

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee  
Held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 commencing at 6.30pm  
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lymington Bottom, Four Marks**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis and Janet Foster</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Sarah Goudie (Executive Officer - EO) 1 member of the public District Councillor Diana Tennyson</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>None</b>

**20.19 OS OPEN SESSION**

**The Chairman invited items for discussion under the open session.**

The EO advised of a communication from SSE with reference to a damaged lighting column, which informs that HCC are not responsible for their maintenance. However, upon checking the postcode, the damaged light was in Ropley, so was passed onto Ropley Parish Council.

Cllr Tennyson advised of a tree warden site meeting at the Copse, Gloucester Close, having had permission from the land owner, on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm, and advised that three people could attend, suitably attired.

**There being no further items in the Open Session, the formal meeting commenced at 6.40pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

**20.20 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**20.21 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**20.22 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 following proposal by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Foster, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:

Cllr Davis asked if there was an update on the progress of the PSPO, the EO advised that the result of the consultation and proposal was due to be heard at the EHDC Cabinet meeting this month. It was agreed to hold off ordering the dogs on leads signs until further updates were received. The EO also advised that there would be a presentation at the SLCC clerks meeting in September on a different initiative for trying to prevent dog fouling which looked potentially interesting and maybe worth consideration if the PSPO is not approved.

## 20.23 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

### 20.23.1 Recreation Ground: water refill station

Following circulation of the installation and rental costs, and subsequent discussion on rental costs as opposed to purchase costs, to provide a water refill station at the Recreation Ground, it was agreed and RESOLVED to go ahead with the installation and hire of the equipment on a 36 month contract period.

### 20.23.2 Badger Close; request to replace fence with vegetation

Following circulation of the details surrounding the request, a detailed discussion took place on the resident's proposal. The Committee were advised that as the Badger sett is a protected area, it was part of the planning permission that the sett be adequately fenced off and as such a vegetation boundary may not be sufficient to prevent access by potential threats to the badgers. It was agreed and RESOLVED to propose, should the resident not wish to replace the close board fencing, they install a chain link style fence with a vegetation boundary in front of it to shield as appropriate.

### 20.23.3 Swelling Hill Pond; replacement fencing

Following circulation of the costings with reference to removing the existing dilapidated fencing and replacing with wooden posts and wire, further discussions took place with reference to the boundary query and the delayed response with reference to the proposals. Whilst keen to upgrade the fencing the EO advised that it may be prudent to wait until the boundary had been clarified before upgrading the fencing and suggested that the land surveyor was reappointed to re-draw the boundary line along the fence line. Then re-submit the paperwork to Land Registry with the appropriate supporting paperwork and once the new boundary agreed and accepted, that would be the time to formally re-mark the boundary. The EO advised that the adjacent land owner had indicated that they were keen to incorporate the public footpath into their land curtilage, which was acknowledged and agreed by the Committee. The land owner had been chased for a response, but it was agreed and RESOLVED to go ahead with the EO's suggested proposal. *[Subsequent to the meeting, the land owner has now made contact and the EO will report the outcome of the conversation and progress at the next meeting.]*

## 20.24 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 20.24.1 Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure plan

It was agreed that the survey was not appropriate for a Parish Council response, but that each individual Councillor should respond as a resident, and the EO would respond as a worker in the area. There would be an opportunity to expand the response in questions 14 and 15 which would be from a Parish Council perspective. The EO agreed to re-circulate the survey.

### 20.24.2 Climate change: proposal for wind turbine

Cllr Bonter had investigated options of installing a small wind turbine at the pavilion. He presented details of some initial findings, and was able to answer questions on output, operation, and potential clawback. An indicative cost was given of £1350 excluding batteries, but there would likely be grants available. It was not likely to be of much financial benefit long term but would be more an action in a bid to combat climate change in line with the ongoing parish council action plan and to be seen leading by example.

The turbine would be installed on the side of the building, but relatively unobtrusive and moving forward it was suggested this, together with the solar panels, should be considered on any new building.

Cllr Bonter was asked to put a formal proposal together ready for approval in principle at the next meeting and for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting to gauge public opinion on the proposed expenditure prior to taking this initiative further.

**20.24.3 Great British Spring Clean**

Following agreement to participate in the Great British Spring Clean, and allocating the date of 4<sup>th</sup> April, it was agreed to promote the Council’s involvement on social media and notice boards, with a plan of areas to be cleaned available for agreement at the next meeting. The EO was asked to approach COGS for the loan of their equipment. It was also suggested that everyone is encouraged to clear a small area near where they live with the option of bring the bags of rubbish to the parish office for collation and disposal if they are unable to be part of the organised clean up.

**20.24.4 South East in Bloom**

Following circulation of details of the South East in Bloom competition it was agreed not to participate, but to give this further consideration in the future. To be brought back to Committee in October for further consideration.

