

FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee
Held on 5th November 2025 at Benians Pavilion, at 7.10pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cllrs Davies, Medhurst, Gebbett, Coulson and M Pullen
IN ATTENDANCE:	Victoria Ursulean (Assistant Clerk) and Cllr R Pullen (acting RFO)
APOLOGIES:	No members of the public
	None

25.89 OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

25.90 OS OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Cllr R Pullen spoke about the firework event which would take place on the 7th November and mentioned that Speedwatch would be helping to ensure no cars enter the recreation ground (which will be closed to ensure safety). He mentioned that the road would be closed from 4pm and reopen at 8pm.
The Assistant Clerk had received an enquiry from a resident who wanted to use the floodlights on the football field on an ad-hoc basis. Discussions over the cost of the floodlights was had and resolved at £10 for up to 2 hours.

25.91 OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

25.92 OS COMMITTEE MINUTES
On the proposal of Cllr Davies, which was seconded by Cllr M Pullen, and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the **1st October 2025**.

25.93 OS ITEMS FOR REVIEW
25.93.1 To review the tree policy

Cllrs were happy with the tree policy as it stood, with Cllr M Pullen suggesting that if a resident requested to remove a tree, we should suggest replanting two more within the village.

On the proposal of Cllr Davies which was seconded by Cllr Medhurst and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the tree policy be readopted by Full Council.

25.94 OS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
25.94.1 To consider ways to prevent damage to Scout Hut windows from footballs

A letter had been received from a concerned resident that now the practice pitch had been turned around, the Scout hut windows were in the firing line. Cllr M Pullen suggested that we apply for a grant for temporary goals which would be removed after each training session or match. One of the fixed goals could be removed and the other placed in the sockets along Uplands Lane so that residents still had a goal to use and footballs wouldn't be aimed at either the Scout hut or resident's gardens. The thought being that the children who use the temporary goals would not have enough power to cause damage to the Scout hut.

On the proposal of Cllr M Pullen which was seconded by Cllr Davies, and with all Councillors in agreement it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk could apply for a grant for temporary goals and move one fixed goal to the Uplands Lane side of the pitch.

25.94.2 To consider quotation for tennis floodlights

The Council had received a complaint regarding the brightness of the tennis court lights and it was discovered that they were not up to LTA standards. Two quotations had been received and considered. However, Cllrs were made

aware that there was currently no money in the budget to provide this upgrade. Cllrs felt that this item should be reviewed at a later date when there is more money in the budget.

25.95 OS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

25.95.1 To discuss fees attached to food trucks

The Council had previously approved a food truck to have a trial period which was successful. Since then, they had been offered the plot at a fee which they felt was too high. Cllrs had a lengthy discussion regarding the fees they felt were appropriate. The conclusion was that due to the circumstances, a fee of £10 per session until the 31st March was fair for the current food truck which would then be reviewed again. Further applications would incur a fee of £15 per session.

On the proposal of Cllr Medhurst which was seconded by Cllr Davies and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to charge the current food truck £10 per session until 31st March 2026, and other applicants £15 per session.

25.95.2 To discuss the opportunity to sell the Badger Orchard

A resident had contacted the Clerk to enquire if it would be possible to purchase the badger orchard. Cllrs M Pullen and Medhurst reported that this had been discussed at the preceding Planning Committee meeting and indicated that it would not be a possibility due to the fact that the Council is required to have pockets of green land and, if for sale the land would need to go on the open market, meaning the resident may not necessarily be successful.

25.95.3 To discuss Footpaths Working Party formation

Cllrs Davies and M Pullen had a meeting at Kingswood Copse with a volunteer who maintained this and footpaths in the village. He had suggested forming a footpath working party to help with their general upkeep and to remove the waste that has accrued. A leaflet to be distributed to local houses was discussed. Cllr M Pullen requested that as the footpaths were the responsibility of HCC, we should ask if a permit to access a Recycling Centre free of charge could be obtained. Cllrs Davies, Medhurst and M Pullen volunteered to be part of the working party.

On the proposal of Cllr Davies which was seconded by Cllr M Pullen and with all Councillors in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to form a footpath working party.

25.95.4 To discuss footpaths; leafletting of adjacent properties

Cllrs were in agreement to leaflet local properties to the footpaths to request joining the footpath working party. A leaflet would be devised and distributed along with advertising it on the website and social media.

25.95.5 To discuss transplanting of hedge plants to the border of Kingswood Copse

During their meeting at Kingswood Copse, it was suggested to transfer self seeded plants from other areas where they were not required to the fence line in order to make the boundary safer. This could be carried out by the Council's gardener.

It was also noted that there is currently no bin at the bus stop next to the Travelodge which had accumulated a pile of waste. The Assistant Clerk said she would look into the cost of a new bin and associated waste removal costs.

25.95.6 To consider the Parish Council's position regarding the following questions relating to planning application EHDC-25-0055-OUT.

25.95.6.1. Would the Parish Council permit the creation of a pedestrian access point from the site into the Recreation Ground?

Cllr Medhurst explained that this question had been posed at the preceding Planning committee meeting. It had been discussed at length with the conclusion being that it would be too high risk to have pedestrians/cyclists walking across the field during an Archery Club or Football Club session. Direct access from Chaffinch Road would be easier and safer along with various other routes which were possible.

25.95.6.2. Would the Parish Council support the installation of a fence on its land to facilitate the continued operation of the Archery Club?

