

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 17th June 2020, commencing at 7.30pm
Held remotely via Zoom video conferencing**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Vice Chairman) Cllrs Neil Bonter, Tim Brake, John Davis, John Hammond, Mike Sanders, Bryan Timms and Simon Thomas
IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Goudie, Executive Officer (EO) No members of the public Jo Tsigarides (AEO) District Councillor Ingrid Thomas
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Shaun McCarthy

20.62 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Tomlinson opened the meeting, acting as temporary Chair, in the light of Cllr Foster's offer of resignation. Cllr Foster believed she had breached the code of conduct and compromised the Council by putting her name to a document without seeking prior approval from the Council.

Following a discussion and input from all Councillors, although noting that Cllr Foster had acted erroneously, even by approving in principle, the consensus was that she had been misled by the initial request and had assumed that the final draft would have been shared for approval prior to issue. She confirmed that, had that been the case, it would have been at that point she would have presented it to the Council for discussion. The EO confirmed, following consultation with local clerks, that although other Council's had given their approval prior to adding their support to the proposal, none of the people named on the communication that had agreed to support the concept, including District Councillors, had seen sight of the final draft before issue. It was agreed to discuss this further under the open session.

The EO reminded Councillors of their duty and referred all Councillors to Standing Order 25, and that unless authorised by a resolution, no Councillor shall (i) inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect, or (ii) issue orders, instructions or directions, and that under the LGA 1972, a Council cannot delegate the performance of its statutory and legal responsibilities to an individual Councillor.

Taking the above into consideration, Councillors voted unanimously to support Cllr Foster and asked her to rescind her offer of resignation, which she duly did and thanking Councillors for their support, took the Chair, and then invited items for discussion under the Open Session.

20.63 OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Following on from the issues raised with reference to the jointly signed letter from Alton and Rural parishes, to the Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary, Councillors raised concern, firstly that the final draft was not sent out for approval prior to it being mailed to its recipient, and secondly that the tone of the letter was confrontational and may be received with negativity rather than positive engagement. Whilst not wishing to detract from the initiative, which would have been supported in principle, it was agreed that the EO should contact some of the other named Councils for their opinion prior to any response.

Cllr Timms, having been tasked to enquire after the health of a former Councillor and village stalwart, confirmed that following an accident some six weeks ago, they are now recovering at home. The Council were pleased to note this good news and send their best wishes.

District Councillor Thomas wished to thank the Parish Council, and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their work on submissions with reference to the Local Plan Review and Large Sites Consultation.

There were no issues to raise, the Chairman closed the open session and opened the formal meeting at 7.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.

20.64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Shaun McCarthy, the apology was acknowledged and accepted.

20.65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded all Councillors of their obligation to declare any declarations of either pecuniary or personal interest in any Agenda items.

There were no declarations of interest.

20.66 COUNCIL MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2020, previously circulated, following proposal as an accurate record of the meeting by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Thomas, agreed by all Councillors. The Minutes would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting held in person.

20.67 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the EO for a successful Internal Final Audit report with no recommendations.

The Chairman also wished to raise a communication received from the District Councillor with reference to the Hampshire Together initiative and the opportunity to modernise the NHS, nationally and locally. Cllr Tomlinson indicated that she would like to become involved with local initiatives.

20.68 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr Tennyson's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is attached as Appendix 1 with an addendum added by District Cllr Thomas, added as Appendix 2, following the press release on the Local Sites Consultation.

Cllr Brake questioned District Cllr Thomas on the recent decision on the large sites, although pleased at this stage, does still fear very much for the future, and that smaller sites would come forward in the meantime with no infrastructure improvements, also raising concern over the stated area of search along the A31 corridor.

District Cllr Thomas responded that the proposal for up to 160 houses at the Barn Lane site was still in the Local Plan Review, and that the area of search had been introduced to avoid minimum numbers. Northbrook Park, although not identified at this stage, due to the flooding and loss of employment issues, but may come back at the next review. Cllr Timms questioned how the issue of flooding would be resolved, with Cllr Thomas commenting that the development would only be on the uphill side.

Cllr Hammond also, in agreement, with Cllr Brake was concerned that this was just a 5 year delay, and also questioned the length of the A31 corridor. District Cllr Thomas responded that she could not yet confirm, but that it was likely to be from the Surrey/Hampshire border to the top of the hill coming out of Four Marks, although the committee had not yet been set up, she would be involved.

Cllr Sanders thanked District Councillor Thomas for all her hard work with the Local Sites Consultation.

