

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee Held on 7th May 2025 commencing at 6:30pm at The Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Gebbett, Rymer, Coulson and Medhurst
IN ATTENDANCE:	Victoria Ursulean Assistant Clerk
APOLOGIES:	No members of public Cllr M Pullen

25.33 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Pullen sent his apologies which were duly accepted by the committee.

25.34 OS OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Assistant Clerk told the committee of resident request to install either a tree or a plaque on the cricket pitch. Cllrs were in agreement that this could be considered but would require more information.

25.35 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25.36 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr Rymer, which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to unanimously approve the original minutes of the meeting held on **2nd April 2025** as a true reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

25.37 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/REVIEW

25.37.1 To consider increasing membership fees for tennis

The current cost of an annual family membership of £45 was compared with other clubs in the local area. Cllrs felt that the cost was low, however understood that for families on a lower income, it would be more accessible and achievable. Cllr Coulson raised the issue of building up a sinking fund to resurface the courts again when required. Issues surrounding the floodlights and gate code were also considered. After a discussion, Cllrs felt that raising the fee to £60 for a family of five was not unreasonable.

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett which was seconded by Cllr Coulson, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to increase the Four Marks Tennis membership fee to £60 pending agreement from the Finance and General Purposes committee.

On the proposal of Cllr Gebbett which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to put the gate technology costs forward to the Finance and General Purposes committee.

25.37.2 To consider other football clubs use of the football pitch

Cllr Medhurst suggested that this agenda item be taken to the Sports working party so that it can be looked in to more and further information gathered. All Cllrs were in agreement and look forward to a written proposal.

25.38 OS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

25.38.1 To discuss Christmas lights quotations

After looking at the quotation provided, Cllrs agreed that they would like to purchase the Christmas tree from a local garden centre and felt that the cost of lights on the bus shelter was high. The Assistant Clerk agreed to go back to the company to confirm what lights would be provided for this price.

25.38.2 To discuss the Bowls Club agreement

Cllr Gebbett suggested that a License to Occupy agreement be devised by the new committee after the Annual Meeting of the Council. Cllrs unanimously agreed.

25.39 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**25.39.1 To approve the cost of installing electricity for the allotments**

The Allotment Association had requested the installation of electricity so that batteries/machinery could be charged in their communal shed. Cllr Medhurst had a site meeting to discuss digger work required and a quotation from an electrical contractor had been garnered. A meter will be within the electrical box so that the allotments can be charged for what they use.

On the proposal of Cllr Medhurst which was seconded by Cllr Rymer, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** to install electricity for the Allotment Association providing the cost met with expectations.

25.39.2 To approve signage costs for the recreation ground

Cllrs had requested permission from the management company for Medstead Farm Estate to erect signage to the recreation ground. This would deter people from using Brislands Lane where there is no pavement and hopefully provide a safer passage. Quotations for signage had been distributed to Cllrs, however confirmation from the management company had not been received. Therefore, it was agreed that this item be deferred.

25.39.3 To approve costings for Swelling Hill Pond

The revetments at the pond require filling with a clay-based soil. Quotations received were considered, however Cllrs requested further investigation into the cost and other quotations to be gathered. The quality of the water had been mentioned by the Angling Club, and Cllr Medhurst questioned the installation of oxygenating plants. The Assistant Clerk agreed to look into this.

25.40 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS**25.40.01 To note area update.**

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Badger Close	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.
Cemetery	Cemetery inspection		Completed.
Lymington Bottom Green	New bench – FM Care.	Complete	Installed 04/10/2024
Oak Green parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing	Awaiting signage.
	Repainting of car parking spaces.	To do.	To review spacing and repainting – future meeting.
Recreation Ground	Containers	In progress	Site meeting to be arranged.
	Skate Park	Pending	Area to be repainted end of May 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 th March 2025
	New bench along hedge line on cricket pitch	In progress	
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	Completed	Interim inspection 12 th July 2024.
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	New panels for Gospel Hall installed w/c 23/9/2024. Clean booked 10/24.
Swelling Pond Hill	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	
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided at meeting – Clerk to follow up.

25.41 OS EVENTS

25.41.1 Village Picnic

A discussion was held regarding zorbing at the Village Picnic, which was very popular last year but also expensive for the community. Cllrs asked the Assistant Clerk to investigate funding as three inflatables will already be provided, and the budget is tight.

25.41.2 Fireworks

The Clerk had researched the health and safety risks for the fireworks event and suggested the sale of up to 1800 tickets which could increase to 2000 depending on health and safety requirements. Councillors were happy with her recommendation.

25.42 Meeting closed: 7.58pm

25.43 Next meeting: 4th June 2025