

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 17th April 2024 commencing at 7.00pm
At Four Marks Village Hall, Lyminster Bottom, Four Marks

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Briggs, Pullen (R), Smith, McAllister, Medhurst, Black, Coulson.
STAFF:	Jo Tsigarides, Clerk
PUBLIC:	Two members of the public.
OTHER:	District Councillor
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs Gebbett, Pullen (M) and Speed

24.57 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Apologies were received by Cllr Gebbett (health issues), Cllr Speed (holiday) and Cllr Pullen (M) (personal reasons)

24.58 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MOP 1 referenced the recent inquiry decision into the Mount Royal/Gladman planning application, expressing disappointment in the decision. They commented that representations from the Parish Council, Fight 4 Four Marks and the public appeared to have been disregarded. It was also noted that it was unacceptable that the final decision had not been sent directly to those that lodged objections (including the Parish Council). There was a discussion of the EHDC representation.

Cllr Pullen asked what actions were available to the Council and suggested that District Councillors and the local MP, Damien Hinds should be contacted to see if there is anything that they can do.

There being no further items to raise, the Open Session ended at 7.10pm, Standing Orders were applied.

24.59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

24.60 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr Black, seconded by Cllr McAllister, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED To approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

24.61 CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Nothing to report.

24.62 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

An annual report was provided by Cllr Day and circulated to Council before the meeting.

District Cllr Richardson informed the Council that the three District Councillors had met in order to discuss the Gladman inquiry. It had been agreed that District Cllr Day would make representation to Richard Millard. Cllr Richardson was hoping to be appointed to the EHDC Planning Committee from May 2024.

24.63 COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT COMMITTEE

24.63.1 To note any matters arising/updates

Smart Marketing reported that they had still received limited responses and would shortly be sending through an initial report. RW Sport had begun the first phase of their work and had responses from several sporting bodies. Both had agreed to present their findings at the Annual Parish meeting.

24.64 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

24.64.1 To note updates from the Open Spaces working party meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024.

The Clerk gave an overview of the working party meeting and also noted that Manor Colts U11's team had asked for permission to play some Saturday matches which could lead to a permanent arrangement, that discussions between the angling club and the Committee were taking place about the restocking of the pond, and that a meeting had been booked with the tennis court contractor regarding the weed growth.

24.64.2 To review quotations for repair works to Oak Green bus shelter.

The Clerk discussed the funding of the project, in that the works had not been budgeted for and informed the Council that enquiries had been made with grant funding contacts to find out whether there was any suitable funding.

To date only one quotation had been provided, with contractors either not attending site or declining to quote. A Councillor had, that day, provided contact details of contractors that they had briefly outlined the project to and were prepared to quote and so it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange meetings with them, with a final deadline being the 1st May 2024, when the Open Spaces Committee would review the quotations.

24.64.3 To approve expenditure for Swelling Hill Pond car park.

On the proposal of Cllr Medhurst, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the quotation for remedial works to Swelling Hill Pond for £950. (from Swelling Hill maintenance earmarked reserve).

24.65 PLANNING COMMITTEE

24.65.1 To receive updates from the Planning Committee Chairman.

Cllr McAllister advised that a meeting was scheduled to take place on the 30th April 2024 at Monterey House, Petersfield. In attendance would be Adam Harvey, the Clerk, a representative from Medstead Parish Council and Cllrs McAllister and Pullen.

24.65.2 Planning Application 50994/002

The Council has no objection to this planning application.

24.66 STAFFING COMMITTEE

24.66.1 Update from Committee Chairman regarding staff matters and vacancy

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Cllr Pullen explained that a suitable candidate had been interviewed for the RFO position.

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Staffing Committee and appoint the candidate to the RFO position at a rate of SCP 18.

24.66.1.1 To Consider moving Agenda item 10.3 into a closed session

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Smith, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to move Agenda item 10.3 into a Closed Session.

24.66 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

24.67.1 To receive any appropriate updates.

The Clerk noted the recent meeting and due to some discrepancies, it was suggested that the following Agenda Item be deferred to a later meeting.

24.67.2 To approve earmarked reserves as of 31st March 2024

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Smith, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to defer the approval of earmarked reserves as of 31st March 2024 to the next appropriate meeting.

