

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Space Committee
Held on 3rd September 2025 at Benians Pavilion, at 7.03pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Davies, Medhurst, M Pullen and Coulson
IN ATTENDANCE:	Victoria Ursulean Assistant Clerk
	No members of the public
APOLOGIES:	One

25.67 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Gebbett gave his apologies due to illness.

25.68 OS OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr M Pullen mentioned that a meeting to discuss the equipment belonging to the recently disbanded men's football club will be held with Cllr R Pullen in attendance.

Cllr Medhurst stated that the Allotment Society would like the hedgerow within the allotments trimmed back and suggested that the Lengthsman do this on their next visit. He also said that a discussion regarding the license to occupy will be taking place soon.

25.69 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25.70 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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 Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the **6TH August 2025**.

25.71 OS POLICY REVIEW

25.71.1 To review the Climate & Nature Emergency policy

Cllrs approved the policy and felt that the points within it would be more applicable when the new building is in place.

25.71.2 To review the draft Bench policy

Cllrs discussed various points that the policy raised including what the benches are made of and the term of 10 years per bench. Cllr Coulson suggested utilising one bench for multiple plaques, and Cllr M Pullen requested the inclusion of other green spaces that the Council own. Cllrs would like to have the opinions of the Full Council on this policy.

25.71.3 To review the draft Food Truck policy

Cllr Davies questioned whose responsibility it would be to ensure the correct licenses were held for a food truck to operate legally. Cllrs wanted it to be clear within the policy that anyone trading would have to be off the premises by 9pm. There is currently a three month trial taking place with a food truck and should this be successful, Cllrs were happy to ask Full Council for opinions on this policy.

25.71.4 To review the draft Swelling Hill Pond Policy

Cllr M Pullen commented that the reason for this policy was to ensure the look and feel of the pond was created in a way that the Council were happy with. The Assistant Clerk said that the Angling Club had been shown the policy and approved of it.

25.72 OS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

25.72.1 To discuss installing a net divider in the tennis courts

A local resident had suggested the installation of a net divider on the tennis courts to avoid balls going across courts when both are in use. He had said that he would be happy to provide this at cost price, unfortunately this was not received in time for the meeting. Cllrs approved the idea in principle but wanted to know a cost.

25.73 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

25.73.1 To approve the cost for installation of an earth bund between the Pavilion and tennis courts

During a meeting of the Full Council, it was suggested to install an earth bund between the Pavilion and the tennis courts to prevent vehicular access. Two quotations were garnered and shared with Councillors. Due to the fact that the Pavilion may be extended, Councillors felt it was a lot of money for a temporary measure. Cllr M Pullen proposed that this does not go ahead, and Cllr Medhurst seconded the motion which only one Councillor in disagreement. Councillors discussed the possibility of a metal box around the padlock on the gate and also concreting in larger posts next to the Pavilion. The Assistant Clerk agreed to gain quotations to achieve this.

25.73.2 To approve the cost of a suspended fence around Oak tree on football field

In the August committee meeting, Councillors requested quotations for a suspended fence which would surround the Oak tree on the football field. Several residents had mentioned that local youths had been using this area irresponsibly and they asked for a solution. The tree has a large root system which meant that nothing could be dug into the ground. Therefore, a suspended fence was investigated and quotations displayed for Cllrs. Cllrs didn't feel that the fence was in keeping with the area and requested a quotation to build a small bund around the tree so that bushes could be planted.

25.73.3 To decide the process for arriving at a fully costed project for the play area within the recreation ground

Due to the application for expanding the Pavilion, new parking spaces will be required. This means that the play equipment will be moved towards the back of the current play space. Three playground designers are in the process of planning this area, with the idea that these proposals will be shown to local school children who will then vote for their favourite.

The Assistant Clerk noted that one design had been received already. Cllrs suggested displaying the designs at the public consultations on Sunday 7th September and Wednesday 10th September should they be available in time.

25.74 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

25.74.1 To note area update.

The Assistant Clerk gave a breakdown of updates to the area including:

- Memorial bench on the cricket field had been installed.
- The two priority one trees had been felled.
- The Oak tree on the football field has a TPO and a planning application had been made to do work on this.
- The Laurel and the tree over the skate ramp in the skate park had been cut back.
- The two youth football pitches had been marked out, goals moved and eyelets added to the container on the cricket field to provide safe storage for goals.
- The work to revetments has been carried out at Swelling Hill Pond and the Angling Club will be laying gravel to the pathway this month. They are concerned about the water at the moment as it is looking very green. They have had it tested and this is not due to algae. They will monitor it.
- Work requested in the playground safety report had been carried out.

Location	Action Required	Status	Notes
Badger Close	Boundary Encroachment	In progress	Clerk to research further.
	Badger Orchard		Water bags removed. Weeds cut.
	Badger Run upkeep		

		In progress In progress	Tree and hedge cut 6 th September behind 36.
Cemetery	Cemetery inspection		Completed.
	Memorial bench	Complete	Installed 05/08/25
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	Completed
	Tennis courts gate tech	Complete	Completed 29 th July 2025
	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	Complete	Completed on August 14 th 2025.
	Earth bund next to Pavilion	Agenda item	Quotations for concreted posts to be gained.
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	Report completed 7 th July 2025
	Bus stop maintenance	In progress	New panels for Gospel Hall installed w/c 23/9/2024. Clean completed 17/08/25.
	Bus stop lights	Pending	Awaiting further quotations
Swelling Hill Pond	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	
	Revetments	Complete	Completed 18/08/25
	Pathway	Pending	In progress
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	In progress	Plan decided at meeting – Clerk to follow up.

25.74.2 To receive an update from the Playground working party.

As discussed, one design had already been received and Cllrs will hold a working party meeting before the next Full Council meeting to discuss this.

25.74.3 Badger Close update

Work on the hedge and tree behind 36 Badger Close within the badger run is due to start on 6th September, and work behind 33 is pending. The Lengthsman had strimmed the weeds in the badger orchard.

25.74.4 Kingswood Copse update

The Assistant Clerk had requested an update from the volunteer carrying out work there. They have been sensitively cutting back vegetation to allow wildlife to thrive and maintain the peaceful nature of the area.

25.75 OS EVENTS

25.75.1 Fireworks

The school PTA had asked if it were possible to advertise the event and Cllrs agreed. They had also requested a meeting to discuss further issues, to which Cllrs Medhurst and M Pullen were happy to attend. Dates and times to be agreed over email.

25.75.2 To discuss the possibility of holding an event during Armed Forces Day on 27th June 2026.

There will be an Armed Forces Day convoy on 27th June 2026 through Hampshire. This will go from the Aldershot Garrison to New Alresford. Details of the time they will be on the B3349 and the A31 will be available in the Spring of next year. The Assistant Clerk asked if Cllrs would like an event to be scheduled to tie in with the convoy. Cllrs had a lengthy discussion about the possibility of holding an event either at Oak Green Parade or Lymington Bottom Green but ultimately decided that they would like to involve the Full Council to come to a decision.

25.76 Meeting closed at 8.34pm

24.93 NEXT MEETING: 1st OCTOBER 2025