



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2022 HELD AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN

147/22 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Barker, Besant, Boswell (as Chairman), Robertson, Tippen and Turner were present. The Deputy Clerk was also in attendance.

148/22 APOLOGIES

Cllr Newton gave his apologies.

149/22 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 153/22 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllr Tippen declared an interest in item 160/22 as a Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation of any item on this agenda.

150/22 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record by Cllr Boswell as Chairman.

151/22 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public present.

152/22 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting. The playing field contractor has been asked to provide us with a quote for taking up the wet pour in the Napoleon Drive play area to see what is causing it to rise up, fix the issue and replace with new wet pour. The Deputy Clerk will also make a list of the outstanding jobs at the playing field. The Caretaker has checked the trees on the Parish Council Open Space and will report on any issues. There were some tiles missing from the Football Changing Room but he has fixed these. He will also pick up any branches and twigs that have been blown about. We are still waiting to hear back from Golding Homes regarding the CCTV on the playing field. The Caretaker has been given the Annual Play Inspection reports and will conduct any work that has come out of the recommendations. The litter bin on Southons Field has been ordered and we look forward to receiving this soon. The Southons Field Hire Agreement and Booking Form have been circulated following the last Amenities Committee meeting. The car parking booking form has been sent to the Bowls Club. MBC will be conducting a visit during enforcement hours at the Marden Library car park.

153/22 OPEN SPACE

Playing Field

(i) Play Inspection Reports from MBC and MPC

The Deputy Clerk reported there were no new issues to report. The report from MBC had not been received in time for this meeting.

(ii) Changing Rooms.

Cllr Stevens circulated his report to Cllrs on his Legionnaires recommendations. There is short term need to get the showers available for the Football Club. Cllrs discussed the future of the changing rooms and Cllr Adam suggested raising this at the Marden Neighbourhood Plan “Vision for Marden” Open Day in May. Cllr Tippen suggested that a site meeting at the changing rooms with the caretaker and other Cllrs to ascertain what the current needs are. Cllr Besant offered his services for plans for a survey of the changing room. The Section 106 Working Group for the Playing Field would meet to discuss further and prepare a proposal at a future Amenities Committee meeting.

(iv) Other Playing Field Issues

The dog bag station has been installed at the playing field and shared on social media and e-newsletter.

Southons Field

(i) Play Trail Inspection Report from MPC.

The Deputy Clerk reported there was no issues to report on the play trail and swings.

(ii) Events on Southons Field.

The events on Southons Field were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted.

(iii) Other Southons Field Issues

No other Southons Field issues were raised

Other Open Space

(i) Open Space Action Plan.

The Open Space Action Plan had been updated and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted.

(ii) Purchase of Push Mower.

The Clerk have researched for quotes for the 22 inch push mower which is what the caretaker required. The cheapest quote received was £950.00 inclusive VAT. The Clerk strived for other quotes online but this was the best deal. Cllrs discussed and decided that the Clerk can purchase for £950.00 inclusive of VAT.

(iii) Selling of Ride On Mower.

Following the emails from the company that conducted the service that were circulated to all Cllrs. Cllrs discussed and asked the Clerk to clarify the amount the company would buy the ride-on mower. Cllrs agreed they would be happy for it to be sold on for a minimum of £1,000 by the company.

(iv) QR Codes from Marden Wildlife Group.

Cllr Boswell explained that the Marden Wildlife Group would like to put up a QR Code to explain the wildlife in Southons Field and possibly one at the Cemetery. Cllrs agreed in principle subject to the signs being robust and weather resistant.

Trees

Cllr Boswell reported that the Tree Management risk assessment stated that the caretaker checked the trees monthly on the Parish Council open space. The Clerk had suggested that this is changed to state that the trees will be checked following bad weather, but Cllr Tippen stated that this action would be “after the horse had bolted”. Cllrs discussed and asked the Deputy Clerk to contact the Tree Warden to see whether he would like to conduct twice-yearly inspection of trees on Parish Council open space. To follow best practice, the Clerks would also research what other Parish Councils do regarding their tree inspections.