24.67.3 To review and agree asset register as of 31st March 2024

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Smith, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the Asset Register as of 31st March 2024.

24.67.4 To amend Unity Trust banking mandate to permit Clerk/RFO to move funds between current.

Cllr Pullen explained that this item referred to the Unity trust instant access current and deposit accounts and would allow the Clerk/RFO to move money between the two without Councillor authorisation. The funds would not be transferred out to any external accounts.

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to amend the Unity Trust banking mandate to permit the Clerk/RFO to move funds between the current and deposit account, as required.

24.67 OFFICER REPORT

24.68.1 To note Clerks report and any listed correspondence.

In addition to the circulated correspondence, the Clerk noted the following:

DLM marketing – 16/04/2024, response to email from Clerk.

Resident complaint regarding attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner at APM. – 14/04/2024

Metis homes, various emails and telephone calls.

IdVerde – 15/04/2024, issue with bins, all vehicles off road.

PCSO – 13/04/2024, investigating issue with glass bottles, unable to attend Full Council or APM.

The meeting was closed at 7.42pm.

A resident suggested that if the Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, is permitted to attend the Annual Parish meeting, that other candidates that are also standing for election should be given the same privilege.

The meeting was opened at 7.45pm.

Councillors discussed the options to either invite all candidates for Police and Crime Commissioner or to inform Donna Jones that the Council considers it to be the best option for her not to attend. The Clerk was asked to proceed with the latter option.

24.68.2 To note meeting schedule 2024/2025.

The meeting schedule was noted, and the Clerk advised that an alternative venue was being found for the Committee meetings on the 1st

May 2024.

24.69 FINANCIAL ITEMS

24.69.1 To receive and approve the March 2024 payments.

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Smith and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the March 2024 payments totalling 75610.39.

24.69.1.1 To receive and approve April 2024 payments to date.

On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Briggs, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the April 2024 payments to date totalling £6550.22.

24.70 FOR CONSIDERATION

24.70.1 To consider whether Councillors should be permitted to apply for paid positions and provide quotes or tenders for Council work.

Due to the absence of Cllr Gebbett, who requested the motion, on the proposal of Cllr Briggs, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, it was:

RESOLVED to defer the motion detailed in Agenda item 14.1 to the next appropriate meeting.

24.71 TO NOTE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

24.71.1 Allotments – Cllr Speed.

Nothing to report.

24.71.2 Oak Green – Cllr Briggs

Cllr Briggs reported that the fly tipping issue appeared to have eased recently. There had been an issue with the bottle bank overflowing, which had been reported.

24.72.3 Village Hall – Cllr Gebbett

Cllr Pullen informed the Council that the LED light installation project was due to begin on the 23rd July 2024 and would take approximately two weeks to complete.

24.72.4 Highways – Cllrs Pullen and Medhurst

A liaison panel meeting date was being awaited.

24.72.5 EHAPTC

No update.

24.73 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

24.73.1 Village picnic preparations and funding

The Clerk reported that preparations were underway and that some of the events budget would need to be used for the dog show insurance. Costs were being sought.

Councillors were asked to assist with set up and tidying away, informing the Assistant Clerk of their availability.

24.73.2 To receive update on Cllr Surgeries

Cllr Medhurst asked for volunteers to help at the Councillor Surgery scheduled for the 27th April 2024.

24.74.4 To discuss Annual Parish meeting.

The Clerk would open the hall from 6pm and asked for assistance with setting up.

24.75 Next meeting: 15th May 2024

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council have the right to exclude the public and press from a meeting in

24.76 To note staff appraisal and any recommendations from the Staffing Committee.

The Staffing Committee made two recommendations to the Council.

Firstly that on the completion of a successful probationary period appraisal, the Assistant Clerk would be awarded a one SCP incremental raise. On the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson and with all Councillors in agreement, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the above recommendation and award the Assistant Clerk a one SCP increase effective from 1st May 2024.

Secondly, the Clerks appraisal was considered and on the proposal of Cllr Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, it was:

RESOLVED to award the Clerk a two SCP increase effective from the 1st April 2024.

24.77 Meeting Closed 8.12pm.