20.69 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Executive Officer had circulated her report prior to the meeting.

There were no questions on the report, however the EO referred to an item listed on the previous week's correspondence list which had been retracted as it had should not have been circulated.

Cllr Brake asked the EO to reference the latest COVID 19 track and trace scam in her next Four Marks News report.

20.70 OPEN SPACES

20.70.1 Cllr Tomlinson gave a brief report on the Open Spaces meeting. Highlighting the anti-social behaviour, particularly that at Oak Green, and thanked Cllr Foster for going above and beyond to clear the mess. CCTV provision because of both the incidents at Oak Green and the Recreation Ground was now back on the Agenda.

20.70.2 The EO had circulated the proposals with reference to the purchase of the replacement and new equipment for the children's play area for formal approval by Full Council. There were questions on the stability of the fire engine, which Cllr Davis confirmed was HDPE a very hard wearing and durable plastic. Cllr Sanders questioned the process on how the type of equipment to be provided was reached. The EO confirmed that the Springer was a replacement for an existing piece of equipment and the fire engine was proposed instead of replacing the second springer, being aimed at all ages, as the most requests from mothers of toddlers were for pieces of equipment that could be used and climbed on by even the youngest of children. The fire engine appears to fit this brief.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Open Spaces Committee's recommendation, following proposal by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr Brake and agreed by all Councillors, to award the contract to Company B, being the most cost effective overall and a local and previously used company. An application for developers' contributions would be made to purchase and install the equipment as proposed.

20.71 PLANNING

20.71.1 Cllr Thomas referring to the circulated Minutes gave a brief report on the recent Planning Meeting. He referred to the application on the land north of Kia Ora and advised that there did appear to be an inaccuracy with the Tree Preservation Order, which the EO would check on her next visit to the office.

Cllr Thomas also wished to add his thanks to those involved with the Large Sites Consultation. Although Councillors are still concerned with reference to speculative applications, Cllr Thomas confirmed that the District Council now has a robust housing land supply and therefore in a very different position to 2011-2016 and referred to the Inspectors decision on the Friars Oak 2 Appeal.

20.71.2 EHDC Planning Committee Point of Order

The EO had circulated under supplementary matters a report on the concerns raised with reference to the EHDC Planning Committee meeting to discuss whether to formally submit a complaint on the incident.

Cllr Thomas, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, briefly detailed what had happened, but advised caution in further action. Referring to Point 1, the timing and impact of the legal officer's intervention, it was agreed that there did not appear to be any reason for this intervention, other than the reference to the difficulty in getting data for the GGTA survey, but it could not be confirmed that, had he not intervened at that point, the outcome would have been different.

Referring to Point 2, and confirmation the weight of the existing Local Plan, and the Legal officers reference to the Inspectors interpretation of the weight the existing plan, further discussion was had on the 14 year land supply of pitches and Cllr Tomlinson asked why there appears to be no benefit of having a proven supply.

Cllr Timms asked for clarification on the timescale for a judicial review, and whether local residents could take this course of action. The timescale was confirmed as 6 weeks after the decision, but Cllr Thomas advised that the case would need to be very robust.

Cllr Tomlinson proposed that instead of a formal complaint a further question is asked of EHDC on why the proven 14 year land supply is not deemed adequate based on their own survey and of no benefit when determining applications for sites. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Timms, and when put to a vote was supported by 6 Councillors with 3 abstentions, and therefore carried.

20.72 FINANCIAL REPORTS

20.72.1 Approval of May 2020 bank reconciliations and trial balance

Following circulation and with no further comment, following Full Council approval, it was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations and trial balance as at 31st May 2020 following proposal by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

20.72.2 To authorise June 2020 payments

Following circulation of supplementary papers, the June payments as detailed below, with no further comments, following Full Council approval, it was RESOLVED to authorise the June 2020 payments as presented, following proposal by Cllr Tomlinson and seconded by Cllr Brake, which would be signed in due course.

