

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on Wednesday 1st July 2020 commencing at 6.30pm
This meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllr Anne Tomlinson (Chair), Cllrs Neil Bonter, John Davis and Janet Foster
IN ATTENDANCE:	Sarah Goudie (Executive Officer - EO) 2 members of the public Jo Tsigarides (AEO)
APOLOGIES:	None

20.45 OS OPEN SESSION

Due to a technical issue the start to the meeting was delayed. The Chairman apologised for the difficulties and welcomed members to the meeting and asked for items under the Open Session.

A resident raised a couple of issues with reference to the area of open space adjacent to the Recreation Ground and their property, anti-social behaviour and also asked if the Parish Council could consider investigating some kind noise mitigation on the skate ramps, such as some kind of damper, as the noise from the skate park has increased since the addition of the new equipment.

Cllr Foster wished to raise the possible provision of an outside tap at the Pavilion and whether a second bin collection should be considered at Oak Green as the bins were becoming very full mid-week.

The EO wished to ask the Committee whether consideration should be given to waive the additional fee on an out of parish ashes interment due to mitigating circumstances, whilst not wishing to set a precedent, it was suggested further information is sought prior to making a decision.

The Open Session closed at 7.15pm. Standing Orders were applied

20.46 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

20.47 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20.48 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Space Committee Meeting, previously circulated, held on Wednesday 3rd June 2020 following proposal by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Davis, and agreed by all Councillors as a true reflection of the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting in person.

Matters arising:

The EO advised that some action points from the previous meeting were still to be carried out and would report accordingly at the next meeting.

20.49 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

20.49.1 CCTV Proposals

Recreation Ground

Cllr Bonter advised that he was still looking into costs but had found a suitable camera for auto tracking at £990 per unit. The units would be installed on an adjustable mast, allowing access for maintenance and cleaning. The security lighting was also being pursued, with confirmation that the neighbouring property had no issues with its installation, and Cllr Bonter agreed to have some proposals on both ready for presentation at the next meeting.

Oak Green

As there had been very few incidences to warrant the additional cost, the decision to put on hold the upgrading of the CCTV provision at Oak Green, was upheld. The Recreation Ground provision was considered the priority, so no further action would be taken at this stage.

20.49.2 Recreation Ground - Replacement Benches/Children's Play Area

Benches

Options for replacing the vandalised picnic bench were presented, and each option discussed in detail. It was agreed to go with a hard-wearing plastic material as opposed to wood, in a similar style to the original bench. One bench would be ordered at this stage and it was agreed that it should be installed in the same location, a decision whether to add an additional picnic bench would be taken at a later date.

The EO confirmed that a replacement tree was on order. It was also agreed that, as the insurance excess is £250, that a claim would not be made, and it was suggested that a grant could be applied for to replace the bench.

Re-opening of the Children's Play Area

Government restrictions on outdoor play areas are to be lifted as from 4th July and, if the local authorities are able to put appropriate practices in place, then they can now open their play areas and outside multi gyms. A risk assessment had been compiled, and circulated, together with the response from the Parish Council's insurance company. This was discussed in detail, the Committee were of the opinion that the Parish Council were not in a position, at this stage, to safely open the play area. The risks of not being able to regularly monitor and clean the areas, needs to be balanced against the benefits of opening the areas up. At this stage it was not considered safe to open. It was agreed to monitor other parishes/districts who had taken the decision to open (being in a better position to follow government guidance) and would be monitored over the next week or so, together with those who had decided not to open. The findings would be presented at Full Council on 15th July, for further consideration at that meeting. It would also give the Council the opportunity to deep clean the facilities and potentially carry out the installation and maintenance that needs carrying out prior to opening.

The EO/AEO would prepare the appropriate notices for the play area and social media.

20.50 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

20.50.1 Allotments

A local resident had contacted the EO raising serious concerns with reference to a rat infestation at the Allotments, together with a proposal for the future use of the area of land thought to be one of the reasons for the increase in vermin.

