



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN

116/25 PRESENT

Cllrs Boswell (in the Chair), Dobinson, Gibson, Newton, Rabot, Tippen were present. Cllr Adam and the Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

117/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr Summersgill sent his apologies and Cllr Turner was absent for this meeting.

118/25 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 122/25 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllrs Tippen and Newton as Trustees of the Memorial Hall, declared an interest in item 128/25 (Memorial Hall).

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

119/25 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Cllrs received and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 28th January 2025. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

120/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

121/25 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerks are still waiting to hear back from Maidstone Borough Council with regard to the moving an existing bin discussed at the last meeting. The Annual Play Inspections have been received and the Admin Assistant is looking at any works that need to be carried out by a Contractor or Caretaker. The log replacement piece for the play trail at Southons Field had been ordered at the time of the meeting and the Clerks are awaiting delivery. The bricks from the fallen wall were collected by a resident following an advertisement on the Marden Community Eco Hub. Letters had been delivered to the residents affected. The saplings discussed at the last meeting were planted by Cllr Boswell and a resident on Thursday 13th February. Cllrs noted.

122/25 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.

Chestnuts Area

Following the planting of some saplings, Cllr Boswell recommended that this area be tidied up. Cllrs were asked whether this is something the Community Payback team could be asked to do or whether it should be done by the Caretakers. Cllrs discussed and decided that the Deputy Clerk contacts the Community Payback team to cut the brambles and overgrowth back.

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.

Entrance Wall and Signage

The Deputy Clerk had written to residents regarding the wall and the house signage. There had been three responses. One verbal who was happy for the sign and wall to be removed and not reinstated. Two other residents had contacted the Council via email asking for signage to be reinstated. Cllr Tippen proposed that the foundation and the leftovers of the wall be removed and the ground made good by the Caretakers. Cllr Tippen also proposed that the residents are written to requesting they discuss signage together and contact the Council with their plans. Cllrs agreed. Cllrs were also in agreement that the existing "No Dogs" signage was sufficient.

Goal Post

Cllr Boswell asked for signage to go on the goal post to say Please Do Not Move as it is being dragged around the field, breaking up and leading to possible damage. Cllrs agreed.

Other Open Space

Green Flag Award

Following on from the article from the ICCM Journal regarding the Green Flag Award, Cllrs discussed applying for the award for both the Cemetery and Southons Field. Cllr Rabot had informed Cllrs that the closing date was 31st January 2025. Whilst it was too late to apply for this year, Cllrs agreed that the Council applies for 2026 and that Cllr Rabot would lead on this project.

Trees

Monthly Tree Inspections

The Caretakers had completed their Monthly Tree Inspections. Cllrs noted.

Japanese Cherry Tree

A resident had emailed the Deputy Clerk with contact details to obtain a donated Japanese Cherry Tree. Cllrs discussed and agreed for the Deputy Clerk to make an application for a tree.

123/25 CEMETERY

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There was no exclusive right of burial certificates to sign at this meeting.

124/25 ALLOTMENTS

There were no further updates for this meeting.

125/25 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK**Public Toilets**

The MBC contact for the Licence applied for work at the Public Toilets has stated that any alterations should be added at the initial application stage. Cllrs agreed that a possible project for a Water Refill Station should be added.

Solar Panel Quotes

The spreadsheet of the quotes and a final quote was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed and decided to go with Little Green Energy Company to supply and fit the panels.

Car Park

There were no issues to report for this meeting.

126/25 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP

The Environmental Sub-Group's next meeting will be 18th March 2025.

Water Refill Service

Following the information received regarding the Licence for the Public Toilets above, Cllrs were asked to discuss and decide whether they would like the Deputy Clerk to look at the costs of installing a Water Refill Station at Public Toilets. Cllrs agreed that the Deputy Clerk find out more information and get some quotes from different companies.

127/25 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

128/25 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**Memorial Hall**

Cllr Tippen reported that a cleaner has been contracted for the hall and will begin shortly. The Trustees are also looking at quotes for a projector screen in the main hall. A defibrillator has been secured to the front of the hall building.

129/25 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**Outstanding Issues List**

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

130/25 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION**Amenities Policies: Tree Policy and Memorial Safety Policy**

There had been amendments made to both policies and the Deputy Clerk had circulated these changes to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed these further at the meeting. These were agreed and will be ratified at the next Full Council meeting.

131/25 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

The following invoices were put before Cllrs for payment:

Sevenoaks District Council – S/Field Licence - £70.00

Marden Memorial Hall – Grant (defib) - £250.00

KALC – Allotment Training - £84.00

P&F Cleaning – Public Convenience Cleaning - £795.00

Castle Water – Public Convenience Water Supply - £18.64

Rams Hill – Equipment Service - £594.00

Auditing Solutions – Interim Internal Audit - £468.00

Total: £2,279.64

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.22.

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

W: mardenkent-pc.gov.uk