List of Payments made between 01/06/2020 and 30/06/2020

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/06/2020	1&1 Ionos Internet Limited	DD	51.60		Former website final account
05/06/2020	Talk Talk Business	DD	32.34		May office phone/b/band
10/06/2020	Hampshire Woodlands Ltd	BACS	840.00		Tree maintenance
10/06/2020	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	BACS	148.80		Annual software licence
10/06/2020	Auditing Solutions	BACS	366.00		End of Year Audit
10/06/2020	Semrah Landscape Management	BACS	1,854.00		Open Spaces grass cutting
16/06/2020	Zarik Kuhn	BACS	330.00		Bench & bin installation
21/06/2020	Biffa Waste Services	DD	194.06		Waste collection - Pavilion
22/06/2020	British Gas	DD	18.65		Monthly gas bill - Pavilion
29/06/2020	HALC	BACS	102.00		Clerk development training
30/06/2020	Unity Trust Bank	BANK	28.95		Quarterly bank charge
		Total Payments	3,966.40		

20.72.3 Internal Audit Report

The Final Audit report had been circulated and now submitted to the External Auditor. There were no recommendations. The Council duly noted the report, with thanks, again to the EO.

20.73 EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

20.73.1 Allotments.

Cllr Davis confirmed that there were now 4 people on the waiting list. There had also been issues with reference to the wildlife corridor being cleared and a report of a problem with rats. The EO confirmed that she had checked the planning paperwork which seemed to confirm that the boundary fencing was correctly located but had not found evidence that this is a designated wildlife corridor. Compliance had been notified, and the District Councillor was asked to check on progress. The EO confirmed that the rat issue would be discussed further at Open Spaces.

20.73.2 Benians Pavilion

There had obviously been no meetings and the EO advised that the Pavilion would potentially be opening in August for smaller clubs with appropriate measures in place. The EO also confirmed that they had received the £10,000 government hospitality grant directly, but that this should be used to ensure ongoing bills were

paid while the Pavilion was not earning revenue. There had been no accounts submitted yet, and this year's licence had not yet been signed. The licence would change next year following the end of the restrictions imposed by the Sport England grant.

20.73.3 Footpaths

The AEO gave a brief update on the footpaths, advising that there had been a report of a dangerous stile, and had contacted the ramblers to see if they could carry out a temporary repair until such time as a kissing gate could be installed, and that paperwork was now being completed to apply for a grant to change three stiles to kissing gates. One at the junction of FP7 and 18 and the other two on Footpath 27 at Swelling Hill Pond. Cllr Timms asked if the footpaths had been strimmed yet, but the EO could not confirm, but agreed to contact the contractor.

20.73.4 Oak Green

Cllr Foster confirmed that the police were aware of the issues at Oak Green and were still hoping to catch the perpetrator with the assistance of the local shop staff. She also confirmed that the drains were to be cleared out and the alleyway footway between the shops jet washed. A quotation had also been received to reattach the broken bollard by the bike racks.

Cllr Thomas asked whether the Parish Council were putting any social distancing measures in place for the re-opening of the shops, after due consideration it was agreed that the path was wide enough to allow passing of queues safely and able to keep to the 2m guidance and it was hoped that people would use common sense. The queue outside Tesco did cause issues at times, but the Parish Council are not responsible for that area, and it was managed by staff members.

20.73.5 Village Hall

Cllr Brake confirmed there was nothing to report on the Village Hall. The EO confirmed that the nursery was now open but was not aware of any other clubs using the facility. There had been no further news with reference to the Ash Tree, nor acknowledgement of the receipt of the grant.

20.74 ONGOING PROJECTS

20.74.1 Community Facility Improvements

Cllr Thomas confirmed that a meeting was scheduled for next week, and there would be an update at the next Council meeting.

20.74.2 Climate Change

Cllr Thomas raised the issue with the proposed Wey Incinerator and whether the Parish Council should become involved in any capacity, although it could not be confirmed as to whether a planning application had been submitted to HCC at this stage. It was agreed that, as not all Councillors had the same opinion, no decision should be made either way until the Council had further information, and the EO was asked to liaise with the Alton Town Clerk in this regard.

20.74.3 Festival Committee projects

Cllr Hammond, now returned and catching up with council business, would now continue progress on the outstanding projects of the Swelling Hill Pond information board and Village gateway signs.

20.75 NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 15th July 2020, at 7.30pm, it was suggested that this meeting was still likely to be held remotely, unless legislation is lifted to enable a gathering of more than 10 people to take place. The EO confirmed that it was unlikely that the Council would be able to meet in person until at least September. Although the Council historically don't meet in August, it was agreed that there should be an option to meet if required.

20.76 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.45pm.

APPENDIX 1

District Councillor Report – Cllr Diana Tennyson

District Councillor's Report: July, 2020.

Life has changed dramatically for all of us since I last wrote a report for the villages in our ward. Social distancing remains in force in England and schools have until recently been closed.

