



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2024 HELD AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD

053/24 PRESENT

Cllrs Boswell, Besant, Newton, Rabot, Summersgill and Turner. Cllr Adam, Dobinson and Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

054/24 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Tippen and Gibson gave their apologies for this meeting.

055/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 059/24 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllr Newton as a Trustee declared an interest in item 064/24 (Memorial Hall).

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

056/24 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

057/24 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was one member of the public in attendance who wished to raise agenda item 066/24 Litter Bin Survey. The Chair brought this item forward for Cllrs to discuss.

Cllrs discussed the map that showed where litter bins are positioned in the village centre. It was agreed that bins should be located near the shops in the High Street because of the amount of rubbish that is found in that area. There is potentially space for two further bins at this end of the village especially near the salt bin and outside Stanleys of Marden. Cllrs requested that the Clerks contact MBC with the request as well as the map of the results. Cllr Newton recommended that the any historic reports of litter bin locations be looked at by the Clerks to assist.

058/24 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. There has been issues with the mens urinals at the Public Toilets. They have been continually flushing. A plumber was used along with the Caretaker and this has now be rectified. The Community Payback Team has been contacted and we are awaiting to hear when they will be painting the play area gates. A tree at the Marden Library car park was reported as having disease. MBC has been contacted and they have reported it to their Tree Department. We have yet to hear what action will be taken. A skip has been ordered to Southons Field for the Caretakers to dispose of large items. This includes rubbish from the Cemetery. We have received an Exemption Notice from Maidstone Borough Council on a tree next to the Marden Playing Field play area. Quotes were received and a tree surgeon has been instructed to conduct the work on Friday 4th October. Awareness of this work has been shared on social media and the e-newsletter. The Clerk is awaiting a quote from the contractor regarding the spoil pile at the Cemetery. A spreadsheet has been created by the Deputy Clerk (and was shared at the meeting to Cllrs) to record the results of the Memorial Safety Survey that happened in June 2024. The Deputy Clerk shared a sign up list for Marden at Christmas that Cllrs completed at the meeting. The Deputy Clerk also

shared a photo of the family who had installed a memorial bench next to the Napoleon Drive play area. Cllrs noted.

Cllr Adam arrived at 19.38

059/24 OPEN SPACE

Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports from MPC

The reports for the Playing Field Play Area, Napoleon Drive Play Area, the Sports Wall and the Outdoor Gym Equipment had been received from the Caretaker for MPC. There were no issues to report. Cllrs noted.

Picnic Benches

The Deputy Clerk circulated quotes for costings for picnic benches which are planned to be positioned by the play area on the grass. Cllrs agreed in principle to one company to supply the picnic benches (this included one that was accessible by wheelchairs/pushchairs and requested that a cost of £1,500 be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting in October. Cllrs also requested the costings for ground anchors and other items to make the picnic benches safe and secure.

Request for Permanent Metal Football Goals

The Clerk had sent in a report for Cllrs to consider the installation of permanent goal posts on the Playing Field. Cllrs discussed and agreed that two permanent goal posts be installed in the size of a junior pitch and requested to make sure the installation is robust.

Southons Field

Play Trail Inspection Report from MPC

The reports for the Play Trail, Swings and Football Goal Post had been received from the Caretaker for MPC with no new issues to report. Cllrs noted.

Southons Field Booking

An email had been received by a regular user requesting a 6 month extension to their booking. The hire would now be chargeable. Cllrs discussed and agreed for the user to continue to use the field at a charge. There was also an enquiry about car parking on the field for an event on 26th May 2025. Cllrs discussed and agreed in principle. It was requested that further information be found out with regard to the amount of cars, that it needs to be marshalled and the times it would be used.

Other Open Space

Site Meeting Dates

Cllr Boswell suggested Thursday 7th and Friday 8th November for Site Meeting Dates. Cllrs agreed that the meetings would start at 9am on both days (Thursday – Cemetery/Southons Field, Friday – Public Toilets/Playing Field).

Trees

Monthly Tree Inspections

The Caretakers had completed their monthly tree inspections and there were no issues to report. Cllrs noted.

Tree Audit Work – Quotes for Work

The Deputy Clerk had circulated three quotes for Cllrs prior to the meeting for work that had come out of the Tree Audit in June and the cutting back of branches of a tree that was hitting a resident's property. Cllrs discussed but as the quotes needed clarification, the Deputy Clerk was asked to go back to the companies with a specification for them to provide more concise quotes.

Tree Watering/Maintenance at the Cemetery

Cllrs discussed the area and agreed to leave it until Spring 2025.

060/24 CEMETERY

Cemetery Sub-Committee

The notes of the Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. There were no recommendations for Cllrs to discuss. Cllrs noted.

061/24 ALLOTMENTS

There were no issues to report for this meeting.

062/24 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARKPublic ToiletsStructural Survey on Building

The Deputy Clerk had circulated a fee quote regarding a structural survey on the Public Toilets that Maidstone Borough Council requested. Cllrs discussed and agreed for Cllr Turner to look into getting another fee quote to compare. Cllr Rabot agreed to extract information from the quotes that have been received for the installation of solar panels so Councillors can review whether expenditure justifies installation costs.

Car Park

There were no issues to report for this meeting.

063/24 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP

The notes of the last Environment Sub-Group Meeting were circulated to all Cllrs.

Draft Hedgerow Management Policy

The draft policy was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that the policy be taken to the November Full Council to be ratified.

Hedgerow Saplings

Cllr Besant reported that he could get 1,000 more hedgerow saplings from the Tree Conservation Volunteers for the area at the back of Cemetery. Cllrs discussed and agreed for Cllr Besant to make a request for the saplings.

Plastic Free Campaign

A report from Cllr Boswell was circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting regarding the Council endorsing the Plastic Free Campaign. This had come out of the Environmental Sub-Group Meeting and some residents were helping to launch it in the community. Cllrs discussed and agreed for the Council to endorse the campaign.

064/24 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTSMemorial Hall

Cllr Turner reported that the flat above the Parish Office has now been vacated. The property is in good condition. They were looking at replacement kitchen, white goods, etc. The solar batteries are in and working well.

Village Events Sub-Group

The Village Events Sub-Group had met on 29th August 2024 and the notes had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. A recommendation came out of the meeting to purchase a BBQ for the forthcoming and future Council events. Cllrs discussed and agreed that Cllrs Turner and Dobinson would volunteer for the BBQ. Cllrs agreed to £300 to purchase a BBQ and gas.

Marden Summer Playscheme

A report had been circulated along with the income/expenditure following the Marden Summer Playscheme 2024. Cllrs noted.

065/24 OUTSTANDING ISSUESOutstanding Issues List

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the amended Outstanding Issues List. Cllrs noted.

066/24 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISIONRemembrance Day Wreath

The Clerk requested Cllrs decision to purchase a Remembrance Day Wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Cllrs agreed.

067/24 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

There were no invoices for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.01.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Boswell

Chairman, Amenities Committee

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