This question has been posed as you are not allowed to shoot in the direction of a residential area (as an Archer). The recommendation is to build a 2m high bund with a hedge or similar habitat friendly solution on top to make a 4m high barrier.

25.96 OS ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

25.96.1 To approve the cost of maintenance to play equipment

An independent play inspector had been asked to review all play equipment to assess if it could be moved for the new play area. In addition to this, several maintenance issues were reported. A quotation was sought from the company who carried out the maintenance works following the ROSPA report. It was noted that the ROSPA report had already been conducted and none of these issues had been reported. Our personal ROSPA qualified Councillor had concluded that none of the issues noted were posing imminent danger.

On the proposal of Cllr Coulson which was seconded by Cllr Gebbett and with all Cllrs in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to defer this item until such time as we feel it necessary.

25.96.2 To approve the installation of two memorial benches in the cemetery

Two residents had been in touch to ask for permission to erect a bench in memory of their loved ones. One to be placed at the back of the cemetery underneath the large Oak tree, and one in front of the ashes plots where there are currently no benches.

Cllrs discussed the bench policy which was recently created and the possibility that planting a tree in memory of a loved one would be a better option as there are four benches at the cemetery already. Cllrs requested to defer this item to January's committee meeting to consider other options in the hopes of gaining a better balance of benches within the village.

25.96.3 To approve the installation of lighting at The Shrave bus stop and application of a grant

A resident had made the PC aware that in the winter when light is poor early in the morning, the bus hadn't stopped and their child was late to school. Several quotations had been acquired for lighting at four bus stops which had the capacity to utilise solar lights.

On the proposal of Cllr Davies which was seconded by Cllr Gebbett and with all Cllrs in agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Contractor Two subject to the grant covering the total cost of the project.

25.97 OS AREA UPDATE AND REPORTS

25.97.1 To note area update.

The Assistant Clerk said that the English Willow tree had been planted, and the priority two tree works would be carried out in January. The two noticeboards being created by The Men's Shed would be ready by the end of November and required some posts to be erected before installation. Cllrs Medhurst, M Pullen and Coulson agreed to help with this, along with concreting the posts between the tennis courts and Pavilion into the ground.

The Anglers had been in touch to say that they would be laying the gravel pathway on November 18th, and that they had a meeting on November 22nd should a Cllr wish to attend. Cllrs Medhurst and Davies were both in agreement to attend the meeting pending details on times.

LOCATION	ACTION REQUIRED	STATUS	NOTES	WORK COMPLETED
Badger Close	Boundary encroachment	In progress	Clerk to research further	
	Badger Orchard	In progress		Lengthsman cut back weeds Aug '25
	Badger run upkeep	In progress	Trees behind 33 to be cut back 10th Oct	Trees behind 36 cut back Sept '25
Cemetery	Inspection	Complete	Carried out on 29/09/25	Memorial bench installed Aug '25
	Memorial bench applications	Agenda item		

Lymington Bottom Green				Memorial bench installed Oct '24
Oakgreen Parade	Flower bed maintenance	Ongoing		
	Repainting of parking spaces	To do	To review spacing and repainting – future meeting	
Recreation Ground	Containers	To do	Removal of items to be decided	Skate park repainted June '25
	Football clubs/pitch	Ongoing	Ongoing liaison with clubs	Tennis court gate tech installed July '25
	Water refill point	Ongoing	Last service - Feb '25	Earth bund next to Scout Hut March '25
				Memorial bench installed on cricket pitch Aug '25
Swelling Hill Pond	South of pond/car park area	Ongoing	Adverse possession claims	Silt removal completed 2024
	Steps	In progress	To make steps safe	Fencing replacement and small pond fencing completed
	Pathway	In progress	Angling club to lay gravel to pathway Sept '25	Wildflowers planted Nov '24
	Car park remedial works	In progress	Contractor accepted	Revetments filled Aug '25
Kingswood Copse	Ongoing maintenance for nature and wildlife.	Agenda item.		Woodland Trust donated hedge plants Nov '24
Climate change mitigation	Solar Panels at Benians Pavilion	In progress	Awaiting information from Benians Committee Chairman following site visit	Nature boxes installed
	Parish trees	Complete	Report completed 7th July 2025	
	Bus stop maintenance	Ongoing		New panels for Gospel Hall installed w/c 23/9/2024. Clean completed 17/08/25.
	Bus stop solar lights	Agenda item.		

25.97.2 To receive an update from the Playground working party.

Further details available at the next committee meeting.

25.97.3 Badger Close update

The Assistant Clerk mentioned that several wildlife cameras in the office were working and available to be taken to the orchard to see if badgers are using the area. Cllr M Pullen offered to install them the following week.

25.97.4 Kingswood Copse update

The opportunity to apply for hedge whips from CPRE (Campaign for Protection of Rural England) was agreed to.

During their meeting at the Copse, Cllrs M Pullen and Davies also mentioned that the volunteer was concerned about an overgrown Laurel hedge and ownership needed to be looked into which the Assistant Clerk would carry out.

25.97.5 Footpath working party

A meeting has yet to take place.

25.98 OS EVENTS

25.98.1 Fireworks

Cllrs M Pullen and Medhurst explained details of the event to Cllrs and said that everything was on track with 1200 tickets already sold. Other tickets would be available on the evening at the gate.

25.98.2 Christmas Carols

This event is set to take place on 6th December at Oakgreen Parade at 4pm. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available on the evening.

25.99 Meeting closed at 9.02pm

25.100 NEXT MEETING 3rd December 2025