survey. A full survey would need to be carried out next year, which would need to be budgeted for in the 2021/22 financial year.

Planting Plan:

The EO circulated a draft proposal for tree planting on Parish owned land, for the next planting season, on the various previously identified areas as detailed on the plan. She confirmed that the Ash trees beside the play area, due to be removed at the end of the month, needed to be replaced in this planting season and that it would make sense to continue the line of Hornbeam and Lime subject to stock availability. The EO also suggested that the Parish Council plant a memorial tree for VE 75 in the Cemetery, of appropriate species and location, and would find out what would be suitable and available in May.

20.15.7 Open Spaces Tender Contract

The EO circulated a draft tender for approval and asked for comments by Monday of the following week. New contract would take effect from 1st April 2020.

20.15.8 Christmas Tree Festival proposal for knitted display

The EO had received a request to decorate Lymington Green with some knitted Christmas trees in December, similar to the poppy wall. Following some clarification from Cllr Hammond on some issues, the proposal was agreed.

20.15.9 Great British Spring Clean

It was agreed, following discussion to participate in this year's Great British Spring Clean, and invite other local community groups to join in. Details would be circulated, and a date agreed following the meeting. The Great British Spring Clean takes place from 20 March to 13 April 2020.

20.16 OS AREA UPDATE

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31/Telegraph Lane	- Proposal for new bench and notice board, wild-flower planting	Action	Agenda item
Allotments	FOI request for communication with reference to sale of land response sent		Nothing further to report
Badger Close	- Ash trees to be felled - Replacement fencing - Ash Tree – Wildlife corridor	Pending Pending Action	Agenda item

Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memorial inspections action report; now complete and quotes out for remedial work - Spoil area to be relocated, temporary area behind bin; Spring/Summer - Bench to be replaced, grant received, order bench and arrange installation - Plum tree now removed, replanting to be carried out in due course; 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p>	<p><i>Quotation received, to be discussed at next meeting</i></p> <p>Awaiting Installation</p> <p>Agenda item re quotation</p>
Kingswood Copse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ash Tree inspection to be carried out and action plan put in place - Footpaths to be checked; 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p>	
Lymington Bottom Green	No current issues		
Oak Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relocation of bin - Replacement CCTV - Action plan for drain cleaning (Spring) 	<p>Action</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p>	Agenda item
Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recreation Ground sign; deposit now paid and in production; - Land between Skate Park and Pavilion; chase - CCTV; - New skate park equipment, on order and awaiting installation (End Feb) - All Recreation Ground users to be complete and return hire forms, with insurance as appropriate; - Public Spaces Protection Order; awaiting outcome of consultation, and introduction of dogs on leads, signs to be ordered - Vandalism/anti-social behaviour; dug outs to be removed, contractor to be sought - Cricket pitch; first work now carried out - Ash Tree removal 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p>	<p>Installation w/c 27/1/20</p> <p><i>Meeting held, EHDC legal team to be briefed.</i></p> <p>Meeting 30/1/20</p> <p>End Feb installation now likely</p> <p>Agenda item, new proposal for dug-outs</p> <p>New contractor appointed, work to be carried out 25 Feb 2/3 days</p>
Station Gardens	No current issues		
Swelling Hill Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De-silting completed, shoring works next project and new boundary fencing - Land Registry boundary issue, awaiting response to email re last meetings proposal - New bench to be ordered and installed, location to be agreed - Steps to be reinstated – February - New tree and wild flower planting 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Action</p>	Agenda item for further discussion
Footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works to clear vegetation and expose hard standing, Footpath 2, quote accepted and work to be carried out in February. - Footpath maps/routes to be compiled for website/boards around village - Purchase of kissing gate for FP27, pending boundary issue being resolved 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p>	<i>To be carried out w/c 10th Feb</i>

	- JT to attend next Alton Ramblers meeting and make contact with HCC RoW		
Benians Pavilion	- Drain cleaning; cleaned out, but already filling up again - Roof; awaiting refurbishment, - Fault reported with tennis court floodlights and engineer visit requested, however seems to coincide with power outages, monitor for further problems, no further issues reported - Change supplier for fire equipment check;	Ongoing On hold Pending Pending	
Climate Change	- Water refill station, awaiting plumber to confirm installation is possible - Draft policy now in place, ongoing policy	Ongoing Ongoing	Agenda item
Open Spaces – General	PARISH TREES Inspection New planting scheme BINS Proposal to increase to weekly lifts all year GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE Tender for new contract	Action Pending Action Pending Action Pending	Agenda item Agenda item Agenda item

20.16.1 **Update**

The EO referred to further updates to circulated update report, which have been added in red text and italics.

20.16.2 **Climate change policy**

Cllr Bonter had briefly highlighted a proposal for energy efficiency at a previous meeting, it was agreed to add this, and any other suggestions, to the next meeting's Agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Tennyson confirmed schools had instigated an art competition on climate change.

There were no further updates on the current policy at this stage. The community cupboard initiative had been covered under a previous Minute, 20.15.3.

20.17 **OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 4th March 2020, 6.30pm, at the Village Hall

20.18 **OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.55pm**