The last of the saplings from the Woodland Trust have arrived at Cllr Boswell’s home and these will be planted on Southons Field on 5th March by Cllrs Boswell and Besant with the help of the Police Cadets.

154/22 CEMETERY

Other Cemetery Issues

(i) Cemetery Pathway Signage.

Cllr Boswell shared with Cllrs the cost of a finger post that the Deputy Clerk had received from the company who made the other finger posts for the homes nearby. Cllrs agreed to go

with the company and asked the Deputy Clerk to ask permission from the landowner and to agree wording, style and location.

155/22 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

Public Toilet Issues

Some tiles were damaged in the high winds at the weekend which the Deputy Clerk was arranging to be repaired.

Car Park Issues

The footpath had been completed by the side of the library. Cllrs Boswell and Tippen were to plant up the flower bed towards the end of March.

156/22 CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY

Cllr Boswell shared the Maidstone Borough Council Go Green, Go Wild environmental calendar. The Deputy Clerk will share the initiatives on our social media and e-newsletter with residents.

157/22 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

158/22 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Cllr Boswell and the Deputy Clerk are attending a KALC Health and Wellbeing Conference on 22nd March.

159/22 ACTION GROUPS REPORTS

Village Events

(i) Christmas Lights.

Cllr Tippen updated Cllrs on a meeting held with a supplier today regarding Christmas Lights. The outcome of the meeting was that we were unable to have motif lights due to the restrictions on the lamp posts in the village. There is another meeting on Friday with a further supplier.

(ii) Village Events Sub-Group

The Village Events Sub-Group will be meeting again on Monday 28th February to discuss further.

160/22 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall.

Cllr Tippen reported that the Trustees have ordered 150 new chairs for the Memorial Hall and these will be much lighter and easier to stack. The hall also lost a few tiles in the storm and a contractor is looking to repair. Cllr Stevens, as a Hall Trustee, is drawing up a specification following notification from pre-school that the floor in their toilet area was rotted. Cllr Stevens would also look at drawing up plans for the new Parish Council storage area.

Youth

Cllr Boswell informed Cllrs that the KCC Senior Workers were seen walking around the village on Tuesday 22nd February. They were going to hold a half term meet and greet event and hoped to start a club in March. However, this was cancelled due to a staff member having COVID. A new staff member has been recruited and it is hoped to have something more regular soon.

161/22 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Update from To Do List.

The Caretaker's To Do list was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

162/22 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION**Allotments**

There was no discussion on this item, however, it has also been added to the next Full Council meeting agenda.

Chairman's Board updated (Parish Office)

The Clerk requested Cllrs permission to remove the Chairman's Board and take to a contractor for a precise quote. Cllrs agreed but requested the work is not conducted until after the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

Amenities Policies and Risk Assessments

The Policies and Risk Assessments relevant to Amenities Committee had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting with proposed tracked changes. Other than changes to the Tree Management Risk Assessment raised in item 153/22 all policies and risk assessments were agreed and would be put before Full Council for ratification. The Tree Management Risk Assessment would be circulated to Cllrs prior to Full Council with proposed changes.

163/22 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

The Community Payback team are now moving onto tidying up Lucks Way after completing the Napoleon Drive play area fencing and tidying the car park. The Deputy Clerk asked if Cllrs could suggest further areas in the village. Further areas of Parish Council open space would be discussed at the Amenities Site Meetings in April.

164/22 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**Electronic Payments**

RJP Window Cleaning	Public Convenience Clean Jan	£635.00
RJP Window Cleaning	Public Convenience Clean Feb	£635.00
Paul Waring	Playing Field Mowing	£80.04
TOTAL		£1,350.04

Details had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. All invoices were agreed and Cllrs Boswell and Tippen would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.51.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Anne Boswell Chairman, Amenities Committee

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