

## **FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee Held on 2nd April 2025 commencing at 6:30pm at Benians Pavilion**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Cllrs Gebbett, M Pullen, Rymer, Coulson and Medhurst</b>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>Louise Steele Locum Clerk, Victoria Ursulean Assistant Clerk</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>One member of public None</b>

#### **25.22 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

#### **25.23 OS OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Gebbett announced the sad passing of Mr. Chris Lake who had been Chairman of the Village Hall Committee for twenty-five years. The details of his funeral and wake were given.

Cllr R Pullen was in attendance and requested that due to the amount of football in the village, a meeting be held with the youth football clubs using the recreation ground, to see what they require. This refers to Agenda item 5.1.

#### **25.24 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **25.25 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

a. On the proposal of Cllr Coulson, which was seconded by Cllr M Pullen, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to unanimously approve the original minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

b. 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 meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

#### **25.26 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/REVIEW**

##### **25.26.1 To consider use of the 11v11 pitch for Manor Colts U12s**

Cllr Medhurst noted the changing of the rules regarding youth football next year which will decrease pitch size requirements. He agreed that a meeting with the teams would be beneficial, and Cllr R Pullen agreed to action this. As the new season starts in September, it was agreed to defer this until July after a meeting has taken place. It was noted that a youth 11v11 pitch is smaller than an adults.

Cllr Gebbett reminded Councillors that the existing agreement was for a 9v9 football pitch on the Cricket Field and not an 11v11 of any size. He added that any football pitch must not overlap the Cricket Square, so the size (width from the hedge to the Cricket Square) of the football pitch was limited.

Cllr Gebbett proposed a Sports & Recreation working party to ascertain details of requirements from teams. Cllrs agreed that a working party would be created and would provide proposals, costings and a way forward to be presented to the Open Space Committee giving precedence to the residents of Four Marks.

##### **25.26.2 To consider installing solar lights on one bus shelter as a trial**

Cllrs considered the quotation provided by the manufacturer of the bus shelters which was circa £2200 to provide solar lighting per shelter. Cllrs requested looking at some already installed, but thought it expensive.

##### **25.26.3 To consider bramble treatment at the Badger Orchard**

Cllrs were all in agreement that chemicals should not be used near to wildlife and discussed creating a mini working party to cut back the brambles by hand.

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett, which was seconded by Cllr M Pullen, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** not to progress with a chemical bramble treatment at Badger Orchard.

#### **25.26.4 To review and update on the Aerial Policy**

Cllr Coulson had met with two interested residents regarding the flying of drones at the recreation ground. To allow this, the Parish Council would require a club to be formed which would hold its own insurance. Unfortunately, neither of the residents were able to carry this out due to other commitments. Therefore, there will remain a no drone policy at the recreation ground. Cllrs requested more signage to make this clear.

#### **25.26.5 To review the Sports and Recreation working party terms of reference**

A draft Terms of Reference will need to be created for approval for the Sports and Recreation working party. The Locum Clerk and Assistant Clerk are able to carry this out. The meeting was closed at 7.15pm to allow Cllr R Pullen to note that the working party have until September to carry out its duties. The meeting was reopened at 7.16pm.

#### **25.26.6 Swelling Hill outstanding works**

Currently, the outstanding works are to fill the revetments, make the steps safe and create a pathway at the back of the pond. Cllr M Pullen said that the steps should be blocked off, and Cllr Coulson mentioned that the path is still very muddy, and bushes need cutting back in places.

#### **25.26.7 Recreation Ground appearance**

Cllr Gebbett asked Cllr M. Pullen for an update on his suggestion re the Recreation Ground appearance. Cllrs M Pullen and Medhurst agreed to create a written proposal for any works to the recreation ground they feel are required. It was noted that the new earth bunds require pedestrian access which the Assistant Clerk said she would enquire into. It was also mentioned that the trees which had been cut back at the allotment's fence line should be disposed of.

### **25.27 OS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **25.27.1 To discuss costs involved with maintaining football**

This item would fall under the new 'Sports and Recreation working party', costs mentioned were line marking and verti-draining. Cllr M Pullen was concerned that without sand the verti-draining wouldn't produce the best results. He was asked to research this and provide his findings to the committee.

#### **25.27.2 To discuss the Bowls Club electricity bill**

It was noted that the cost of providing electricity to the Bowls Club was £272.78 for the year, of which the council received £100 from the club. They have offered to increase this by £50 for the coming year.

At 7.30pm Cllr Rymer left the meeting.

