

**FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee  
Held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 commencing at 6.00pm at Benians Pavilion**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Gebbett (Chairman) Speed, Medhurst (arrived at 6.30pm), Black, M Pullen and Coulson  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jo Tsigarides Clerk, Victoria Ursulean, Assistant Clerk.  
**APOLOGIES:** Two members of the public.  
None

**24.23 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Medhurst was delayed and arrived at 6.30pm.

**24.24 OS OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Gebbett reminded Councillors of meeting protocol and Standing Orders.

MOP 1 stated that they were there in relation to Kingswood Rise following a site visit with Councillors. MOP 2 was also there for the same reason and offered to help with routine maintenance.

**24.25 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**24.26 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr Coulson, which was seconded by Cllr Black, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was: **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

**24.27 OS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**24.27.1 Badger restoration project – to consider and approve plans.**

A report was provided to the Committee regarding proposals for the Badger Orchard following the initial clearance. Site visits had taken place with two contractors, and they had both provided proposals for the area. The Committee requested that the opinion was sought of the badger expert before proceeding with either.

The Clerk advised that a District Councillor grant of £680 had been secured to finance some of the works.

**24.28 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**24.28.1 Kingswood Copse – to discuss future maintenance following site visit.**

A site visit took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 where MOP1 discussed their proposals with Cllrs Coulson and Speed. The Clerk was also in attendance.

It was agreed that the residents present would be given permission to undertake routine maintenance works at the Copse and that there would be no further contractor intervention. The Clerk would prepare some guidance and confirm the scope of works with them.

Cllr Coulson explained that there were two points where it was suggested that the path could be left to grow over to try and prevent access from the A 31. The Committee concluded that point 2 would be best, so that the walking loops were left for residents' enjoyment and a minimal amount of the copse was shut off.

It was agreed that a hedgerow would be planted on one side of the existing fence, on Council land. The Clerk would seek advice and try and obtain a tree pack from the Woodland Trust.

In addition to the above points, signage would be put up to communicate the Councils plans to residents and the Clerk would follow up with getting the footpaths removed from the mapping routes.

There was a brief pause to the meeting whilst Cllr Black left the room.

**24.28.2 Review of current grass cutting disposal at football pitch**

An email sent from the Allotment Association Committee Chairman had confirmed that the allotment holders were appreciative of grass cuttings. A separate email of thanks had been received from an allotment holder. It was agreed that due to only receiving one complaint about the location of the grass cuttings, that they would continue to be sited in the corner of the football field, next to Uplands Lane.

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson and with the majority of Councillors (five in favour, MP abstention) in agreement, it was:

**RESOLVED to continue with the current arrangement for grass cuttings from the football pitch.**

**24.28.3 Clearance of debris at Recreation Ground.**

There was a discussion about the debris that had been left at the Recreation Ground following some groundworks. Cllr M Pullen felt that despite some attempts from another Councillor to remove the debris, that there was still an issue and that he would help with the task. Other Councillors had not noticed an issue and the item was deferred so that they could fully inspect the area.

**24.29 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS**

**24.29.1 To note area update.**

The Clerk noted that the remarking of the car parking spaces at Oak Green parade had not yet been started.

| Location                      | Action Required              | Status               | Notes   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Badger Close</b>           | Boundary Encroachment        | In progress          | Clerk to research further.                      |
|                               | Badger Orchard               | In progress          | Awaiting information from BPA.                  |
|                               | Pine Road Area               |                      | Cllr Gebbett                                    |
| <b>Cemetery</b>               | Replacement gate stops.      | In progress          |   |
|                               | Replacement bench            | In progress          | Installed.                                      |
|                               | Cemetery inspection          |                      | Planned in for Summer 2024                      |
| <b>Lymington Bottom Green</b> | Wildflower area and sign     | In progress          | Signs delivered – to agree 2024 installation.   |
|                               | Village sign remedial works. | On Hold. In progress |   |
|                               | New bench – FM Care.         |                      | Awaiting proposals from Four Marks Care.        |
| <b>Oak Green parade</b>       | Flower bed maintenance       | In progress          | New contractor appointment                      |
|                               | Book share.                  | In progress          | Alresford Men’s shed constructing for donation. |
|                               | Clock repairs.               | In progress          | Quotations being sought.                        |
|                               |                              | To do.               |   |

|                                  |  |             |  |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
|                                  | Repainting of car parking spaces.            |             | To review spacing and repainting – future meeting.   |
| <b>Recreation Ground</b>         | Cricket equipment                            | Pending     | Clerk to organise.   |
|                                  | Containers                                   | Pending     | Grass mats to be installed – Lengthsman 21/3/24  |
|                                  | Skate Park                                   | In progress | Graffiti to be repainted – Lengthsman 21/3/24  |
|                                  | Tennis courts                                | In progress | Resurfacing in progress.   |
|                                  | Football pitch/club                          | Ongoing     | Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.   |
|                                  | Footway along football pitch                 | In progress | Awaiting quotations.   |
|                                  | Water refill point                           |             | Service completed March 2024. – contract expires October 2024; notice must be given July 2024 if contract is to be terminated. |
|                                  | Uplands Lane                                 | Completed.  | Basic remedial works undertaken.   |
| <b>Climate change mitigation</b> | Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion             | Pending     | Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit  |
|                                  | Nature boxes                                 | Pending     | Placed – awaiting EHDC promotional video.  |
|                                  | Parish Trees                                 | Completed   | To review  |
|                                  | Footpaths                                    | Ongoing     |  |
|                                  | Bus stop maintenance                         | In progress | Cllr Coulson – awaiting cleaning material delivery.  |
| <b>Swelling Hill Pond</b>        | Silt removal project                         | In progress | Awaiting further snagging.   |
|                                  | South of pond/car park area.                 | In progress | Adverse possession claims in progress  |
|                                  | Fencing replacement and small pond fencing.  | In progress | Quotations being sought  |
|                                  | Car park remedial works.                     | To do.      |  |
|                                  | Tree works – overhanging pond.               | To do.      |  |
| <b>Kingswood Copse</b>           | Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife. | In progress | Plan decided at meeting – Clerk to follow up.  |

**24.29.2 Update on Swelling Hill Pond.**

Cllr Gebbett reported that there were some snagging issues which would be discussed with the contractor on a video call on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Following on from the initial desilting project, there would need to be some tree works, repairs to the car park and also fencing works to the overflow pond.

**24.29.3 Update on tennis court/MUGA resurfacing**

The project was underway, and the Clerk had been communicating with contractors on a daily basis.

**24.29.4 To note reports from EHDC enforcement team.**

The EHDC enforcement team had conducted three visits to the Recreation Ground (in circulated documents) and had concluded that there were no major issues after inspecting the area and speaking to residents. They have agreed to a follow up visit some time in March 2024.

**24.30 Great British Spring Clean**

The Assistant Clerk had begun organising the Great British Spring Clean, which would take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. Councillors were asked to confirm their attendance so that they could have different start points throughout the village.

**24.31 Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.**