



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2019 IN THE PARISH OFFICE MEETING ROOM, MEMORIAL HALL, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

034/19 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Brown, Jones, Robertson (in the Chair), Tippen and Turner were present. The Deputy Clerk and two members of the public were also in attendance.

Cllr Adam arrived at 7.32pm

035/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mannington. Cllr Barker also gave his apologies.

036/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 039/19(Playing Field) as resident of a neighbouring property to Marden Playing Field; Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 039/19(Southons Field) as resident of a neighbouring property to Southons Field; Cllrs Tippen and Newton declared an interest in item 044/19(Marden Memorial Hall) as Trustees on the Marden Memorial Hall Committee.

037/19 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION

There were no requests for granting of dispensation.

038/19 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

039/19 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

Two members of the public were in attendance and wished to discuss item 046/19(Allotments). The Chairman, with Councillors' approval, agreed to bring this item forward. A member of the public wished to ask Cllrs what their stance is with regard to taking on the freehold of the allotments from the Redrow Highwood Green development. The Deputy Clerk explained that the Clerk had asked a number of questions of Redrow but had yet to receive a response in order for Cllrs to debate. Cllr Tippen informed the resident that the Parish Council would not be making any decisions regarding the allotments until it had received all the information. Any responses that the Clerk receives after this meeting will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting on 8th October at The Allens. The residents were invited to attend.

7.48 Two members of the public left the meeting.

040/19 SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

Open Space

Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports: MBC and MPC

Nothing to report and all deemed safe apart from MBC report which suggested there was a low risk on buddy swing and on multiplay unit. Cllrs asked the Deputy Clerk to investigate this and make safe.

Changing Room – Legionella advice

Cllrs discussed the information and agreed for the Deputy Clerk to investigate advice given to Kent County Football Association on how they handle legionella in changing rooms.

Footpath Repairs

Cllrs agreed that Whites Landscaping be contacted to repair the pathway where the weeds are growing through. KCC have completed work on repairs on the footpath through the Chestnut area. Cllr Adam reported there is a dip in the repaired tarmac close to the playground which is attracting pooled water and recommended that it is monitored in case cracks appear due to water damage and frost.

Rocking Horse

The new rocking horse has been ordered and the Clerks are awaiting an installation date. The old rocking horse will be removed on the installation date and collected by the sealed bid winner.

Additional CCTV on Playing Field

No new updates from the Clerk. Cllrs requested the Clerk source three quotes for another camera for the existing post near playground.

Tarmac next to Playground

The Clerks have received two quotes for works to remedy the concrete area next the playground and will strive to obtain a third. Cllrs reviewed and decided to postpone any decision until after the Public Consultation on S106 ideas.

Fencing around Napoleon Drive playground

The Deputy Clerk informed Cllrs that she had not been successful finding an appropriate company to remove the paintwork. Cllrs discussed what to do with the fencing and decided to ask for any flaking paint be removed and it be repainted with a Hammerite type paint. Cllrs agreed for the Deputy Clerk to contact the Community Payback team to see whether they would be able to assist in this matter and other projects on Parish land.

Site Meeting

The Deputy Clerk will be in touch with Cllrs regarding a convenient date.

Section 106 Money – Public Consultation Ideas

The Chairman reported to the meeting of the S106 ideas received from residents from the Feedback Survey. Cllr Tippen informed Cllrs about the Infrastructure Spend Plan which had a list of ideas to be taken to Public Consultation which included refurbishment of community building, table tennis table, forest school play equipment around Chestnuts area, etc.

Other Playing Field issues

A resident had contacted the Parish Council with a suggested location of a proposed skatepark which is close to the Youth Shelter but Cllrs agreed that this would not be a good place due to close proximity of residential properties.

Southons Field

Play Trail Inspection Report: MPC

All deemed safe and working well.

Southons Field Entrance

The Deputy Clerk is ordering top soil for the caretaker to top up the grasscrete. At the next site meeting, Cllrs will look at area just beyond the grasscrete to discuss how best to remedy.

Additional play equipment

Cllr Boswell asked Cllr Tippen to add play equipment to the Infrastructure Spend Plan.

