

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
Held on 11th September 2024 at the Benians Pavilion, at 6.00pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Gebbett, Coulson, Medhurst and M Pullen
IN ATTENDANCE:	Jo Tsigarides Clerk, Victoria Ursulean Assistant Clerk
	Six members of the public
APOLOGIES:	None

24.74 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

24.75 OS OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Four residents were in attendance to request an update on the positioning of the goalposts for the practice pitch. The question of where they would have been cited had the Community Hub been built was posed.

The Committee noted that historically, football has only ever been formally played at the football pitch. Addressing the anti-social behaviour previously mentioned, the Clerk noted that the PCSO was contacted and made aware of the situation. Cllr Gebbett made the point that the Oak Tree located near the resident's homes acts as a natural congregation spot and that football was not necessarily the cause. Quotes are being obtained for netting to stop the footballs from going over the hedging. It was also suggested to plant hedging around the Oak tree.

Two representatives from the Four Marks Men's football team spoke to the Committee about the need for new dug outs after the concrete ones had been removed some years ago. They also enquired into removing undergrowth/hedging that their team lose balls in, and a branch which restricts a floodlight on the pitch. The football club currently has an enclosure near to the cemetery to store equipment, and they would like to enhance their storage. It was also suggested to change the floodlights to LEDs as these would be more effective and also reduce costs.

It was noted that there had been a request from the Booking Secretary at Alton FC and the coach for Manor Colts regarding the orientation of the practice pitch due to balls going into the road and hedgerow, thus being dangerous for the players. They also asked for the 9 v 9 pitch to be marked out horizontally.

With no further items raised, the Open Session ended at 6.30pm

24.76 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24.77 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 7th August 2024.

24.78 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

24.78.1 To consider requests for additional bins at Lymington Bottom Green and Blackberry Lane.

A resident contacted the Council to request a bin along the pathway in Blackberry Lane. The resident was referred to HCC (Hampshire County Council) as this land doesn't belong to the PC (Parish Council).

Another resident asked for a litter bin on Lymington Bottom Green. The Clerk informed Councillors that each lift from the waste company costs £8.95. Cllr M Pullen suggested emptying the current bin twice a week instead of introducing a further bin. If this doesn't eradicate the problem, then another bin will be introduced.

24.78.2 To note report from Bowls Club regarding anti-social behaviour and consider any deterrent methods.

Following reports of anti-social behaviour, the Clerk noted that The Scouts had erected cameras outside the Scout hut, however they have no legitimate reason to extend the scope to the Bowls club. Cllr Gebbett questioned who holds responsibility for the security of the club. The Clerk explained that the land and fence belong to the PC but the building does not. Cllr M Pullen suggested erecting some cameras. The Clerk has informed the PCSO who will be in contact. Cllr Gebbett suggested gaining specialist advice on security from either the police or HCC.

24.78.3 To review practice football goal locations.

Cllr M Pullen proposed to move the practice pitch further up the ground and look at nets to stop the footballs from encroaching into resident's gardens. The Clerk advised that new sockets for the goalposts would need to be purchased. It was agreed to move the pitch in line with the floodlights, review the cost of replacing the floodlights with LED lights, and get quotes for high netting. The U11s pitch could be marked at 90 degrees to the football pitch so that they have a permanent pitch. Councillors are happy for the organisers to use the line marker.

On the proposal of Cllr M Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED** that the goals be moved up the pitch towards the floodlights, that the U11s pitch can be marked out horizontally and that nets can be installed.

24.78.4 To consider tennis coaching proposal.

A tennis Coach had requested permission for exclusive use of the courts at £3 per hour. The Councillors were in agreement to go ahead with the LTA's suggestion of £4 per hour, per court on a six month exclusive basis, excluding bank holidays. It was suggested that the coach may want to erect a banner, and the Councillors were in agreement that this would be fine providing the coach maintains it.

On the proposal of Cllr M Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, it was **RESOLVED** that the tennis coach could have exclusive coaching rights for 6 months (excluding bank holidays) on one court for £4 per hour.

24.78.5 To discuss gate technology (depending on report availability).

The Clerk noted that the profit and loss report could not be produced. The Councillors were interested to enquire into alternatives for the current coin machine but were not in agreement with the costs involved in the proposed gate technology, which would be approximately £600 per year. Cllr Gebbett requested that this be moved on to next month's agenda.

