



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH
COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY
25TH NOVEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM AT THE
ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN**

047/25 PRESENT

Cllrs Dobinson (in the Chair), Newton, Rabot, Tippen and Turner were present. Cllr Adam, Gibson and the Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

048/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Boswell, Goda, and Summersgill gave their apologies for this meeting.

049/25 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs Newton, Tippen and Turner declared an interest in item 043/25 (Outside Bodies Reports - Memorial Hall) as Trustees of the Memorial Hall.

There were no requests for dispensation

050/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received, and accepted as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2025. These were duly signed by the Chairman. Cllr Newton commented that they were typed well.

051/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

052/25 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Happy to Chat signs have been delivered and installed on the chosen benches on Marden Playing Field. The Community Payback Team have been contacted about painting the railings at the Napoleon Drive play area and gateway.

Unfortunately, the suggestion of "Sylvia", the recommended tree was not successful in winning the Tree of the Year competition that the Kent Men of Trees ran. The Football Goal Posts at the Marden Playing Field are being regularly used by young people which is fantastic. Cllrs noted.

053/25 OPEN SPACE**Playing Field**Play Inspection Report from MPC

The reports for the Playing Field Play Area, Napoleon Drive Play Area, the Sports Wall and the Outdoor Gym Equipment had been received from the Caretaker for MPC. There were no issues to report. Cllrs noted.

Caretakers To Do List

A new Caretakers To Do List was given to the Caretaker in October and this was circulated to Cllrs. Cllr noted.

Request for Bench on Playing Field

A resident had contacted the Parish Council with a request to have a memorial bench on the Playing Field. Cllrs discussed and agreed to the request. It was recommended that Cllrs meet with the resident to decide the location and let the resident know the required style of bench. The Clerks would respond.

Tree Work on Playing Field

A resident adjacent to the Marden Playing Field requested some tree work to trees overhanging their garden. There was also some tree work on some conifers that had come out of the Amenities Site Meeting. A tree surgeon had quoted for each of the works and Cllrs agreed for this to go ahead.

Southons FieldPlay Inspection Report from MPC

The reports for the Play Trail, Swings and Football Goal Post had been received from the Caretaker for MPC with no new issues to report. Cllrs noted.

Future of Security Shed

The Deputy Clerk had circulated some photos of the current state of the shed. Cllrs discussed and recommended the Deputy Clerk seek quotes for a half sized container to replace it and bring back to the next Amenities Committee Meeting. Cllrs suggested Spring time would be best for the ground for any installation.

Southons Field Hire Fees

Cllrs were circulated the current fees to hire Southons Field. After discussion, Cllrs agreed to increase the fees slightly as the price had remained the same for two years.

Other Open SpaceNotes of Amenities Site Meetings

The Notes of the Amenities Site Meetings were circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs noted.

TreesMonthly Tree Inspections

The monthly tree inspections had been received and no issues were reported. Cllrs noted. There had also been a severe weather warning and the Caretakers had completed their checks that all trees on Parish land were safe.

054/25 CEMETERY**Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates**

One Exclusive Right of Burial Certificate was put before the meeting and this was signed by Cllrs Tippen and Gibson.

055/25 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK**Public Toilet Issues**Solar Panels

The licence had been received on the day of this meeting from the solicitors and a request for payment on account. Cllrs would need more time to review the documents.

Car Park Issues

There were no car park issues to report.

056/25 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS**Environmental Sub-Group**

The notes of the Environmental Sub-Group meeting that took place on Tuesday 4th November were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted.

057/25 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT**Memorial Hall**

Cllr Tippen reported that the Trustees are getting a Health & Safety Report for the Marden Memorial Hall.

Youth Provision

Cllr Rabot informed that the Kent Cricket Community Trust are not keen to come down during February half term due to possible bad weather. There might be an option to have something inside and Cllr Rabot is looking at venues. A suggestion of having a Pump Track on the Playing Field for a day hire for young people to use. Cllr Rabot would look into costings and the Deputy Clerk requested time to market the initiative.

058/25 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**Outstanding Issues List**

The Deputy Clerk is still waiting to hear from Maidstone Borough Council to see if the last bin could be moved. The Solar Panel project on the Public Conveniences and the Refurbishment of the Football Changing Room will be added to the list.

059/25 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISIONFuture Amenities Committee Meetings and Sub-Committees

Cllrs discussed the frequency of the Amenities Committee Meetings. Cllrs agreed to keep the Amenities Committee Meeting to monthly as advertised. Cllrs also agreed to merge the Cemetery and Open Spaces Sub-Committees together as one to be known as the "Open Spaces Sub-Committee".

Asset Transfer

Cllrs discussed and agreed that an Asset Transfer Working Group be set up. All Parish Councillors would be invited to join. The Amenities Cllrs decided that this should be an agenda item on the Full Council agenda.

060/25 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

The following invoices were put before Cllrs for payment:

Paul Waring – Mowing of S/F and P/F - £515.22

Castle Water – Public Conv. Water Supply - £11.93

Rams Hill – Mower Repairs - £104.40

P&F Cleaning – Public Conv. Cleaning - £725.00
Boughton Monchelsea Morris – Dancing at Marden at Christmas - £50.00
Alison Hooker – Christmas/Office Supplies - £319.16
Ian Jones – Locking/Unlocking S/F and Public Conv. – £200.00
The Hop Press – Christmas Banner - £60.00
Capsticks Solicitors LLP – Public Conv. Legal Fees for Licence - £1500.00
Total: £3,485.71
Cllrs agreed payments and Cllrs Adam and Rabot would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.29.

Date: 27th January 2026

Signed:

Cllr Dobinson
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