

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on 16th April 2025 at the Village Hall, at 7pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Smith, Davies, Gebbett, Medhurst, McAllister, M Pullen, R Pullen, and Rymer,
STAFF:	Louise Steele, Locum Clerk
PUBLIC:	Two members of public
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs Briggs and Coulson,

25.56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Briggs and Coulson.

25.57 OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident referred to the minutes of the previous meeting of council and specifically minute 25.49.02 which says “A request to consider support for a Hampshire County Council CIL bid to improve Four Marks Byways 20 & 21 was declined.” The resident asked why the request had been declined; the Locum Clerk indicated that she was unable to add any further information to that minute and Councillors indicated that they would consider what further information might be provided.

25.58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr McAllister declared an interest in 11.1 on the grounds that one of the associated companies is his company. The Locum Clerk sought clarification as to the nature of the interest and whether it was a discloseable pecuniary interest and obtained the reassurance that the interest was not pecuniary.

25.59 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Upon the proposal of Cllr M Pullen, seconded by Cllr Rymer, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19th March 2025 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

25.60 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cllr Smith was welcomed as chair of the meeting, in the absence of Cllr Briggs..

25.61 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

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

25.62 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

25.62.01 To note the Minutes of 2nd April 2025 and receive updates.

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2025 were noted; Cllr Pullen queried the minute about the playground working group. Cllr Gebbett gave a brief update on the meeting.

25.63 PLANNING COMMITTEE

25.63.01 To note updates of the Planning Committee

Cllr McAllister gave a brief update on the Neighbourhood Plan issue of Locality funding being handed back and said that it now looks likely that District Councillors may provide funding.

25.63.02 EHDC-25-0322-GPDE Rowandale House Alton Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5AJ. Prior notification for single storey development extending 4.8 metres beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling, incorporating an eaves height of 4 metres and a maximum height of 4 metres.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would defer to the Planning Officer on this application.

25.63.03 EHDC-24-0125-HSE Old Forge, 54a Blackberry Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5DF. Refurbishment of existing driveway. Remove overgrown hedges build new front wall and side wall complete with metal railings and new pedestrian gate. Install new electric gate for vehicle access with low level wall light from Philips Hue. Install new soak away for drainage as none currently exist.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would defer to the Planning Officer on this application.

25.63.04 EHDC-25-0143-FUL Melrose Alton Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5AJ.
Detached dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling
It was agreed that the Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that the location is unsustainable and outside the settlement policy boundary. Further that the proposal is outside the biodiversity policies.

25.64 OFFICER REPORT

25.64.01 Locum Clerk's report

The Locum Clerk confirmed that on this occasion she had nothing to report.

25.65 FINANCIAL ITEMS

25.65.01 To receive and approve the March 2025 payments.

Upon the proposal of Cllr M Pullen, seconded by Cllr Davies, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the March 2025 payments.

25.66.02 To receive and authorise April 2025 payments to date.

No April payments were reported for authorisation.

25.66.03 No balances were available for review..

25.67 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

25.67.01 To receive a costings report re the Community Facility

At 19:37 the Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order to hear an oral update from Allen Smith about the Community Facility Project in support of his written report which had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting. Allen explained that following pre-application advice it looked likely that the planning authority would support the planning application for the enhanced Benians Pavilion. There had been some discussion about the design but since views on design are subjective then the original design will be pursued. £37,125 expenditure is required in order to obtain the reports necessary to make the planning application – that is £4,000 more than detailed in the written report (being £3,000 for the drainage consultant and an addition £1,000 for noise assessment associated with heating and ventilation)

Standing Orders were resumed at 19:54

Upon the proposal of Cllr R Pullen, seconded by Cllr McAllister, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to authorise expenditure of £37,125 as set out in the written report and amended by the oral update, on the consultants identified – the expenditure to be funded by use of the Earmarked Reserve for the Community Facility.

25.68. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

25.68.01 To consider a review of Committee Terms of Reference and incorporating those within a revised Scheme of Delegation

The Locum Clerk explained that the draft Scheme of Delegation brings the Council's delegation to committees (by means of the committee terms of reference) and to officers together in one document. The other council document described as "Scheme of Delegation" should be renamed as "Business Continuity Plan" -

Upon the proposal of Cllr R Pullen, seconded by Cllr McAllister and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to accept a scheme of delegation (as amended) which sorts out Committee Terms of Reference and establishes that matters of policy should come back to Full Council

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

25.69.01 Allotments – Cllr Medhurst reported that he had missed the last meeting of the allotment association. There was progress to report; there is agreement to the license to occupy but a number of outstanding questions like supplying electricity to the shed remained.

25.69.02 Benians Committee – Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

- 25.69.03** **Oak Green** - Cllr Briggs was not present to report but the meeting heard that the lights were still working on the clock and that three or four boxes bottles had appeared beside the Salvation Army recycling facility.
- 25.69.04** **Village Hall** –Cllr R Pullen reported that the Chairman of the Village Hall had passed away and that a transition committee had been set up and was struggling to get everything sorted.
- 25.69.05** **Highways** – Cllr R Pullen had nothing to report.
- 25.69.06** **EHAPTC** – Cllr R Pullen had nothing to report.
- 25.70** **NEXT MEETING Annual Meeting of Council 21st May 2025.**