Children's wildlife art competition: The competition was very successful despite schools and pre-schools closing at the end of March. Entries were judged by local artist, illustrator and writer, Rachel Hudson, and EHDC arranged a press release. I helped arrange the competition to connect young children with the Climate and Environment liaison panel at EHDC, and in conjunction with Gilbert White's House Museum. We had hoped that the winning entries could be displayed at their Nature Festival in May, but this had to be cancelled. We hope that a virtual exhibition can be arranged with GWHM at a later date.

Learning at home: Parents have had to meet the challenge to educate their children at home over the last three months. Children have also been able to access assignments online and some of our national and local museums have arranged virtual exhibitions and online activities. It will be refreshing for everyone to be able to visit museums with gardens, providing distancing guidance has been set in place.

It is also a relief to hear that zoos and wildlife parks will open, so children will be able to visit Birdworld and Marwell Zoo which both run important conservation programmes for animals, birds, etc. Reptile houses and aquariums where social distancing cannot be maintained will remain closed for the time being.

Marwell Zoo: The Zoo is preparing to open safely from 15 June, their priority being safety, and will include two metre floor markings at enclosures and queues, as well as one-way routes on single pathways. The Summer brick adventure event is fully installed and will be on display until November. The cost of running the Zoo, and caring for all the animals is extremely high, and estimated to be approximately £600,000 per month. To find out more about their fundraising appeal and how you can help go to www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportMarwell . Animals and birds may also be adopted online. It is important to also book in advance online before visiting as the Zoo will be limiting the number of guests.

Birdworld: This is the UK's largest bird park with twenty-six acres of aviaries and landscaped gardens with over a thousand birds and 180 species from around the world. Educational feeding sessions have always been popular, as are exhibits including the Terry Pratchett Owl Parliament, Penguin Beach and Jenny Wren Farm. The park is also preparing to open, but at the time of writing their website is oversubscribed, so again important to check before visiting.

Four Marks Coronavirus Community Support Group: Help is available with shopping or collecting prescriptions for anyone self-isolating, shielding or in need of assistance. If you are online, search for the 'Four Marks Coronavirus Community Support Group' on Facebook and ask to join the group. The contact number for Four Marks Care is 01420-564435 and the Parish Council may be contacted on 01420 768284.

Medstead Voluntary Care Group: This group also offers help with doctor's appointments, dental and hospital visits. Contact their co-ordinator on 0845 46305 46.

Medstead Covid19 Support Group: Contact number 0845 4740115.

Alton Covid19 Mutual Aid: I have been working with this group via their call back scheme to help support elderly and vulnerable people. Help and support is of course available for anyone who may need it, including families and mothers with babies and young children. Information and advice for mothers has been provided by telephone, and support has

also been available with online, WhatsApp groups, etc. Anyone needing help or support, or a friendly chat, can contact Alton Covid19 Mutual Aid on 0800 066 3697.

The National Childbirth Trust: This charity also provides antenatal courses, and postnatal classes, support and services. The website offers helpful information for new mothers breastfeeding and weaning their infants, www.nct.org.uk.

East Hampshire District Council are also a government hub with volunteers to help with food deliveries, etc. The Council wants to ensure that everyone has the support they need during the pandemic. A helpline is available for advice and information for elderly and vulnerable people in Hampshire, contact number 0333 370 4000, from 9 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. EHDC is working with voluntary organisations to help ensure that support is available to everyone in need. Staff are also assisting with community support work. Community First is co-ordinating volunteers to make sure that vulnerable residents have everything they need. If you have any concerns, please contact Community First at support@cfirst.org.uk.

The Climate and Environment liaison panel at EHDC and the HCC are encouraging residents to walk or cycle to work and school, if possible. During *Lockdown* there has been an increase in the number of families and residents enjoying walking or cycling for pleasure. Until recently residents were only permitted one period of exercise per day. This was then increased to two periods of exercise, and is now thankfully unlimited. However, the present two metre self-distancing rule should be obeyed at all times to avoid transmission of the virus.

HCC Survey: There is a survey on walking/cycling which can be accessed via <https://hantscovidtravelmap.commonplace.is/comments> and comments or suggestions can be made online. It will also be possible to view comments made by other people. This is a 'campaign to help people stay safe and help communities thrive during Covid19. HCC is committed to creating better spaces for walking and cycling to enable physical distancing for safe, essential journeys and exercise during the pandemic.'

The Council are considering the following:-

- Widening footways, in particular on high streets to help social distancing
- Considering measures to restrict traffic
- Installing temporary cycle lanes/parking

It will also be possible to report a highway hazard. Help for schools and parents with the 'park and stride' scheme can also be accessed by contacting the Travel Planning Team.