The Locum Clerk enquired into the nature of the tenure. The meeting was closed at 7.35pm. Cllr R Pullen said that the lease was very old and handwritten, a copy of which he would circulate to the committee. He was made aware that the club couldn't afford to pay the full electricity bill. When asked about water bills, he said that the club are separately metered and pay their own water charges.

The meeting was reopened at 7.38pm. Cllr Gebbett suggested that the Council have an obligation to look after clubs in Four Marks, and all Cllrs agreed that the bill should be paid in full.

### **25.28 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

#### **25.28.1 To agree updated terms of Supplier Agreement for Open Space Contractor**

This item was superseded by events. A contract was established by the Locum Clerk as work in the Village needed to be started.

#### **25.28.2 To ratify plans for the new memorial bench**

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett, which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to approve plans for the new memorial bench.

#### **25.28.3 To approve erecting signage to the recreation ground through Medstead Farm estate**

Due to Brislands Lane only being paved up to the Medstead Farm estate, Cllrs felt it would be safer for residents to walk through the estate to the recreation ground, but that signs would be required. Cllrs were shown a map of the area and drew attention to three areas that would benefit from signage, which should be green and read 'To the recreation ground'.

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to respond to the management company and request quotations for signage.

**25.28.4 To decide the membership and terms of reference of a working group to prepare a costing proposal for the future layout of the playground (as agreed at Full Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025).**

Plans to extend the Pavilion will mean increasing the parking provision. In turn, the area for the playground will have to be decreased. A working party will need to be created to establish the best outcome for this to be presented in September.

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm. Cllr R Pullen said that the area will essentially be halved and suggested that this was a good opportunity to update some of the equipment in the play area. Cllr Coulson asked Cllr R Pullen if the Putting Club were happy to be moved, he said they had no objection.

The meeting was reopened at 8.00pm. Cllr Gebbett asked for any volunteers to join the working party. Cllrs M Pullen, Gebbett and Coulson volunteered. They will work alongside Cllrs MacAllister and Smith. It was considered to get the local school involved in some way. The Locum Clerk said that she could write the Terms of Reference.

**25.29 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS**

**25.29.01** To note area update.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
<b>Badger Close</b>	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Clerk to research further.
	Badger Orchard	In progress	Water bags removed – to agree bramble treatment.
	Badger Run upkeep	In progress	Hedge cut 25/09/2024.
<b>Cemetery</b>	Cemetery inspection		Completed.
<b>Lymington Bottom Green</b>	New bench – FM Care.	Complete	Installed 04/10/2024
<b>Oak parade Green</b>	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	Awaiting signage.
	Repainting of car parking spaces.	To do.	To review spacing and repainting – future meeting.
<b>Recreation Ground</b>	Containers	In progress	Site meeting to be arranged.
	Skate Park	Pending	Area to be repainted end of April 2025
	Tennis courts	Completed	
	Football pitch/club	Ongoing	Ongoing Liaison with Club regarding use.
	Footway along football pitch	Ongoing	
	Water refill point	In progress	Serviced February 2025.
	Earth bund next to Scout Hut	Complete	Completed on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
	New bench along hedge line on cricket pitch	In progress	

<b>Climate change mitigation</b>	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 <sup>th</sup> July 2024.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	New panels for Gospel Hall installed w/c 23/9/2024. Clean booked 10/24.
<b>Swelling Pond Hill</b>	Silt removal project	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.
	Wildflowers	Completed	Planted November 2024
	Steps	Pending	Agenda item.
	Revetments	Pending	
	Pathway	Pending	
<b>Kingswood Copse</b>	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided at meeting – Clerk to follow up.

## 25.30 OS EVENTS

### 25.30.1 To discuss the Village Picnic

Cllrs discussed other people to invite to hold a stall at the picnic on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025, and also requesting the clubs within the recreation ground to hold open days to increase membership.

### 25.30.2 To discuss the litter pick

The Assistant Clerk mentioned that the litter pick had been a success with over 20 bags of rubbish collected.

### 25.30.3 To discuss the firework event

Cllrs Medhurst and M Pullen met with the representative of Four Marks school PTA to discuss the event for this year. They are awaiting a proposal of how many people the ground can accommodate. Cllrs suggested that the event start earlier, and more lighting be provided. The Locum Clerk advised using the 'purple guide' which is a health and safety resource for event organisers.

### 25.30.4 To discuss VE Day celebrations

It was decided that it is too late to organise anything for the celebrations.

## 25.31 Meeting closed: 8.28pm

## 25.32 Next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025