



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2021 HELD VIRTUALLY COMMENCING AT 8.00pm

037/21 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Jones, Newton, Robertson (in the Chair), Tippen, Turner and the Deputy Clerk. Cllr Barker and Mira Martin, the Community Warden were also in attendance.

038/21 APOLOGIES

Cllr Mannington sent her apologies.

039/21 PARISH COUNCILLOR DETAILS

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 043/21 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllr Jones declared an interest in item 043/21 (Playing Field) as resident overlooking the field; and Cllrs Newton and Tippen declared an interest in item 050/21 as Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall.

Granting of Dispensation

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

040/21 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2021 were agreed and would be signed at the first face to face meeting of the Amenities Committee.

041/21 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mira Martin, the Community Warden, was in attendance but did not wish to speak on any agenda item.

042/21 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

Report was emailed to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Deputy Clerk reported that there had been a delay in getting quotes from tree surgeons regarding the Tree Audits and hoped to work with the Clerk to have three quotes ready for Cllrs' discussion and decision at the next Amenities Committee meeting in May. The Clerk had received a response from Millwood Homes regarding the extension of Section 106 cut off dates and they had agreed to the extension until 30th June 2025 but we have yet to hear from Redrow – the Clerk will chase. The Bowls Club had been contacted regarding driving on the field and the tree cutting near the Pavilion. A response had been received that this information would be passed onto their Committee and those responsible for tree cutting.

Castle Water had visited to take a water meter reading. The Contractor had had installed the groundworks on Friday 22nd April for the adult gym and the equipment was due to be installed this week. The new benches and litter bins have been ordered and will be delivered to the Contractor who will be installing them. The Deputy Clerk had a very useful meeting with the Community Payback team on Thursday 22nd April. They have accepted all the proposed projects and are looking to start Sunday 16th May on the first project of sanding down and painting the fencing surrounding the Napoleon Drive play area. Cllr Robertson asked the Deputy Clerk for a list of future projects and these are: side of the library, boundary of the car park (with permission from Maidstone Borough Council), Merchant Place pavement, Southons Field next to Pavilion, Lucks Way Footpath and Lucks Way old play

area. The team requested someone from the Council to meet them first thing. Cllr Tippen requested a rota and asked if any other Cllr could volunteer. Cllr Boswell offered her assistance. The Deputy Clerk would create a rota of who was needed. Cllr Newton suggested using garden dumpy bags to remove the waste left over. Cllr Barker said that he had some to use. The Playing Field and Southons Field have both been rolled and gang mowed. Cllrs noted and thanked the Deputy Clerk for the Report.

043/21 OPEN SPACE

Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports: MBC and MPC

There were no issues to report on the play inspection reports from Maidstone Borough Council and from the Caretaker. Cllrs noted.

Changing Rooms

Legionella Risk Assessment and Quotes for Future Works – The Deputy Clerk is waiting for one more quote. Once this has been received, she will create a spreadsheet for Cllrs to compare costs and discuss at the Amenities Committee meeting in May.

Other Playing Field Issues:

Pathway – Following the Site Meeting on 9th/10th April where Cllrs were concerned about the invasive weed growing through over near the Cranham Square side of the footpath, the Deputy Clerk had emailed a photo over to the Contractor. He had visited the site and was rather surprised of the damage it had caused. He suggested some actions which Cllrs discussed. Cllrs requested the Deputy Clerk seek guidance from MBC or other Parish Councils regarding the safe way of tackling weeds in public spaces and to email Cllrs with the response. The Contractor would remedy the tarmac once the weed had been killed.

Football Pitch Use – There had been a few complaints received with regard to the football pitch being used for a game during the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral which some residents were offended by. Cllrs requested that the Football Club be contacted and an apology requested to go into the Summer Marden Parish Newsletter. It was also requested that they in future, inform the Parish Council of when they plan to use the field.

Running Club Use – There had been a running club that used the Playing Field. Cllrs discussed and requested that the Deputy Clerk seeks more information from the provider whether they plan to use it in future.

Southons Field

Play Inspection Report: MPC

There were no issues to report on the play trail from the Caretaker. Cllrs noted.

Events of Southons Field

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the dates of the bookings for Southons Field. Cllr Tippen raised that there was a lot of Bowls Club parking dates and was concerned that they park safely and drive cautiously with awareness of pedestrians. Southons Field was being used a lot more with families with small children. Cllrs requested that they be contacted to explain the Cllrs' concerns.

Other Southons Field Issues

Wooden Bench by Wildflower Meadow – There had been a request received from Marden in Bloom regarding a bench being installed near the Wildflower Meadow. Cllrs requested that they provide a plan of where it would go and what type of bench it would be for the next meeting.

Request of use for the Running Club – A request had been received through the website regarding using Southons Field on Monday or Wednesday evening for a small running group. Cllrs discussed and asked the Deputy Clerk to discuss with Clerk with regard to our policy before responding.

Other Open Space

Open Space Action Plan

This was not discussed as there were no updates.

Trees

There were no issues or items to report on Trees.

044/21 CEMETERY

Other Cemetery issues

Cllr Newton reported that he had looked at replacing the corrugated metal sheets of the Cemetery shed. The Deputy Clerk would ask the Caretakers whether they would be able to carry out the labour of replacing them. Cllr Boswell and Tippen had weeded out the section around the Cherry Tree. Cllr Tippen together with husband had weeded around the rose bushes. Cllrs thanked them for their work.

045/21 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

Public Toilet Issues

There were no public toilet issues to report.

Car Park Issues

There were no car park issues to report.

046/21 CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY

(i) Eco Green Communities – Dog Fouling Bag Station – Cllrs were emailed the information regarding this prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed and asked the Deputy Clerk to obtain more information on costings. Mira Martin suggested that perhaps the Marden Scout Group would like to assist by the making some inverted plastic bottles with a couple of bags in. The Deputy Clerk will enquire.

047/21 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

048/21 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

There were no issues to report under this item.

049/21 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

Stilebridge

Cllrs Boswell and Tippen had delivered the Spring Parish Council Newsletter to the Stilebridge site and reported no issues.

Village Events

NHS Frontline Day – Monday 5th July 2021

The Deputy Clerk reminded Cllrs of the suggested ideas and ways to celebrate. It was proposed to raise awareness of the event with residents. Cllrs agreed to defer and discuss again at the next Amenities Meeting in May to make a firmer plan.

Great British Spring Clean – Community Litter Pick – 28th May-13th June 2021

The Deputy Clerk shared with Cllrs information received from NALC regarding a national litter picking event. Cllrs agreed that the information can be shared residents providing that the information is clear regarding borrowing the Parish Council equipment, insurance, disposal of rubbish, keeping themselves safe and COVID restrictions.

050/21 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall

There was nothing to report from the Trustees for this meeting.

Youth

No further information had been received for this meeting. Cllrs requested the Deputy Clerk to get in touch again for an update.

Marden Play Scheme 2021

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had received a response from the Leigh Academy Trust regarding holding Marden Play Scheme this year. They were happy to host it at Marden Primary Academy. The Deputy Clerk and Clerk will start the ball rolling on this and report further at the next Amenities Committee meeting in May.

051/21 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Update from To Do Lists

There were no further updates on the to do lists. The Deputy Clerk was finalising the Caretakers' To Do List and asked Cllrs to email her if they had anything further to add to what was suggested at the Site Meetings.

052/21 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISIONS

There were no further issues for decision.

053/21 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

There were no further issues for discussion or information.

054/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

There were no invoices to authorise for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.25.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Jean Robertson

Chairman, Amenities Committee

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