The EO had contacted Environmental Health for assistance, and Cllr Davis, on behalf of the Allotment Committee, had circulated a report confirming the ongoing problems with rats, which acknowledged that this year it had been worse. Steps have been taken to eliminate any food sources, with restrictions on bird feeders and requests for rat proof containers for anything edible, and plot holders asked to remove any waste, now restrictions have been lifted. It was agreed that the area to the rear of the resident's property had not been maintained appropriately and that this could have exacerbated the rat problem.

The Committee discussed the residents' proposals, previously circulated, with reference to the area of land referred to above and it was agreed not to relinquish the land in any format, and that the Committee would clear the area the rear of the resident's property and keep it properly maintained in the future in a bid to alleviate the rat problems.

The EO would contact the resident accordingly.

20.50.2 Cemetery Flooding; proposals

Following concerns raised by both the EO and one of the plot holders, of flooding around some of the ashes plots a site survey had taken place to look at options to alleviate the problem.

However, this area is the lowest point in the Cemetery, taking water run-off from the football field, accentuated by the new development, and the water run off from the road, no longer broken by the spoil heap, and the proposals suggested did not guarantee success.

The EO was keen to emphasise that this issue was urgent and needs rectifying prior to Autumn/Winter to avoid further distress to the plot holders, and therefore that further options need to be considered and brought back to the Committee for approval. Consideration may need to be given to moving the plots, even temporarily, which will involve a complicated process of applying for a faculty, which needs to be avoided if possible.

This item will be brought back to the next meeting.

20.50.3 Kingswood Copse

Due to the time restrictions, and non-urgent nature of this item, it was agreed to defer this issue to the next meeting.

20.50.4 Land at Recreation Ground

It was confirmed that the owner of the area of the land between the pavilion and skate park and been in touch and had already visited the site and carried out some remedial work on overhanging branches and would return in due course to treat the Japanese Knotweed.

Earlier in the meeting the issue of the agreed action of fencing off the area had been raised, the EO responded to this that the reason for this action was no longer applicable. As the owner had now been in touch and agreed to carry out maintenance required, and had agreed with the neighbour that they could carry out maintenance within the area, the EO suggested there was little point in taking discussions further at this stage, but would update the Committee on progress accordingly.

20.50.5 Additional bins

The report from EHDC on suggestions for additional bin provisions, had been circulated. It was acknowledged, that EHDC's proposals were an appropriate compromise and were thanked for taking the Council's concerns into consideration.

20.50.6 Benians Pavilion; drainage

Again, due to time restrictions, it was agreed to defer this issue for further investigation and discussion at the next meeting.

20.50.7 Lymington Bottom Road, open space maintenance

The EO confirmed that the ownership issue was ongoing, following reports of overgrown trees, and the question as to who is responsible for their maintenance. Cllr Kemp Gee had requested an investigation within HCC and hopefully would have a response by the next meeting.

