



MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
26TH JANUARY 2016 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN
COMMENCING AT 8.50PM

Min No

- 088/16 PRESENT: Cllrs Boswell, Brown, Reed, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. Cllr Adam and the Clerk were also in attendance.
- 089/16 APOLOGIES: Chris Price of Marden Minors FC gave his apologies.
- 090/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Reed declared an interest in 097//16(a) as Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall; Cllr Boswell declared an interest in 093/16(a)(ii) as neighbour to Southons Field and 099/16 as member of Marden In Bloom group.
- GRANTING OF DISPENSATION: There were no requests for granting of dispensation.
- 091/16 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 092/16 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING: There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 093/16 SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS
- (a) Open Space
- (i) Playing Field
Play Inspection Reports: Received from MBC and Village Caretaker.
Changing Rooms: Representatives of Marden Minors Football Club had given their apologies and would be attending the February meeting to discuss the facilities.
Other issues: Quote for footpath: item discussed at previous Extraordinary Full Council meeting where it was agreed footpath would be retarmaced in the next financial year.
- (ii) Southons Field
Cheque for Gatekeeper (to include payment for public conv. locking) was signed.
Other issues:
Request for use in 2017 – resident had written to the Parish Council asking for permission to use Southons Field for a wedding reception. Cllrs agreed in principle but wished to be provided with further information regarding usage and times etc.
Closure of Southons Field - Following the field being closed to all on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day two residents have contacted the Parish Council to ask whether Cllrs could consider closing on different days throughout the year so that for the field is available to families over the Christmas holidays Cllrs discussed this and although understood the reasons were aware that someone has to unlock/lock the gates on bank holidays. The Clerk was asked to write back to the residents explaining this and stating that the Parish Council will also be looking into possible alternatives.
Quote for roadway raised at Finance meeting – item discussed at previous Extraordinary Full Council meeting where it was agreed driveway would be retarmaced in the next financial year. The Clerk was asked to retrieve the legal documents regarding residents access.
Not on Agenda:
Cllr Boswell had received costings for Hawthorn plants for the boundary of the field at a cost of approx. £40. It was agreed to progress with this in this financial year.
Cllr Boswell raised that the Marden In Bloom Group had booked the field for an

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event in April 2016. This would need to be added to the agenda for Full Council to be discussed further as Cllr Boswell was Chairman of the Group and would need to declare a pecuniary interest.

(iii) Other Open Space

Napoleon Drive: The Parish Council was still awaiting confirmation that the transfer has gone through.

Tree Inspection Reports: received and noted

Other issues:

Quote for Rookery Path raised at Finance meeting – item discussed at previous Extraordinary Full Council meeting where it was agreed footpath would be retarmaced in the next financial year.

Ownership of Rookery Path: The Clerk had provided historical paperwork to the Cllrs however was requested to contact Land Registry for an up to date plan and details.

Notice board at Highwood Green: this was due to be installed by Redrow adjacent to the bus stop this week.

Tree in High Street/Southons Field: High Street tree to be reviewed in Spring. The Clerk had been in contact with KCC Landscape Services to arrange a meeting on site to discuss further. The Clerk was asked to make contact with the resident regarding the planting of new tree in Southons Field.

(b) Cemetery

New section: It was proposed that a working party meet in March at the cemetery to plot the area in detail for digging

Other issues:

Letter regarding additional items on graves : The memorial stone had still not been removed. The Clerk was asked to send one final letter stating that the Council will be removing the stone on, or after, 31st March and it would be stored at the cemetery for collection.

Email from family requesting permission for scattering of ashes: This was not something that was encouraged and the Clerk was asked to respond suggesting that a plot be purchased for the interment of ashes.

ICCM Magazine - for information

Rabbit proof fencing: Village/Cemetery Caretakers have been erecting the rabbit proof fencing along the northern boundary of the cemetery and other areas are being improved. It is hoped that this will reduce the problems currently being experienced.

094/16 PUBLIC TOILETS

(a) Anti-social behaviour – toilet roll holder has been broken but no other issues reported.

(b) Cleaning – no problems have occurred since the last meeting.

(c) CCTV: Advice received from solicitor who will be writing to BT this week.

(d) Other Issues:

External lighting has been reset so should come on twice a day – timings need tweaking to correspond with opening and closing areas.

Light bulbs in ladies and gents areas have been replaced

Clothing bank should be removed by week commencing 1st February. Once this has gone the Clerk was asked to contact MBC to mark out new car park space/s. Recycling sign at entrance to then be removed.

Street light in car park is still not working. The Clerk asked to chase.

095/16 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence has been received other than listed on items within this agenda.

096/16 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

- (a) Stilebridge: Update – a visit would be made by Councillors when delivering the next edition of the newsletter
- (b) Christmas: Update Meeting to be held on 24th February 2016 and the Assistant Clerk has sent out agendas to all village organisations and interested parties. Details would also be put into the newsletter.

097/16 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: Update from Hall meeting held 19th January 2016. New caretaker in place and several items have been raised for work to be carried out.

Youth: No report received.

098/16 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- (a) Update from Action list. The Clerk had circulated the list and the Chairman went through several issues for further action. The Clerk would update and action were possible.

099/16 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

S106 contributions – The Clerk was asked to chase MBC.

Marden In Bloom Request: The Group had asked if the village/cemetery caretaker could water any planters which were being planned around the village along with those already owned by the Parish Council. Cllrs firstly suggested that volunteers within the group and possibly residents be asked before making a decision. Cllrs requested that any further correspondence received from the Group would need to be placed on Full Council as Cllr Boswell had been elected Chairman at their recent AGM.

100/16 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Information from MBC – Increase to Fixed Penalty Fine Level for Littering & Dog Offences - noted

NALC Legal Topic – Control of Dogs - noted

NALC Legal Topic – Byelaws. Document would be placed on file for when Napoleon Drive play area was adopted.

Marden Welcome Pack – Cllrs had viewed the document and suggested amendments. These would be done and document uploaded to the website and available to all new residents.

Other Issues:

Cllr Adam reported that the village stocks were in need of repair and the Parish Council may receive a request for assistance from the History Group in the near future.

The concern of the flytipping at Great Cheveney Farm, Goudhurst Road was raised and the Clerk, and Community Warden, had been in constant contact with MBC and KCC regarding although no one was taking responsibility. Cllr Tippen proposed to contact Borough and County Councillors for immediate action.

101/16 INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:

No further invoices were presented to the Council

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed:

Date: 23rd February 2016

Chairman, Marden Parish Council Amenities Committee

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