



**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
27TH OCTOBER 2015 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN
COMMENCING AT 7.50PM**

**Min
No**

060/15 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Boswell, Reed, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. The Clerk and one member of the public were also in attendance.
Cllr Brown arrived during the meeting.

061/15 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Adam and Weir.

062/15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 065/15(a)(ii) as a resident living adjacent to Southons Field. Cllr Reed declared an interest in item 069/15 as a Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.

GRANTING OF DISPENSATION: There were no requests for dispensation.

063/15 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

064/15 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** Member of the public did not wish to speak on any item.

065/15 **SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS**

(a) Open Space

(i) Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports - September's reports had been received from MBC and Village Caretaker.

Changing Rooms: response from MMFC - An email has been received from the Chairman of the Football Club following the Parish Council letter with their proposals for the use of the field and costings for extractor fans and storage area to the changing rooms. Cllrs felt that the proposals for flood lighting was not an option as location was too close to residential properties and planning permission may need to be required. With regard to the storage, although Cllrs recognise the need for this, they felt that this was an expense which could not be justified at the current time however they would invite MMFC representatives to the November Amenities meeting to discuss in more detail. The clerk was asked to send an invite to the club and ask them to bring along details of the design and materials for storage, whether they have looked into planning permission and funding for this and if they had other proposals for storage.

Information from work experience regarding possible future use of playing field Jack Velvick and Jacob Brown had put together some proposals for the use of the field. Cllrs were very pleased with the information that had been put forward and thanks were expressed to both for all the work that had been put in. The Clerk would chase MBC regarding the S106 contribution meeting so that a public consultation could be arranged.

Hire charges for 2016/17 - Cllrs proposed to keep the cost at £47.50 for the 1 men's team per match for 2016/17 season. This would be taken to Finance

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Local electors and the press are entitled to listen to Parish Council Meetings but not to take part. An opportunity to speak will be given at the close of Council Business



Committee for the budget proposals.

Other issues: There were no other issues outstanding.

(ii) Southons Field

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

Wording for Play Trail signage – this had been decided at the last meeting.

Dimensions of notice board/litterbin and location – It was proposed that a free standing bin would be built/purchased and installed by the play trail and a notice board to be installed by the entrance gate at a later stage when the byelaws had been adopted. The Clerk would speak to Cllr Newton regarding the litter bin and it was proposed that a temporary sign would be erected by the play trail whilst awaiting completion of the main notice board.

8.30pm Cllr Brown arrived at the meeting

Hire and parking charges for 2016/17 – after a discussion Cllrs agreed to keep the hire charges the same as 2015/16. This would be taken to Finance Committee for budget proposals.

Other issues: The Clerk was asked to view the right of easement of the driveway and Cllrs asked for quotes to be obtained for the driveway in preparation of the budget meeting.

Cllr Boswell asked that an item be placed on the next Finance meeting regarding the purchase of a generator and a leaf blower.

(iii) Other Open Space

Napoleon Drive: Transfer update – The Clerk had contacted the Parish Council Solicitors asking for update and has also chased Taylor Wimpey. A response had not yet been received.

Tree Inspection Reports September report received from Village Caretaker.

The Horse Chestnut tree at the Cemetery had been removed and the conifers had been topped. The Village caretaker had undertaken some works on the trees at Southons Field.

Update from site meeting on 19th September – discussed at last meeting

MBC Play Area Strategy – A meeting was held early 2015 with representatives of MBC and Golding Homes – the Clerk had emailed for an update on The Cockpit open space and further details of the Play Area Strategy but to date had not received any reply.

Other issues: There were no other issues.

(b) Cemetery

New section planting and layout Plants and shrubs had been planted in the centre section and the Village Caretaker would be asked to put netting over the plants to protect them from the rabbits.

Removal of soil This has been undertaken and now the area is clear a new fence needs to be erected.

Biffa refuse collection A letter has been received from Biffa regarding what it can/cannot now collection. The Clerk was asked to review the contract with Biffa and to obtain details from other refuse collectors.

Cemetery fees for 2016/17 – Cllrs agreed for the fees remain the same as the last financial year and this would be taken to the Finance Committee for the budget proposals.

066/15

PUBLIC TOILETS

(a) Anti-social behaviour: No reports received

(b) Cleaning: No problems regarding cleaning

(c) CCTV there was still ongoing issues regarding the original order of the CCTV camera.

(d) A letter has been sent to the company with MPC's request to cancel order but the company were still insistent on delivering. MPC had not paid for the camera so the Clerk was still in correspondence

Other issues : Locking times – November to March 8am to 4pm will commence from 1st November

067/15 CORRESPONDENCE

Nu-Venture Bus 26 and 28 – A response had been received from Nu-Venture following a letter sent by the Clerk with concerns over the service. The Cllrs looked at the timetable and felt that there was not much else that could be achieved. Nu-Venture were reinstating the bus route to Tonbridge Road in the mornings which will be an improvement.

068/15 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

- (a) Stilebridge:** Update: Cllr Reed had been in correspondence with a resident of the site and the issues regarding ground works had been resolved. There were still a couple of outstanding problems which were being looked at.
- (b) Christmas:** Notes from meeting held on 20th October. These had been circulated but Cllrs raised concern over the use of the sleigh as a 4x4 was required – if it was expected that Mr Jenner would provide the car for the elves and a 4x4 this was not felt acceptable. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact the Lions to see whether they would provide the vehicle or find someone else who can help. Otherwise the Lions would be thanked for their offer but Father Christmas would travel with the elves in a car. It was agreed to purchase two more pump flasks for the drinks at The Allens.

Not on Agenda

Litter pick: A provisional date had been set for March but the Clerk had received a Kent Association of Local Councils newsletter which talks about a national "Clean for the Queen" weekend – it was suggested that Marden's litter pick be brought forward one week to coincide with this. It would therefore be 5th March 2016.

Commonwealth Day – details in the KALC newsletter regarding "flying the flag". The Clerk was asked to pass to the Memorial Hall Committee as the hall may be the best location for a flag pole/flag.

069/15 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: Update from Hall meeting held 5th October. The Hall Trustees had interviewed five applicants for the role of the part-time caretaker and one had been offered the post. They would commence on 1st January 2016. The roof was proceeding very well and it was hoped that completion on the main roof would be completed by end of next week (weather dependent). The flat roof still needed to be repaired but this should only take a week or two.

Youth: Nothing to report.

070/15 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- (a)** Update from Action list: Cllr Boswell went through the list but majority of the items were still waiting for a response.

071/15 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

S106 contributions

MBC Terms of Reference between MBC and Parish Councils – The Clerk had requested an electronic version of the Parish Charter and once received this would be circulated. Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath KM275 – KCC had previously agreed to keep this PROW open but a letter had now been received requesting comments on the proposed diversion. As the consultation period ends on 18th November this item was deferred until the Full Council meeting on 10th November.

072/15 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Marden Community Orchard - Marden Cricket & Hockey Club have advertised the proposed community orchard at their new site in Maidstone Road

073/15 INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:

There were no cheques to sign.

The being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

The Chairman then invited the member of public to speak if required.

Resident – had spoken to Village Club regarding newsletter – Members of the Committee would be happy to assist with delivery and would look to it being 6-page and Village Club would commit to sponsoring £2,000 pa towards the costs – this would be discussed further at full council once details of costings had been viewed.

Cllrs Boswell and Robertson gave their apologies for the next meeting.

Signed:

Date: 24th November 2015

Chairman, Marden Parish Council Amenities Committee.