20.51 OS AREA UPDATE

Location	Action required	Status	Notes
A31 Winchester Road	- Proposal for new bench and notice board, wild-flower planting	Pending	Preparation for grants underway
Allotments	-Fencing, estate side, and wildlife corridor breach reports - Report of rat infestation;	Pending Agenda item	Awaiting site visit for to prepare quotation For discussion
Badger Close	- Ash trees to be felled - Replacement fencing - Ash Tree, Wildlife corridor, visual inspection, very little deterioration since last Autumn, no action required	Pending Pending Pending	Awaiting action Awaiting tree felling Awaiting inspection
Cemetery	- Flooding issue, block E, site visit carried out, report for discussion - Memorial inspections action report; follow up inspection due June/July 2020 - Spoil area to be relocated, temporary area behind bin; Spring/Summer - VE Day memorial tree	Agenda item Pending Pending Pending	Action to be agreed Awaiting lift of restrictions Awaiting confirmation Awaiting availability
Kingswood Copse	- Ash Tree inspection and footpaths checked, proposal for action attached	Agenda item	Report attached. Proposals for discussion
Lymington Bottom Green	- Shrub beds ; concerns raised re invasive weeds;	Pending	Issue ongoing
Oak Green	- Raised beds. Concerns raised over maintenance of raised beds at Oak Green, open space contractor to take on initial clearance and regular maintenance Replacement CCTV ; proposal to upgrade received, and to be discussed - Bollard. Re-installation of bollard, contractor instructed Drainage ; site visit carried out and order for cleaning issued	Action ongoing Agenda Item Awaiting action Awaiting action	For discussion
Recreation Ground	- Land between Skate Park and Pavilion ; knotweed issues noted, awaiting action, further action to be discussed - Vandalism and CCTV – - CCTV, options for discussion - replacement benches, design for consideration, report attached - replacement tree, approval sought to re-order now - Children’s play area. Order placed and awaiting installation. Cleaning booked for 1 st July prior to re-opening, awaiting further guidance on other measures to put in place prior to opening - RoSPA report ; quotations sought, and discussions ongoing - Dog waste bin – now installed	Agenda item Agenda item Awaiting Action Awaiting Action Ongoing	For discussion For discussion/approval Still negotiating costs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Spaces Protection Order; still awaiting outcome of consultation - Cricket pitch; work to be carried out in September - Scout bin; to be removed by EHDC due to misuse, now being emptied, removal still awaited 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Action pending</p> <p>Pending</p>	
Station Gardens	- new trees planted, but due to drought conditions need watering, contractor to carry out watering here as well as Recreation Ground trees	Ongoing	
Swelling Hill Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shoring works - Land Registry boundary issue, response chased, land registry application to be prepared and land surveyor appointed to draw up boundary proposal - Request for larger bins submitted, site visit carried out, response to report to be discussed 	<p>On hold</p> <p>On hold</p> <p>Agenda item</p>	For discussion
Footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Footpath 2, works carried out but additional surfacing required, now pending - Footpath maps/routes to be compiled for website/boards around village - Purchase of kissing gate for FP27 to be progressed, and to include replacement of stile on other side of FP27 - cutting to start shortly, additional cut requested in July, to be monitored subject to weather conditions. 	<p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>JT liaising with HCC RoW and apply for grants to progress this</p> <p>Check status with contractor</p>
Benians Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drain; site visit carried out, report attached - Roof; awaiting refurbishment, - Tennis court floodlights, lights to be replaced with LEDs, awaiting quotation - alarm checks 	<p>Agenda item</p> <p>On hold</p> <p>Action pending</p> <p>On hold</p>	<p>Action to be agreed</p> <p>Works to be carried out at same time as expansion</p> <p>To be booked on return to office</p>
Climate Change	- Water refill station, installation proposals	Agenda item	For discussion
Open Spaces – General	<p>PARISH TREES</p> <p>Follow up inspection to be carried out imminently.</p> <p>Village Hall Ash Tree, report from Highways now received, for discussion</p> <p>Tree planting scheme; proposal document to be formalised</p> <p>GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE</p> <p>Additional footpath cut to be carried out in July</p> <p>BUS SHELTERS</p> <p>Litter bin request for Lapwing Way bus stops submitted, awaiting response</p> <p>VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNAGE</p> <p>Quotations to be sought for metal village gateway signs by both bridges</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Agenda item</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Agenda item</p>	<p>Work to be carried out the Dell first</p> <p>For discussion</p> <p>For discussion</p>

	and Hawthorn Road, to include Speedwatch signs	Awaiting action	
	LYMINGTON BOTTOM ROAD Ownership of the land opposite Rivers remains in question, house behind trees is suffering from tree overgrowth, strimming of area always in dispute, HCC are checking ownership, but the maintenance of this area needs to be resolved	Agenda item	For discussion

20.51.1 Matters arising form report.

There were no further updates on the report, as circulated.

20.51.2 Village Hall Ash Tree Report

The report from HCC had been circulated. Although HCC have confirmed that the tree does have Ash Die back they did not believe there was any immediate risk to highways users, but that as the tree is in decline, it should be regularly inspected. However, they still maintain the tree is not the responsibility of Highways. The EO had responded, as directed at a previous Council meeting, asking for the ownership issue to be resolved, and would forward the response to the Village Hall.

20.51.3 Climate change; water refill station

It was agreed that this should remain on hold for the time being.

20.51.4 Great British Spring Clean 11th-27th September

This was not discussed, a date needs to be agreed and the event risk assessed, to be discussed at the next meeting.

20.52 OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th August 2020.

20.53 OS The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.55pm