



**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
24TH JANUARY 2017 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD,
MARDEN COMMENCING AT 8.00PM**

Min
No

- 101/17 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Boswell (in the chair), Cowin, Harvey, Newton, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. The Clerk and two members of the public (Rachel Gillis-Coates and John Weir) were in attendance.
- 102/17 **APOLOGIES :** Apologies received from Cllr Adam
- 103/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 106/17(a)(ii) as a resident adjoining the field and Cllr Newton declared an interest on item 117/17 as Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.
- GRANTING OF DISPENSATION:** there was no request for granting of dispensation.
- 104/17 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 105/17 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** Two members of the public were in attendance and wished to speak on items 106/17(a)(ii).

The Chairman proposed, and all in attendance agreed, to move this to be discussed before any other item.

Marden PTA were proposing to hold a Firework display at Southons Field from 6pm to 8pm and wished for Cllrs agreement.

Items/concerns raised included: There would be no bonfires; The display will be fired and co-ordinated by a Firework company (Wizard from Goudhurst) who provide all risk assessments and insurance. It is a fully computerised display. The PTA are proposing to set up some lights at the entrance; plastic fencing would be erected to fence off area used for fireworks and any other areas out of bounds from the public; Wizard is preparing a site survey and would discuss the display with Network Rail. They would take into consideration tree locations and overhead wires and wind direction on the day; the gates would open 5.45pm, the display would be at 6.45pm and all public will have left the field by 7.45pm with gates closing at 8pm; The PTA would return Sunday morning to do a full walk around the field to clear away fireworks and rubbish; tickets would be sold in the shops beforehand at a reduced rate if bought beforehand with wrist bands as tickets; The PTA propose to hold a barbeque (no other barbeques would be allowed) and would undertake checks with Maidstone Borough Council, adjacent landowners/residents, fire service, police and Network Rail; PTA members would have hi-viz vests; parking should be at a minimum as it is envisaged that it will be village families attending and marshalls would be in attendance along the access road and on site. The contingency if bad weather is to refund money on tickets and it was hoped that a holding deposit would be available from the firework company – however it is mainly high winds that would stop the display (it would go ahead if drizzling); Music is being considered to be played during the fireworks; Portaloos would be available.

The Clerk was asked to contact MPC insurers regarding Parish Council cover.

After discussion Cllrs agreed for this to go ahead but wished the Clerk to be kept informed of all stages and provided with copies of all risk assessments and insurance policies. It was proposed, and agreed, that there would be no fee charged for hire of the

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field as this event was being carried out during the time when the gates would normally be closed to public. Rachel and John were thanked for attending.

The two members of the public then left the meeting

106/17

SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

(a) Open Space

(i) Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports: the monthly report had been received from MBC.

Annual Report from Play Inspection Company and stock valuation for both play areas – The Caretaker would be asked to look at the gate in regard to having the space 12mm so as not to have finger entrapment. All other issues were low risk and would be monitored.

Changing Rooms – The broken fascia board and tiles were to be repaired and a quote obtained for the plastic fascia to be replaced with wood. Cllrs Harvey and Turner asked to meet with the Chairman of the Football Club on site to discuss the goal storage.

Grounds maintenance at Napoleon Drive - work currently being undertaken by caretakers on area of open space. A stump grinder would need to be hired to deal with the hedging stumps.

Play Equipment consultation – Cllrs Boswell, Robertson and Tippen met with the Assistant Clerk to discuss the four proposals. Monday 27th February has been arranged for the consultation. The John Banks Hall had been booked and posters had been erected around the village and posted on Facebook and the Parish Website.

(ii) Southons Field

Play Trail Inspection Reports

Annual Report from Play Inspection Company and stock valuation for play trail – noted and any issues which were low risk would be monitored.

Cheque for Gatekeeper (to include payment for public conv. locking) – agreed and signed.

Marden PTA – firework display: Discussed at beginning of meeting.

Outdoor Theatre proposal – Cllrs agreed in principle and there would be a charge of £120. The Clerk and Cllr Boswell to meet with the organiser to discuss in more detail.

(iii) Other Open Space

(iv) Trees

Tree Inspection Report: awaited from Village Caretaker

Tree in High Street: The tree pit had been extended but the removal of the trunk was still to be undertaken. The Clerk was liaising with the Highway Steward for further information.

Parish Council owned trees – The Clerk was still waiting for the decision notice from MBC regarding the TPO trees in Rookery Path.

(b) Cemetery

ICCM Publication – Winter issue: for information

New Area – drainage and preparation of borders: The Clerk was asked to contact drainage companies for advice and quotes. Cllrs would meet with the Cemetery Caretaker before the borders were dug.

South East in Bloom application: The Clerk has contacted the competition organisations for further information dates regarding cemetery entry and would arrange to visit the cemetery with Cllr Boswell before completing the entry form.

Other: Fly tipping near to the cemetery gate – as this was on private land MBC enforcement would be contacted to speak with the landowner.

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107/18 PUBLIC TOILETS

- (a)** Anti-social behaviour – no issue reported
- (b)** Other issues – small items of maintenance to be undertaken by the caretaker

108/17 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received

109/17 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

- (a)** **Stilebridge:** Update – The transfer from MBC to KCC had been agreed but would not be finalised until the beginning of the new financial year.
- (b)**
- (c)** **Christmas:** Update - meeting to be held on 21st February at 6.30pm. The Assistant Clerk would be asked to contact all relevant groups.
Litter pick: This would be held on Saturday 18th March and MBC would be contacted regarding borrowing equipment. The Clerk would be away this weekend however the Assistant Clerk would be in attendance. Cllrs Tippen and Boswell to assist the Clerk on the 17th in respect of sorting equipment, forms etc.

110/17 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: Meeting held on 9th January 2017 – The Minutes of this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting. There was still a concern over the lack of trustees and Cllrs were advised the AGM was on the 13th March. There was still an issue of the amount of work the Clerk was undertaking for the hall and Cllr Tippen proposed that she sits down with the Clerk to go through this.

Youth: Meeting with Youth Leader – Cllr Tippen and the Clerk attended meeting on 18th January – Natalie Penfold was still the Youth Leader at Marden however she also covered Park Wood and works with 0-25's. She also deals with problem youths therefore her workload is more stretched. She is confident that Marden is a successful club and currently has 20/30 local young people attending every week.

111/17 OUTSTANDING ISSUE

- (a)** Update from Action list circulated to Cllrs – The Chairman briefly went through the list: An item would be placed on the next agenda regarding the storage shed at Southons Field, the Village Caretaker has been asked to put rubber washers on the sports wall but it was suggested that this be replaced with S106 contributions. The Assistant Clerk would be asked to obtain quotes.

112/17 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

- (a)** Litter bins at Napoleon Drive - It was proposed that a new bin would be purchased when new equipment was placed in the play area. The co-mingled bin that had been placed at Napoleon Drive end of Morello Path instead of the playing field end had been positioned there by MBC because it would have been too far for Council employees to carry the bags of rubbish.
- (b)** Update from Borough Councillor meeting – Notes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

113/17 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- (a)** Bench at Marden Library – The Clerk had not spoken to the Fire Fighters yet but would do so before the next meeting.
- (b)** Other: footpath from Goudhurst Road to Chantry Road – lot of litter. MBC Officers visited the site and would report this back to MBC along with litter picking the Chantry estate.
 MBC were proposing to replace all damaged/missing street name plates in the next financial year.

114/17 INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:

Cheque No. 5587 – P&P Signs – Caretaker hi-viz jacket and CCTV signage - £71.70

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed: Date: 21st February 2017

Agreed 28th February 2017

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