

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on 19th February 2025 at the Village Hall, at 7pm

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

25.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Pullen sent apologies due to ill health, and Cllr Davies due to work commitments. Apologies were duly accepted by the Council.

25.20 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident One raised queries about agenda item 7 as they missed the Community Update event. Cllr McAllister explained that EHDC had requested a formal withdrawal of the previous CIL money. The formal withdrawal had not been granted, but instead a new CIL bid was being written, and this would be ready for the beginning of March to be submitted.

25.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

25.22 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Smith and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15th January 2025 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

25.23 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nothing to add.

25.24 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

The District Councillor report had been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was requested to have more information if available.

25.25 COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT COMMITTEE

25.25.01 To receive full update to include financial information and pre-app advice.

Mr. Smith, Project Manager, was asked to give an update to Cllrs. He said that the pre-application had been submitted and that a meeting with the Planning Officer had taken place that day. A response should be obtained by the end of the following week. Mr. Smith explained that the biggest issue is the placement of the play area and parking.

Further quotations had been sought from various consultants, one of which being the ecology report. This had been authorized by the Council at the previous meeting and would identify any wildlife or habitats that might be affected by the building. In two weeks' time, once the initial report has been carried out, we will know if the application can be submitted.

The build cost estimate had been conducted by a Costing Engineer, who had said that the worst-case scenario would be £2,748,643.70 factoring in increasing costs for materials etc.

25.25.02 To ratify expenditure for sport consultant report.

Cllrs had already authorized employing a consultant and agreed to continue to do so, and consider any recommendations from them.

On the proposal of Cllr R Pullen which was seconded by Cllr McAllister and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure for the sport consultant report.

25.25.03 To discuss future management plan for new building.

Cllr McAllister explained that a plan to manage the building must be shared within the CIL bid. A proposed management plan was suggested by the sports consultant. Various people will need to be employed, including cleaners and a booking system.

25.25.04 To discuss budget and commitment to allocate any future CIL funding to the project (before and during construction).

Cllr McAllister mentioned that the Parish Council receives direct CIL money from new developments within the Parish. This is paid every six months. It was agreed that this money should be put towards the Benians project.

25.26 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

25.26.01 To note the minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2025 and receive appropriate updates.

Cllr Gebbett gave a summary of items discussed at the committee meeting and mentioned that an assessment to reinstate the cricket square had been sought.

25.26.02 To review usage of cricket pitch area for football use.

Following a discussion, it was decided to put this to the Open Space committee in the first instance who will then make a recommendation to the Full Council.

25.26.03 Strategy for the football pitches including grant applications.

Following a discussion, it was decided to put this to the Open Space committee in the first instance who will then make a recommendation to the Full Council.

25.26.04 To review quotations for repainting the skate park

Quotations were looked at and discussed as being a viable option as the park is well used by the community.

25.26.05 To review quotations for new Open Space contractor

Our current open space contractor has brought to our attention that he can no longer carry out the work required. Therefore, quotations had been sought and interviews had with 4 contractors which were carried out by Cllr M Pullen and the Assistant Clerk. Quotations had been sent to Cllrs to look at, and the Assistant Clerk explained the experiences of the contractors. As Cllr Pullen was not present to give his recommendation, this item will be revisited next month.

25.27 PLANNING COMMITTEE

25.27.01 To note Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 5th February 2025 and receive appropriate updates.

The main update from Cllr McAllister was that the Falcon development on Alton Lane had a complaint from a neighbouring property that there had been illegal tree cutting, digging of pits and road ways had been made without consent.

The Gladman development were completing an archeology test on Mount Royal without permission which had been referred to the Planning Officer.

It was requested that the Assistant Clerk go back to the enforcement officer on both cases.

With regards to the Neighbourhood Plan, the next stage is for the Consultant site visit which is taking place on Monday 24th February 2025.

25.27.02 Reference: EHDC-24-0056-RES Locations: Land between Conway & Millfield, Alton Lane, Four Marks. Proposal: Discharge conditions 2 – Energy, 3 – Foul and surface water, 5 – Hard and Soft Landscaping, 7 – External Materials, 11 – Construction Method Statement and 14 Boundary treatment, of approved application 60062.

Cllr McAllister explained the normally a discharge of conditions is not sent out for consultation. However, in the original plans this development declared that the external materials would be brick and flint. This was approved on the basis that it would fit in with neighbouring properties. This has now changed to white render and slate that the PC feel is a major change and invalidates the planning consent. Cllrs requested that the Assistant Clerk raise this with the Case Officer.

25.28 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

25.28.01 To note minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 29th January 2025 and receive appropriate updates.

No updates currently.

25.28.02 To review internal risk action plan.

Cllrs had reviewed this and agreed to continue with it.

25.28.03 To review and readopt Cemetery Regulations.

Cllrs noted a fee increase and agreed to readopt the cemetery regulations for another year.

25.29 OFFICER REPORT

25.29.01 To note Clerks report and any listed correspondence.

It was noted that the Locum Clerk will start on March 5th 2025.

25.29.02 To consider letter from Alton College

Alton College had requested a letter of support from the PC regarding a CIL bid for improvement works to their sports hall in order to make it more accessible. Cllrs agreed to support their application.

25.29.03 To note price increase from TalkTalk.

Cllrs were made aware of a price increase in the telephone and broadband package used in the Parish office. It was suggested that we may be able to move over to full fibre when building works have been carried out.

25.30 FINANCIAL ITEMS

25.30.01 To receive and approve the January 2025 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 January 2025 payments.

25.30.02 To receive and authorise February 2025 payments to date.

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

25.30.03 To review trial bank balances and reserves.

Cllr R Pullen observed that there were some coding corrections to be made but was assured that this would be corrected by the end of the financial year.

25.31 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

25.31.1 To consider holding a fireworks event on November 7th 2025 in conjunction with FM school PTA.

Cllrs felt that the firework event had gone well in 2024 but were eager to have a meeting with the PTA to discuss details further.

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

25.32.01 Allotments – Cllr Medhurst

Cllr Medhurst and Cllr R Pullen had a meeting with the Treasurer to discuss details for their License to Occupy. A plan was put together but is yet to be confirmed.

25.32.02 Benians Committee – Cllr Smith

Cllrs are awaiting a meeting.

25.32.03 Oak Green - Cllr Briggs

Nothing to add.

25.32.04 Village Hall – Cllr Gebbett

Cllr Gebbett noted a new router for the Village Hall. Cllr R Pullen mentioned that the nursery would cease trading next month. This would mean that there are now only two nurseries within Four Marks.

25.32.05 Highways – Cllrs R Pullen and Medhurst.

Cllrs were awaiting information regarding the next meeting.

25.32.06 EHAPTC – Cllrs R Pullen.

Nothing to add.

25.33 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

25.33.1 To receive update on Community Update Event

The community update event had seen over 150 people in attendance. Replies for the questionnaires were in

the process of being input to the system. There will be further update events to keep the community informed about the Benians project.

Cllr Gebbett noted that he needed some contributions for the Parish Newsletter.

25.33.2 To note date for Village Picnic

The date for the Village Picnic had been agreed for the 29th June 2025.

25.33.3 To note date for litter pick

The Litter Pick in association with the Great British Spring Clean will take place on 29th March 2025.

25.34 NEXT MEETING 19th March 2025.

25.35 Meeting closed at 8.48pm.