**20.24.5 To consider purchase of cricket roller**

Following circulation of the costings and information as presented and following a detailed discussion, it was RESOLVED to purchase the cricket roller from Medstead Cricket Club, following proposal by Cllr Bonter, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and agreed by all members.

**20.24.6 To consider construction of separated spoil area at the Cemetery**

Following circulation of a proposal, including costings, and further discussion it was agreed, and therefore RESOLVED to go ahead with the construction of a designated spoil area in the Cemetery, as per the quotation received.

**20.25 OS AREA UPDATE**

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31/Telegraph Lane	- Proposal for new bench and notice board, wild-flower planting	Pending	Agreed
Allotments	No current issues		
Badger Close	- Ash trees to be felled - Replacement fencing - Ash Tree, Wildlife corridor to be inspected Spring - Resident proposal to replace boundary fence with shrubs due to high soil levels and ongoing fence damage	Pending Pending Pending  <b>Action</b>	    <b>Agenda item for approval</b>
Cemetery	- 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;	Ongoing  <b>Action</b> Pending Pending	  <b>Agenda item for approval</b>  Awaiting Installation Tree to be planted May for VE 75 memorial
Kingswood Copse	- Ash Tree inspection to be carried out and action plan put in place - Footpaths to be checked;	Pending Pending	

<b>Lymington Bottom Green</b>	No current issues		
<b>Oak Green</b>	- Relocation of bin; no further action - Replacement CCTV - Action plan for drain cleaning (Spring)	Pending Pending	
<b>Recreation Ground</b>	-Recreation Ground sign; now installed - Land between Skate Park and Pavilion; - CCTV; - New skate park equipment, on order and awaiting installation - Public Spaces Protection Order; awaiting outcome of consultation, and introduction of dogs on leads, <b>signs to be ordered</b> - Vandalism/anti-social behaviour; dug outs to be removed, awaiting improvement in ground conditions, benches to be ordered and installed - Cricket pitch; first work now carried out, awaiting second treatment, barrier to be ordered. - proposal to purchase roller for cricket square from Medstead CC - Ash Tree removal – work completed, follow up report to be discussed -Scout bin; to be removed by EHDC due to misuse and no longer being emptied.	Ongoing On hold  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  <b>Action</b>  <b>Action</b>  <b>Pending</b>	Awaiting EHDC report  March installation now likely Consultation report being presented to March EHDC cabinet meeting, awaiting outcome          <b>Agenda item for approval</b>  <b>Meeting report</b>
<b>Station Gardens</b>	- two flowering cherry trees to be planted	<b>Pending</b>	
<b>Swelling Hill Pond</b>	- Shoring works next project and <b>new boundary fencing</b> - Land Registry boundary issue, response chased, land registry application to be prepared and land surveyor appointed to draw up boundary proposal - Awaiting bench installation - Steps now completed - Angling Club meeting	<b>Action</b>   Pending  <b>Action</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>      <b>Meeting report</b>
<b>Footpaths</b>	- 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 - JT to attend next Alton Ramblers meeting and make contact with HCC RoW	Pending  Ongoing  Pending  Pending	
<b>Benians Pavilion</b>	- Drain; soakaway – check whether still operational. - 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	Ongoing  On hold          Pending	

	- Change supplier for fire equipment check; new supplier now appointed, former supplier now informed.		
Climate Change	- Water refill station, installation proposals - Wildflower planting area, Recreation Ground to be considered	<b>Action</b>  Pending	<b>Agenda item for approval</b>
Open Spaces – General	<b>PARISH TREES</b> Follow up inspection to be carried out early Spring. Tree planting scheme; proposal document to be formalised  <b>GRASS CUTTING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b> Tender out for new contract, closing date 9 <sup>th</sup> March, for consideration at Full Council	 Pending  Pending   Pending	

### 20.25.1 Area Update

The only additional updates on the report are that the new equipment in the skate park has been installed, just awaiting final fixing before the security fencing can be removed, and Footpath 2 has been cleared but additional material is required to finish off, which the EO had already authorised under delegated powers.

### 20.25.2 Report on meeting with Angling Club

Cllr Bonter circulated a report on the recent meeting with the Angling Club and has agreed to attend future meetings to ensure ongoing dialogue. Several issues were raised which the EO will respond to in due course, however it was agreed to contact EHDC to see if they would consider replacing the bins with larger ones as there is a continual problem with overflowing bins and litter.

### 20.25.3 Ash Tree Removal and replacement planting plan

The EO had included a report with the meeting paperwork but reported further that the site had still not been cleared nor any effort made to repair damage. It was agreed that the invoice, which had been submitted prior to the completion of the job, would not be paid until the site had been cleared of all timber and the damage repaired. The EO was asked to contact the contractor advising of the above decision to ensure that there are no issues regarding non payment of the invoice.

The new planting had been due to take place this week but had been put on hold until the site has been cleared from all arisings.

### 20.26 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, 6.30pm, at the Village Hall

### 20.27 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.55pm