



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN**

**068/24 PRESENT**

Cllrs Boswell (in the Chair), Newton (arrived late), Summersgill, Tippen and Turner were present. Cllr Dobinson and the Clerk were also in attendance.

**069/24 APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Gibson and Rabot had given their apologies. Cllr Adam and the Deputy Clerk had also given their apologies for this meeting.

In the Deputy Clerk's absence the Clerk took the minutes.

**070/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 076/24 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllrs Tippen, Newton and Turner, as Trustees of the Memorial Hall, declared an interest in item 081/24 (Memorial Hall).

**Granting of Dispensation**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**071/24 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllrs received and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

**072/24 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**073/24 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT**

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Items raised included: Playing Field goalposts were due to be ordered shortly and the Clerk had chased Golding Homes again regarding the CCTV. Cllrs noted.

**074/24 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.

**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

Marden Russets had approached the Parish Council previously to request use of the field for parking at their 10k event in 2025. However, the Clerk had subsequently received a further request asking Cllrs to consider the use of the field for the whole event on 1<sup>st</sup> June (report had previously been circulated to Cllrs). Cllrs agreed and the Clerk would meet representatives on site nearer the time to look at the layout of the field for parking etc.

**Other Open Space**

Fee increases for 2025/26 for open space hire/parking had been circulated to the Sub-Group Cllrs. Cllrs agreed to keep fees the same as 2024/25.

**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 provided further details regarding the tree work and Cllrs proposed to accept the quote from QualiTree Services.

Tree Warden Report

Report had not been received for the meeting.

19.44: *Cllr Newton arrived at the meeting during the next item.*

**075/24 CEMETERY****Fee increases for 2025/26**

Fee increases for 2025/26 for Marden Cemetery had been circulated to the Sub-Group Cllrs. Cllrs discussed the ongoing costs and agreed to add a small increase to each item.

**076/24 ALLOTMENTS**

There were no issues to report for this meeting. The Clerk would chase Redrow for an update.

**077/24 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK****Public Toilets**Solar Panel application

The Clerk had received notification that the Parish Council had been successful in securing a grant from the Bockinfold Solar Community Fund of £4,200. Therefore, the Clerk had provided further details of the full costings which could be incurred by MPC. Following a discussion Cllrs agreed to accept the grant, proposed to accept the quote from Torcal Structural Engineers and for the Clerk to request a grant from County Cllr Parfitt. MPC would meet the additional costs from the Infrastructure Spend Plan budget.

**Car Park**

There were no issues to report for this meeting.

**078/24 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP****Next Meeting of the Environmental Sub-Group**

The next meeting of the Sub-Group was due to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Plastic Free Campaign**

Cllrs had received a report in regard to the Plastic Free Campaign which had been endorsed by Full Council. The Amenities Committee had now been approached to consider three single-use items which could be implemented by the Parish Council. It was proposed the Council consider not using balloons for events; cling film and that the office staff review plastic use when purchasing supplies, equipment etc. This would be reported to Full Council for noting.

**079/24 CORRESPONDENCE****Kent Community Warden Review**

Cllrs had received a letter from KCC regarding the recent Community Warden review. Although there were benefits of having a Community Warden Cllrs were concerned of the amount it would cost the Parish Council which would impact the precept. After a detailed discussion Cllrs agreed that Marden was currently well supported with local agencies to assist vulnerable people along with the Parish Council being able to signpost. It was therefore agreed that Marden Parish Council would not pursue with a Community Warden for 2025/26 but would revisit this for the 2026/27 financial year.

**080/24 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS****Memorial Hall**

A meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October when staffing was discussed along with works being undertaken in the residential flat.

**081/24 OUTSTANDING ISSUES****Outstanding Issues List**

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the amended Outstanding Issues List. The Chairman asked that cemetery spoil and litter bin audit be added. Cllrs noted.

**082/24 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION****Proposals for 2025/26 Amenities Projects/Expenditure**

Cllrs had been requested to consider any future projects for 2025/26 financial year which would be reported to the Finance Committee when discussing the budget. It was proposed, and agreed, that cemetery spoil being added to be undertaken in the Spring of 2025; and continue to budget for the resurfacing of Southons Field driveway. It was also discussed as to whether a budget be available for play equipment repairs – this would be taken to Finance Committee next week.

**Sandbag Storage**

Cllrs had received a report to consider storage cupboard for the sandbags received from MBC and which are stored at Marden Memorial Hall. Cllrs agreed, in principle, to purchase a storage box up to £170.00. However, Cllr Tippen reported that the Environment Agency may have availability or provide details of where to purchase. Cllr Newton, as a Trustee of the Memorial Hall, asked that consideration be given on location of the storage and that Trustees be made aware.

**083/24 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

The following invoices were put before Cllrs for payment:

Paul Waring – contract mowing - £385.92

P&F Cleaning – public conv. Cleaning - £725.00

Total: £1,110.92

Cllrs agreed payments and Cllrs Tippen and Turner would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.38-pm.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Boswell

Chairman, Amenities Committee

Marden Parish Council, Parish Office, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent, TN12 9JX

T: 01622 832305 / 07940 241333

E: [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

W: [mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](http://mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)