Trees: The Climate and Environment committee and EHDC are committed to planting trees in Easthants. Due to Climate Change anyone planting trees, either for landscaping on developments, in gardens, or as a crop, will now be facing issues with periods of drought. Saplings or whips will need to be watered regularly in order to survive. Arrangements have been made to water newly planted trees in our villages. There have also been a number of planning applications to fell trees, in particular mature trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) due apparently to 'shading'.

Verges and grass cutting: Verges and most green spaces are owned by HCC, Highways. Due to a number of complaints about cutting down wild flowers, a conservation group, Plantlife, has suggested that wild flowers should remain on verges for the benefit of pollinators. Sadly most of our wild flower meadows have been destroyed since the end of WWII, so verges are important for butterflies and bees. Areas where visibility and signage are important will be cut back, but grass cutting will not be carried out during June, July and August, and will resume again in September. Highways have not forgotten to cut verges, neither are they prevented from grass cutting due to the pandemic, so residents should refrain from grass cutting unless visibility becomes an issue.

'No Wey Incinerator': This is an action group opposing the construction of an incinerator near Bentley, off the A31. The matter was discussed at a recent meeting with Chawton Parish Council on 9 June. There are concerns about the number of HGVs accessing the site along the A31/A32, as well the waste that will be incinerated and whether there will be

emissions which could contain minute amounts of hazardous particulates which could affect the health of humans. I understand that only a small amount of waste is incinerated, i.e. waste that cannot be recycled or composted, etc.

The crux of the problem would appear to be why waste that has to be incinerated is produced at all. Perhaps we have taken our eye off the ball, so to speak, during the pandemic. Should we not be addressing industries, outlets and supermarkets currently still creating this waste! Only 14 per cent of plastic can be recycled, but the Netherlands are currently using plastic waste for resurfacing roadways which is completely in sync with environmental initiatives, e.g. the Ocean Cleanup and Cradle to Grave. It is also more sustainable and durable. Anyone wishing to object or comment on the construction of the incinerator can sign up via info@noweyincinerator.com.

There are three district councillors representing Four Marks, Medstead and Chawton. I am writing up the report for July. We can be contacted by Email as follows:- diana.tennyson@easthants.gov.uk, ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk and jonathan.may@easthants.gov.uk. Contact details for us all can also be accessed via the EHDC website.

APPENDIX 2

District Councillor report
June 2020
Ingrid Thomas

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW, LARGE SITES RECOMMENDATION.

The news we've all been waiting for, none of the large sites in our ward are included in the officers recommendation.

Planning policy team officers have made their recommendations on where to put housing in the local plan review. This is based on the evidence they have gathered.

- 1) Whitehill and Bordon will be the only large development site and support about 1300 new homes.
- 2) The smaller site allocations will be largely as suggested in the draft plan and together amount to about 1850 new homes.
- 3) Together these two components give around the number of new homes we must deliver. So the third part of the recommendation is to have an 'area of search' this would stretch from Bentley to Four Marks along the A31 corridor and be looked at carefully to consider where new homes could best be put for the next plan review in five years time. This would mean investigating the whole of the corridor to find where the most sustainable location was for future consideration. Working on all the problems and looking in detail at the knock on effects rather than just accepting a promoters ideas.

The officers must produce a sound plan that meets all the legal requirements and is evidence based. Several of the large development sites had problems which are either not solvable or very difficult and time consuming to solve. This inevitably would mean they were not deliverable so could not be chosen. The most difficult problems are risk of flooding or risk to biodiversity.

The whole of this local plan review has to be done to conform with the legal requirements and then be proved sound by the inspector. The next stage is for officers to put together a final draft reg 19 which then has a consultation period which is mainly for comment by technical and statutory consultees. Following that the plan can be submitted to the planning inspectorate, then examination and finally adoption by the council.

As a community we have worked hard during the consultation periods so far and read a great many documents to make sensible planning based arguments. We've helped to provide the evidence officers needed to make this recommendation and for that evidence to be accepted by the inspector in due course. There are several people who have worked tirelessly on this consultation and are currently still working to produce additional evidence should it be needed by the inspector, our very special thanks to them are due. I expect that the site promoters will be unhappy with this recommendation and will probably try to challenge it at the examination. Ultimately we as the community need to be consulted early in any planning application so that we are part a proper consultation.

I'm very happy to answer any questions you may have and will keep you updated when I get further information.

Thank you all for your great efforts and work during the consultation, it has made a real difference.

Stay healthy

Ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk