

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on 15th January 2025 at the Village Hall, at 7pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Briggs, Smith, R Pullen, McAllister, M Pullen, Rymer, Medhurst and Davies
STAFF:	Victoria Ursulean Assistant Clerk
PUBLIC:	2 members of public
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Coulson and Cllr Gebbett

25.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Coulson (work) and Cllr Gebbett (health) had sent apologies which were duly accepted by the Council.

25.02 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident one requested a statement of fact to be given to the public regarding the planned works at Benians Pavilion. Cllr McAllister was asked to explain the process that the Parish Council (PC) had been through, and also mentioned that a complete update would be made at the Community Update event on January 26th 2025. Resident two questioned any planned works regarding the flooding at five lanes. Cllr R Pullen said that there are plans to rectify the situation by Hampshire Highways, but they are unsure at the moment what these are.

25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

25.04 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr Davies was seconded by Cllr Rymer and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18th December 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting pending the altering of the precept figure from £192,000 to £192,200.

25.05 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nothing to add.

25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

District Councillor Richardson's report had been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

25.07 COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

25.07.01 To receive updates from Committee Chairman.

A meeting on 14th January 2025 had taken place with stakeholders including members of the PC and three EHDC officers. EHDC want to review the public's response after the Community Update event. The drawings had been sent to the costings engineer to open the pre-application with the local authority and Sport England.

25.07.02 To approve expenditure on an ecology report.

The PC had been advised that it would be beneficial to organize an ecology report as soon as possible as this can take a year to complete.

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Smith and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure as required on an ecology report, but no more than £5000.

25.08 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

25.08.01 To receive any updates from the Committee Chairman.

Cllr Gebbett was not present, but the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2024 were noted.

25.08.02 To discuss tree protection report

Cllr Gebbett had been in contact with the local Tree Warden. She had shown him the trees that she had recently placed TPOs on in Blackberry Lane. Cllrs are keen to work with the tree wardens in the hope of protecting further trees and retaining the character of Four Marks.

25.09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

25.09.01 To note Minutes of meeting held on the 4th December 2024 and receive any updates.

Cllr McAllister said that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had successfully completed the first stage of the grant, and that EHDC will be providing the figure for the housing need this week. Minutes were noted and Cllr M Pullen requested that the year be changed on item 24.102 before approval.

25.10 CORRESPONDENCE

25.10.01 To note correspondence.

Correspondence had been circulated by the Clerk. Cllr R Pullen mentioned that the gas contract needed to be renewed and had looked at a price comparison website which he shared with the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Briggs, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to renew the gas contract with the current supplier on a two year fixed rate basis.

25.11 FOR CONSIDERATION

25.11.1 To consider dates for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk had indicated that the options were 23rd or 30th April 2025.

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Davies with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to hold the APM on 30th April 2025.

25.12 FOR APPROVAL

25.12.1 To agree a response for the CIL consultant

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Briggs and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to move this item to a closed session to be discussed after the meeting was closed to the public.

25.13 FINANCIAL ITEMS

25.13.1 To receive and approve the December 2024 payments.

On the proposal of Cllr Smith which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the December 2024 payments.

25.13.2 To receive and authorise January 2025 payments to date.

On the proposal of Cllr Briggs which was seconded by Cllr M Pullen and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the January 2025 payments to date.

The bank balances were also noted by Councillors.

25.13.3 Appointment of internal auditor.

The current internal auditor is retiring and the details of two new options had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Briggs and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Auditor One as internal auditor.

25.13.4 To ratify the outcome of the limited assurance review by the external auditor BDO LLP.

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the outcome of the limited assurance review by the external auditor BDO LLP.

25.13.5 To note the conclusion of the external audit notice and certificate provided by BDO LLP.

Councillors noted the conclusion of the external audit notice and certificate provided by BDO LLP.

25.14 TO NOTE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (as applicable).

25.14.1 Allotments – Cllr Medhurst

The next meeting will be held on 6th February 2025. Cllr R Pullen requested details so that a License to Occupy could be drafted.

25.14.2 Benians Committee – Cllr Smith

Cllr Smith said that a copy of the formal constitution was required, and that discussions around management of the building were in progress.

25.14.3 Oak Green - Cllr Briggs

Cllr Briggs was encouraged that there were no longer any bottles being left where the bottle bank used to sit. He questioned whether parking spaces needed to be repainted.

25.14.4 Village Hall – Cllr Gebbett

In Cllr Gebbetts absence, Cllr R Pullen told the Council that a survey had been carried out for users of the Village Hall. It had shown that people would like to see better storage, modernization, new toilets and for the heating to be more efficient.

25.14.5 Highways – Cllrs R Pullen and Medhurst.

Cllr R Pullen noted that the next meeting would take place at the end of the month. He had been able to report several accidents to Highways with photographs as evidence, which they had not known about previously as they are rarely reported.

25.14.6 EHAPTC – Cllrs R Pullen.

The next meeting will be on 22nd January 2025.

25.15 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

25.15.1 Community Update event.

This will be held on 26th January 2024 at 2-5pm in the Village Hall. A meeting will be held prior to this to discuss content and Councillors were asked to confirm attendance. EHDC had requested maximum capture of people's opinions, so either an online survey or paper questionnaire was suggested. Cllr Rymer agreed to put one together and send it to FM News for their February issue to garner feedback. Cllrs Rymer and Davies had agreed to hand out flyers during the weekend in the hopes of engaging the community and gaining a larger audience.

25.16 To agree a response for the CIL consultant

This item was held in a closed session and members of the public were asked to leave. The response for the CIL consultant is to identify the PC's policies and procedures for the future. It is required that the proposed building will enable these policies to be carried out, and will therefore justify the building's purpose.

On the proposal of Cllr Smith which was seconded by Cllr Briggs, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to agree the response for the CIL consultant.

25.17 NEXT MEETING 19th February 2025.

25.18 Meeting closed at 8.44pm.