24.79 OS AREA UPDATE

24.79.1 To receive report

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident who had made a backless bench for the tennis courts. Cllr Medhurst was concerned about this possibly posing a health and safety issue and Cllr Gebbett raised concerns about it damaging the new surface. The Clerk said she would look into this with the insurance company.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
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Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Clerk to research further. To walk the badger run when brambles clear.
	Badger Orchard fencing	Completed	Volunteers agreed.
	Pine Road Area	In progress	Verbal update to be given at meeting.
	Badger Run upkeep 20/22, 31/33		25 th September 2024
Cemetery	Cemetery inspection		Completed 29/7/2024 – Assistant Clerk to deal with outstanding issues.
Lymington Bottom Green	New bench – FM care	In progress	To be installed in Autumn
	New bin request	In progress	
	Wildflower areas		Have been cut back.
Oak Green parade	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.
	Clock service	Completed.	
Recreation Ground	Container contents	Agenda item	Working party to decide re contents
	Skate Park		
	Tennis courts	In progress	Area to be repainted – awaiting quotes
	Playground maintenance	Completed.	
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	Footway along football pitch	In progress	Awaiting quotations/funding options.
	Water refill point	In progress	Awaiting further information about agreement and potential discount. Have contacted multiple times.

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	In progress	Interim tree inspection completed 12 th July 2024.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	Panels for Gospell Hall installed. Delay but company have communicated. Autumn bus shelter clean booked.
Swelling Hill Pond	Silt removal project	Completed.	
	South of pond/car park area.	In progress	Adverse possession claims in progress
	Steps	In progress	
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided – resident executing.

24.79.2 To review outstanding/further works at Swelling Hill pond.

Cllr Gebbett and the Assistant Clerk had done a site visit to review works outstanding at the pond. The issues raised were:

- To fill the revetments and obtain quotes for this
- Remove the orange fencing by Spring
- Create a footpath at the back of the pond using scalplings and woodchips
- Plant some wildflower seeds in the area currently fenced off. It was noted that the allotment society had said they would help with the latter.
- The wooden benches would also benefit from a jet wash and revarnishing
- The current steps need some attention to level them out
- Cllr Gebbett noted that works to the car park area had been completed

A site meeting had taken place with an Arborist who suggested that works to the trees were unnecessary as neighbouring trees would drop leaves which will blow in to the pond. They did suggest using a product called Siltex to avoid dredging the pond again. Cllr Gebbett suggested asking for the views of the Angling Club on this and enquiring into the cost.

The sluice that had previously been approved was also noted as a future improvement.

24.79.3 To review any outstanding matters at Badger Close including fencing.

The Clerk reported that works to drop the hedge height are to be carried out on 25th September 2024

(behind house numbers 20-22 and 31). The Clerk raised an issue over the brambles in the orchard and noted that they need to be dug out. It was agreed that Councillors wanted to have another site meeting.

Some volunteers have offered to erect a new fence around the orchard, and Cllr Medhurst offered the use of a gate for said fence.

24.79.4 Cricket container contents.
Cllr Coulson cited a prior engagement and left the meeting at 7.15pm

Cllr M Pullen offered to remove any scrap metal to try and raise funds for future community events. It was agreed that a working party would meet in order to agree on what could be disposed of.

24.79 OS EVENTS
24.80.1 To receive update on fireworks display.

The Clerk reported that the school PTA had leafleted the neighbouring housing estates, and that the Councils insurance cover was currently being reviewed, but that all quotations included cover for firework displays. The Clerk requested two Councillors to stay for the event until the site is cleared. Cllrs Gebbet, Medhurst and M Pullen agreed to be the designated Council representatives, clearing the cricket field and locking the side gate.

24.80.2 To discuss any further events in 2024.

It was noted that Remembrance Sunday is approaching, and the Committee agreed to give permission to the Church of the Good Shepherd to hold a service at Lymington Bottom Green if they enquire. It was agreed that members of the Committee would install the 'tommys' and the poppies around the village.

The Committee agreed that they would like to hold a Christmas Carol event this year at Oak Green Parade, dates and details to be confirmed.

24.81 Meeting closed at 7.25pm

24.82 NEXT MEETING 2nd October 2024