Replacement Recycled Benches for Southons Field

Cllr Robertson asked Cllr Tippen to add picnic tables to the Infrastructure Spend Plan.

Wildflower Meadow – Marden in Bloom update

Cllr Boswell updated Cllrs that there had been contacted by Peter Hall who suggested creating small patches within the area that has been left unmowed. Mr Hall is happy to come

in to mow the whole area and cultivate the small patches for them to sown with wildflower seeds. Cllrs agreed that this project can go ahead.

Community Chest Games

The Marden Community Eco Hub have requested to take on the Community Chest Games which are located at Southons Field. Cllrs agreed that a key made available to the group.

Site Meeting

The Deputy Clerk will be in touch with Cllrs regarding a convenient date.

Other Southons Field issues

Future Southons Field Events were noted by Cllrs.

Cllrs Boswell informed Cllrs that there were some brambles located by the log near the Play Trail. Cllr Boswell also asked that the field be mowed before the Winter sets in. The Deputy Clerk will inform the Caretaker to remove the brambles and request that the field be mowed.

Other Open Space

Open Space Action Plan

Noted addition of Rocking Horse information.

Trees

Tree work

The Clerk had received two quotes for work on various trees at Southons Field, Playing Field and the Cemetery. Cllrs requested a further third quotation to comply with Financial Regulations.

Tree mapping

Cllr Boswell explained that it has been a big job mapping all the trees. Southons Field has 60 trees and the Cemetery has around 100. We have around 350 trees on Parish Council land. Cllr Boswell will continue to collate information on the trees on Parish lane and that this information be put on Pear Technology in the future. Cllrs agreed that this work could continue.

Tree Charter

Cllr Boswell had reviewed the information from the last meeting and explained that she would like to sign up the Parish Council. Cllrs requested that the information be emailed around with a link and discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

Cemetery

Footpath signage

Ongoing and Cllr Turner to report back at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

Pear Technology

This has been updated by the Clerk.

Site Meeting

The Deputy Clerk will be in touch with Cllrs regarding a convenient date.

ICCM Autumn 2019 publication received

Cllrs noted publication and Cllr Brown took away from the meeting to read.

041/19 PUBLIC TOILETS & CAR PARK

Public Convenience issues

Cllrs discussed the ongoing problem of trying to locate the water meter. The Deputy Clerk had received a response from Library manager that they were unaware of its location. Cllrs requested the Deputy Clerk to contact the Library manager to chase their Facilities Team for a site plan, contact Castle Water how they are getting the meter reading and compare previous water bills on cost. Cllrs Newton said there were three users in the location – Library, Toilets and Scouts. Cllr Newton ask the Deputy Clerk to contact the Scouts to see if they are receiving a water bill since the recent split of meters.

Signage at Toilet Signage from Previous Minutes

Cllrs reviewed the hard copy quote and agreed for works to go ahead.

Planters from Marden in Bloom

Cllr Boswell suggested the option of having a Marden in Bloom half planter outside the toilets. Cllrs agreed for Cllr Boswell to get dimensions and look at this at the next Site Meeting for discussion at the next Amenities Committee Meeting.

Car Park Issues

No issues to report.

Site Meeting

The Deputy Clerk will be in touch with Cllrs regarding a convenient date.

042/19 CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY**Millwood and Redrow Ponds**

The Clerks had receive a response from a resident representing the Green Girls of Marden reporting that the pond belonging to Redrow has had vegetation cut back but has been informed that this is now complete but this is not the case. The resident is chasing for an ecologist report and management plan. The pond belonging to Millwood has been transferred to Trinity Managing Agents and there has been no response as yet. The resident will persist.

Recycling Litter Bins

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had contacted Maidstone Borough Council with a request for obtaining recycling litter bins for the village. MBC responded by stating that they had trialled recycling litter bins with very little success. The issue of contamination of the waste made it unsuitable for recycling and also KCC do not have a separate waste stream for recycling street litter. Cllr Adam raised the option of recycling crisp packets. Marden Primary School and West End Tavern currently have a facility for this raising funds for Kent Air Ambulance. Cllrs requested the Deputy Clerk to research obtaining more of these bins for other areas in the village.

