

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 commencing at 6.10pm at Benians Pavilion**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Gebbett, Medhurst (arrived 6.10pm) and M Pullen
IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Tsigarides Clerk, One member of the public (left at 6.15pm)
APOLOGIES: Cllr Coulson

The meeting commenced at 6.10pm, following the arrival of Cllr Medhurst.

24.54 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Coulson had sent apologies (holiday) which were duly accepted by the Committee.

24.55 OS OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk had attended a meeting with Four Marks Care representatives at Lymington Bottom Green regarding the placement of the agreed bench. Although they had been informed that the Council's general preference is to use grass pins rather than concrete, they were concerned that as the bench is made from wood, that it would deteriorate over time if placed directly on the grass, causing future issues. They had asked that they be permitted to install the bench on paving stones, in keeping with other benches on the green. The Committee agreed to this, and Cllr M Pullen suggested a slightly different formation in a 'T' shape to support the feet but minimise the volume of stones. The Clerk and Councillor M Pullen had agreed to a location at the bottom of the green behind the shrub beds.

With no further items raised, the Open Session ended at 6.12pm.

24.56 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24.57 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES .

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

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 5th June 2024.

24.58 OS EVENTS

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett, which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to bring Agenda Item 9.1 forward.

24.58.1 To receive update on Firework Display

The Clerk, Cllrs Coulson and Gebbett and representatives from FOFM had met on the 1st July 2024 to discuss the fireworks event. A provisional date of the 8th November 2024 had been agreed subject to a full Health and Safety visit being completed to ensure that the correct buffer and clearance zones could be accommodated. The following points had been provisionally agreed;

- Fireworks would start at 5.30pm.

- The School would undertake a leaflet drop to residents that are close to the site
- Fencing – a local temporary fencing contact would be asked to provide fencing at egress points, along with the barn lane access points.
- Parking – there were discussions about how to mitigate the parking issues at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Smith had agreed to provide parking for Benians members, and the Church and Village Hall would both be asked about use for park and stride. Residents would be encouraged to walk.
- Paramedics – the village First Responders would be asked to attend, if not South Cost Medics would be asked to quote.
- It was agreed that the minimum number of fifteen volunteers would be supplied by the School.
- The TENS license was discussed, and it was agreed to apply in good time – this would be for the alcohol sales and entertainment.
- Waste management – an additional bin would need to be hired.
- Toilets – at least ten toilets would be needed.
- An overall risk assessment would be completed nearer to the time.
- Grant streams were discussed

24.59 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

24.59.1 Badger Close report – to agree any actions

The Clerk had submitted a report to the Committee regarding several complaints at Badger Close. There had been numerous reports of overgrowing vegetation due to a lack of maintenance of the runs. Although the current tree management policy does state that the Council will not undertake tree works due to loss of light or where there are overhanging branches, there was communication from the Council to residents in 2016 to request that they do not carry out maintenance works to the badger runs.

Several specific areas were highlighted to Councillors, and it was agreed that:

- There is no indication that the Council owns the fences reported as being damaged. The Clerk would contact residents and ask them to check the ownership of the fences in their Title Deeds.
- A working party would meet during w/c 8th July 2024 to review the areas and discuss possible solutions.

24.59.2 Footpath Maintenance

The Clerk had been advised by the insurance company that if a working group was set up to do footpath maintenance with all the correct controls in place, that use of strimmers would be permitted. Cllrs Medhurst and M Pullen agreed to undertake the maintenance works and asked that the Clerk could collate a list of the footpaths that needed to be cut.

24.59.3 To consider moving item 6.4 into a Closed Session

As there were no members of the public in attendance, the Committee agreed to discuss Item 6.4.

24.59.4 To review memorial application.

The application in question which featured a memorial constructed of Portland stone was considered and it was agreed that if the final colour and finish was the same as the photograph supplied by the applicant, then it should be permitted. Various factors were considered in making the decision including the location of the proposed memorial and the need to try and accommodate changing ideas and tastes whilst maintaining a high standard in the Cemetery.

24.59.5 To discuss allotment tree works

The Clerk advised that the tree surgeon had been out to the site again and had revisited his quote to include a three-metre reduction to the Cherry tree. This has gone to the allotment association.

The works in the Orchard were discussed further and it was agreed that if the Oak tree is removed from the schedule of works, then the Council would give permission for them to go ahead.

24.59.6 To note RoSPA report and review quotations for maintenance and works if available.

The RoSPA report had been received and the tasks had been split down into ‘maintenance’ and specific tasks. These lists had then been sent to three contractors. It was agreed that the Clerk would book in the maintenance works as soon as possible, so that they are completed before the School holidays and that the quotes for specific jobs would be reviewed.

Cllr M Pullen enquired about the repainting of the Skate Park and was advised that this was also included in the quotation requests.

24.59.6 Review of Tree management policy

A typo was corrected in the policy, but other than that, there was unanimous approval of the Policy.

24.60 OS FOR APPROVAL.

24.60.1 Ash tree Uplands Lane. To review quotations.

On the proposal of Cllr M Pullen, which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor four to undertake the works to the Ash tree on Uplands Lane, as described.

24.61 OS AREA UPDATE

24.61.1 To receive report

The area update was noted.

Area Update.

There was a brief update on Swelling Hill Pond with Cllr Medhurst enquiring when the wildflower seeds were going to be delivered. Cllr Gebbett would contact the contractor and find out further information.

Cllr Gebbett had been in contact with EHDC regarding the Pine Road area of land that the Council had been investigation and had been informed that rather than transfer the land and add it to the Councils Open Space portfolio, the only option would be to lease the land. This would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Clerk to research further.
	Badger Orchard	In progress	Planting has taken place – water bags to be placed.
	Badger Run upkeep	In progress	Site meeting date to be arranged.
Cemetery	Cemetery inspection		Planned in for Summer 2024
	Memorial application	In progress	Agreed – Clerk to contact applicant.

Lymington Bottom Green	Wildflower area and sign	In progress	Installed 22/05/2025
	Village sign remedial works.	On Hold.	
	New bench – FM Care.		Clerk to contact FM Care.
Oak parade Green	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	New contractor.
	Book share.	Completed	Awaiting signage.
	Repainting of car parking spaces.	To do.	To review spacing and repainting – future meeting.
Recreation Ground	Cricket equipment	Pending	Clerk to organise.
	Containers	Pending	Grass mats to be installed
	Skate Park	In progress	Area to be repainted.
	Tennis courts	In progress	Resurfacing completed. To investigate coin update and fence.
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	Footway along football pitch	In progress	Awaiting quotations.
	RoSPA report	In progress	Inspection 3/5/24 – report received, and quotations being sought.
	Water refill point	In progress	Service completed March 2024. – contract expires October 2024; notice must be given July 2024 if contract is to be terminated.
Climate change mitigation	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	Interim inspection 12 th July 2024.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	New panels for Gospel Hall shelter to be installed – job booked, lead time 6 weeks.
Swelling Pond Hill	Silt removal project	In progress	Further works now completed.
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claims in progress
	Fencing replacement and small pond fencing.	Completed	
	Car park remedial works.	In progress	Contractor accepted.
	Tree works – overhanging pond.	To do.	Site visit to be arranged.

Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided at meeting – Clerk to follow up.
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24.62 OS Next meeting 7th August 2024

24.63 OS Meeting Closed at 7.25pm.