



**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN  
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

- Min No**
- 102/16 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Boswell (in the Chair), Robertson and Turner. Cllrs Adam, Cowin and Mannington together with the Clerk and two members of the public were also in attendance.
- 103/16 **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Reed and Tippen gave their apologies. The representatives of Marden Minors Football Club also gave their apologies.
- 104/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Boswell declared an interest in 107/16(a)(i) as resident to field and Chairman of Marden in Bloom. Cllr Adam declared an interest in 113/16(b) as Treasurer of Marden History Group.
- GRANTING OF DISPENSATION:** There were no requests for dispensation.
- 105/16 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 106/16 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**
- 107/16 **SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS**
- (a) **Open Space**
- (i) **Playing Field**
- Play Inspection Reports: Reports had been received from the village caretaker – no issues to report. The report from MBC was still awaited.
- Changing Rooms: This item would be deferred until March 2016.
- Play Area – New Signage – The signage of the fencing had been vandalised. The Clerk was asked to obtain similar signs to be installed.
- Other issues: There had been some reports of anti-social behaviour by residents to the Police and a meeting has been arranged with the Parish Council and PCSO on 1<sup>st</sup> March to discuss this. Cllr Boswell and the Clerk to attend.
- The Clerk was asked to speak to another company regarding the rocking horse and litter bins.
- Cllr Adam arrived at the meeting*
- (ii) **Southons Field**
- Cheque for Gatekeeper (to include payment for public conv. locking): cheque agreed and signed.
- Picnic for HM's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Marden In Bloom has arranged for a picnic to be held at Southons Field on 23<sup>rd</sup> April – a request had been received as to whether this could be under the Parish Council's umbrella and therefore covered by MPC Insurance. Unfortunately this could not be discussed as Cllr Boswell would need to leave the meeting and the meeting would therefore not be quorate. The item would be added to March Full Council agenda.
- Access Road – Easement/Right of Way land registry details available regarding access rights etc. The Clerk had obtained some information but was asked to speak to previous resident to find out more details.
- Other issues: It had been proposed that Grasscrete would be laid in the entrance as was currently very muddy to access. As this may work out expensive the Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for other solutions.
- Cllr Turner would advise the Clerk on the best generator to purchase for the village caretaker's use.
- Hawthorns were due to be collected next week and would be planted around the

boundary of the field.

**(iii) Other Open Space**

Napoleon Drive: Transfer Completion – The transfer was almost complete but confirmation of cheque clearance awaited before finalising. It was hoped that this would be this week.

Tree Inspection Reports: No issues had been raised in the latest reports.

Ownership of Rookery Path: Details received from Land Registry and historic information had been received however there were a couple of discrepancies which the Clerk would look into.

Notice board at Highwood Green: Although MPC were under the impression that Redrow would install a notice board by the bus stop this has in fact been installed on the area of open space on the development. Clerk had contacted Redrow to ask whether they would be in agreement for a notice board to be installed by bus stop in the future.

Tree in High Street/Southons Field – A meeting was being arranged for site visit in High Street with Kent Highways and the planting of the tree in Southons Field was being liaised with the village caretaker.

Other issues: The paperwork regarding the replacement tree in Rookery Path had been retrieved and this would now progress.

There was one litter bin still to be installed outside the library but after contacting MBC the Clerk has found out that there are no free standing bins left but one erected on a post could be placed here. The litter bin opposite the West End Stores would be moved as soon as possible.

The street name plates were hoped to be replaced/repainted in April.

MBC would chase Kent Air Ambulance regarding the removal of the recycling bank.

**(b) Cemetery**

New section: It was proposed that 12<sup>th</sup> March would be the date for working party to plot layout.

Other issues: Memorials on graves – a further letter had been sent to next of kin stating that the removal would take place on or after 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Removal of spoil from graves: It was proposed that this would be monitored and reviewed every six months so that it does not accumulate to such a degree as previous.

The Clerk had written to the Diocese of Canterbury regarding consecrated land.

Scattering of Ashes: A letter had been sent to the family who had requested the scattering of ashes suggesting a plot be purchased for interment of ashes instead.

**108/16 PUBLIC TOILETS**

**(a)** Anti-social behaviour: See below.

**(b)** Cleaning: No issues raised

**(c)** CCTV: Letter had been sent by Solicitor to BT and we were awaiting response

**(d)** Other issues: Email from Scout Group who had raised concerns over anti-social behaviour around the toilet area and car park. Damage had been caused to the fencing around Scout HQ (which has been reported to Police). It has been requested that MPC to consider fencing around public toilet building however as MPC do not own the building or the land the Clerk would speak to MBC.

The clothing bank in the car park had still not been removed. The Parish Clerk had contacted MBC who were chasing the relevant company.

**109/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**110/16 ACTION GROUP REPORTS**

**(a) Stilebridge:** A further visit would be made when delivering the newsletters.

**(b) Play Scheme:** New Supervisor has been approached and the Clerk was due to meet shortly regarding staffing, set up etc. The Clerk mentioned that she would be away the last three

**(c)** days of play scheme so the Assistant Clerk may need assistance with the closing up of the

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scheme.

**Annual Litter Pick:** To be undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> March however the following Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, was pencilled in if raining.

#### 111/16 **OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**

**Memorial Hall:** Next Meeting is the AGM on 8th March 2016 not as first advertised on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Youth:** Boxing sessions had been arranged in the John Banks Hall by Golding Homes/Kent Sport but there were issues regarding access on 20<sup>th</sup> February so it was hoped this would commence on 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Cllr Mannington arrived at the meeting*

#### 112/16 **OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

- (a) Update from Action list: The Chairman went through the list highlighting items still outstanding.

#### 113/16 **FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION**

- (a) Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The application regarding Widehurst Farm Solar Farm was on the agenda. The background information was made available to the meeting and the Clerk provided details of an email from MBC Planning regarding the land classification when the site was reverted back to agricultural. Letters had been received from Helen Grant together with 50 responses to her survey and these were placed on the table for Cllrs to view and consider. However as no amendment to the planning application had been received from MBC Cllrs could not re-discuss the application but agreed that an urgent update be sent to MBC to put before members outlining concerns over clarification of the land classification but no Cllr was able to attend the meeting. Cllr Mannington agreed to draft the urgent update and circulate to Cllrs.

The members of the public spoke of their concerns over the development and stated that they were not aware of the MPC meeting when it was discussed in detail.

*Members of the public left the meeting*

*Cllr Adam left the room whilst the following item was discussed*

- (b) Marden History Group – An email had been received outlining proposals and costings to refurbish the village stocks. A member of the History Group was willing to undertake a majority of the work for free but there would be some cost regarding materials etc. The Clerk had provided the Chairman of the History Group with details of other funding streams and the Cllrs agreed in principle to make a donation once the History Group had investigated other funding pots and grants.

#### 114/16 **FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

- (a) The Council was holding donation money raised following the death of Ken Rhodes. It was agreed that the Clerk would look at costings for a new bench and planters to replace the old bench outside the library. Due to Cllrs not being able to fit in site meetings to the Cemetery, Playing Field, Southons Field and Public Conveniences it was proposed that Cllrs would visit the areas individually and report any issues which they feel need to be addressed to the Clerk to report back to the next Amenities meeting.

#### 115/16 **INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:**

Cheque No. 5374 - £2,554.13 – Inland Revenue – Staff/Employer NIC/PAYE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman, Marden Parish Council Amenities Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

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