Water Refill Stations

The Clerks had received a further written report from a resident belonging to the Green Girls of Marden regarding water refill points in the village. Cllrs requested the Deputy Clerk to look further at www.refill.org for more information and to see where other councils have explored water refill.

043/19 CORRESPONDENCE

Email received from Cubs re Scout Project. Cllr Robertson read out the email from Scouts about their campaign in the village regarding picking up dog poo. Cllrs agreed for them to go ahead but to make sure any signage that got tatty or fell down was removed.

044/19 ACTION GROUP REPORTS**Stilebridge**

There was no update.

Village CelebrationsMarden at Christmas

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Village Celebrations group had met on Monday and had discussed the feedback received regarding Marden at Christmas from the Feedback Survey. As it was agreed at the Village Celebrations group meeting in March, the format would remain the same. There was a lot of requests from residents for more Christmas lights which is something that could be budgeted and even fundraised for next year. There was also a new Christmas Stallholder Policy that was created for stalls next year. The Food Hygiene Certificates needed to be updated.

VE Day 2020

The Deputy Clerk informed the meeting there was nothing much more to report on this event since the Full Council meeting on 10th September. The VE Day 2020 group would be meeting on Friday 27th September to discuss their plans further.

Future Village Celebrations

From reviewing the results of the Feedback Survey, the Deputy Clerk noted that the most popular village event that residents would like to see in the village was a Village Fete and Dog Show and also possibly a local volunteer organised Park Run. The Village Fete and Dog Show is a possible event that could take place in 2021. Cllr Boswell said she would look further into the setting up of a Park Run and publicising a request for local volunteers to run it.

045/19 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall

The Trustees are meeting on 30th September 2019.

Youth

The Clerk had contacted the Cabinet Member regarding youth provision in the village and has yet to receive a response.

046/19 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Update from To Do list

Noted by Cllrs.

047/19 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

MBC Planning Committee meeting on 26th September

There were no planning applications presented.

Signage

The Deputy Clerk asked for Cllrs approval for a bigger Parish Office sign as well as a smaller Parish Office opening hours sign. Cllrs agreed to both signs. The Deputy Clerk will seek approval from The Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall before obtaining further quotes. The Deputy Clerk raised the current issue with regard to the painting of the finger posts and whether works could be started on two of the finger posts in the village avoiding the finger post at Bunches Lake. Cllrs agreed for the Deputy Clerk to source three quotes for this work.

Gazebo Quotes

The Deputy Clerk presented various options for a branded gazebos for Marden Parish Council use only. The Cllrs requested that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to identify three options (with prices), choose the best one and bring this back to the next Amenities Committee Meeting.

048/19 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Christmas 2020 – Stallholder Policy

To be reviewed and discussed at next Amenities Committee Meeting.

Results from Parish Newsletter Survey

Discussed at agenda items

Lucks Way Play Area

The Deputy Clerk read out a note from a resident regarding the overgrown Lucks Play Area that Maidstone Borough Council maintain. Cllr Tippen showed the meeting photos and the Deputy Clerk mentioned that the Clerk had contacted Maidstone Borough Council originally but had no response but had contacted them again.

049/19 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT:

Electronic Payments

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

Alison Hooker - Travel Clerks Conference £27.45

SLCC - Keeping Volunteers Publication £18.36

Kent County Supplies - Copying charges final payment for previous photocopier £157.02

Kent County Supplies - Copying and rental charges for new machine - £209.60

Staplehurst Tyres Ltd - New battery for van £142.80

Pitney Bowes- Franking Machine Rental £15.54

Postage by Phone - Postage £100.00

Viking -Toilet rolls, refuse sacks, office cleaning supplies £86.06

Total: £756.83

Invoices were agreed and Cllrs Jones and Newton would authorise the payments on Unity

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.54pm

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Anne Boswell

Chairman, Amenities Committee

Marden Parish Council

Parish Office

Goudhurst Road

Marden

01622 832305

07376 287981

clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk