



**AGREED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2023 HELD AT 7.30PM
AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD**

073/23 PRESENT

Cllrs Besant, Boswell (in the Chair), Newton, Robertson, Summersgill and Tippen. Cllr Adam and the Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

074/23 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Rabot and Turner gave their apologies for this meeting. Cllr Gibson who is normally attends this meeting but is not on the Committee also sent her apologies for this meeting.

075/23 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 079/23 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllr Newton and Tippen declared an interest in item 069/23 (Memorial Hall) as Trustees of the Marden Memorial Hall.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

076/23 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

077/23 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

078/23 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. There are no further updates on the response from Golding Homes on the CCTV on the Playing Field. The Contractor has completed the works on the Library Noticeboard and fixing the Playing Field Play Area Gate spring. As requested by Amenities Parish Councillors at the last meeting, the Cemetery Sub-Committee met to discuss and raise the Cemetery Fees in line with inflation. Cllr Besant will look to contact the Caretakers to discuss installing the Cemetery Pathway signage. The Cemetery Caretaker will look to begin work on the Scattering of Ashes area at the Cemetery when the ground is soft enough to dig down. MBC have been contacted about conducting a Tree Safety Survey of the trees surrounding the Marden Library car park. The Tree Warden has been contacted to carrying out his Autumn report on local trees ready for the next Amenities Committee meeting in November. Cllrs noted.

079/23 OPEN SPACE

Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports from MPC.

The report had been received from the Caretaker for MPC with no new issues to report.

Other Playing Field Issues

Memorial Bench Request

Following a telephone message received from a resident regarding this request, there was no further information given for Cllrs to discuss at this meeting.

Napoleon Drive Play Area Play Table

The Deputy Clerk updated Cllrs that the play table had been fixed by the Caretaker and made safe. There were no insurance money stipulations. The Clerks recommended that the play table stays in situ over the Winter period and for Cllrs to discuss further in the New Year. Cllrs agreed.

Southons FieldPlay Trail Inspection Report from MPC

The Report had been received from the Caretaker for MPC with no new issues to report.

Other Open SpaceOpen Space Action Plan

The Open Space Action Plan had been updated and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted.

TreesMonthly Tree Inspection

The Caretakers had completed their monthly tree inspections. Cllrs noted.

Kent Plan Tree Initiative

Cllr Besant asked Cllrs to consider planting the whole area at the back of the Cemetery with the trees or leave an area for future graves/interment of ashes. Cllrs discussed the proposal to plan an additional area to include an area for future graves/interment of ashes. Cllr Tippen suggested having the area that the trees grow on to be used for a natural woodland burial. Cllrs agreed for future consideration.

Additional tree/hedgerow planting

Both the Kent Plan Initiative and TCL provide plastic guards to go around the saplings. Cllr Besant asked Cllrs whether they think they would be needed. Due to rabbits frequenting the area, Cllrs agreed to having plastic guards to prevent damage. Cllr Newton agreed to store the saplings the week before.

080/23 CEMETERYBollards/Planters

At the Site Meeting, Cllrs viewed the area where it was needed to create a barrier between the path and graves. Cllr Rabot had suggested curved planters and had sent the Deputy Clerk a link to an example which was shared with Cllrs. Cllrs discussed and thought that bollards or posts would be more suitable. Cllrs agreed for the Deputy Clerk to order and get the Caretaker to install once the memorial stone had been put in place.

Revised Cemetery Rules and Regulations

The Cemetery Rules and Regulations had been updated and the wording had been amended. Cllrs noted.

Provision of a Water Tap

Cllr Besant informed Cllrs that, in order to water the saplings, he had discussed the water main with the Cemetery Caretaker about getting water to the back of the Cemetery. It was suggested that a standpipe be installed and a hose pipe be purchased. Cllr Newton would look into a similar tap which is installed at the Marden Memorial Hall. Cllrs discussed and agreed.

081/23 ALLOTMENTS

There were no further updates on allotments for this meeting.

082/23 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK**Public Toilet**

The Public Toilets were viewed at the Site Meeting on Saturday 14th October and any issues were raised and added to the Caretaker's To Do List.

Car Park

The Car Park was viewed by Cllrs at the Site Meeting on Saturday 14th October and issues were raised with the Deputy Clerk to action.

083/23 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP**Environmental Sub-Group Update**

The next meeting of the Environmental Sub-Group is Tuesday 21st November at 6.00pm. Cllr Boswell attended a NALC Climate and Biodiversity meeting and said that she would sit down with the Clerk to go through a draft biodiversity model.

084/23 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

085/23 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Cllr Boswell attended a Nature Prescribing session at the Medical Centre. Patients will be offered a leaflet, thirteen postcards and a map where the village nature spots are situated. Marden Wildlife will also be involved. Cllrs noted.

086/23 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**Memorial Hall**

The Deputy Clerk requested a report from Cllr Stevens who is the Marden Memorial Hall Representative and was informed there were no further updates for this meeting. The next meeting will be on 16th November 2023.

Youth

There was no update received to report to Cllrs at this meeting.

087/23 OUTSTANDING ISSUES/CARETAKERS TO DO LISTAmenities Site Meetings

Cllrs met on Friday 13th October and Saturday 14th October to view the Cemetery, Southons Field, Public Toilets and Playing Field. Notes were taken by the Deputy Clerk and any issues were reported.

Updated Caretaker's To Do List

A new Caretaker's To Do List is currently being created following the Amenities Site Meetings on 13th and 14th October 2023.

088/23 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION

There were no Amenities issues for decision at this meeting.

089/23 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Rams Hill – New Mower - £839.00
 Epic Engineering – Repairs to Playing Field Fencing - £400.80
 Epic Engineering – Refurbish Library Noticeboard - £ 460.80
 Lexiam Services – Fingerpost Refurbishment - £1,710.00
 Total: £3,410.60

All invoices were agreed, Cllrs Newton and Tippen would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.31.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Anne Boswell Chairman, Amenities Committee
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