



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024 HELD AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD

124/24 PRESENT

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

125/24 APOLOGIES

Cllr Turner gave his apologies for this meeting.

126/24 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 130/24 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllr Tippen and Newton declared an interest in item 137/24 (Memorial Hall) as Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall. Cllr Gibson declared an interest in item 132/24 (Allotments) as a resident in Highwood Green.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

127/24 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

128/24 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

129/24 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The headstone at the Cemetery has still not been installed, however, the Clerks have researched the bollards and will discuss further our need with a supplier. The resident has been contacted regarding a bench at the Playing Field with an invitation to attend the Amenities Site Meeting on 13th April. The Caretaker's To Do List has been returned and a new list is being created ready for the Caretaker when he returns from leave. The Clerk has taken information from the Open Space Action Plan and merged it into the Parish Council Five Year Action Plan. The Open Space Action Plan for Amenities will now be used as project plan for admin purposes. The Windsor Meadow and The Parsonage footpath will now be installed on 25th March due to a delay because of wet weather conditions. The Three Yearly Tree Safety Audit will be added to the Amenities Committee Meeting in March as we are still awaiting quotes. Cllrs noted.

130/24 OPEN SPACE

Playing Field

Play Inspection Reports 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. Cllrs noted.

Noticeboard for Playing Field

Cllr Boswell informed Cllrs of the Borough Council grant that can be applied for noticeboards. Cllrs viewed the examples provided by the Deputy Clerk and agree to look into a triple green noticeboard costings according to the amount of the grant. The Clerks will contact Maidstone Borough Council about the application in the next financial year and the Deputy Clerk will report back to the next Amenities Committee Meeting when a response has been received.

Southons FieldPlay Trail Inspection Report from MPC

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

Football Goals

Cllr Boswell shared the two examples of goal posts that the Deputy Clerk had previously circulated. Cllrs discussed and agreed for the Clerks to purchase two of the goal posts which are of the same kind already on the field. One would then be used and the other to be stored until needed.

Other Open SpaceAmenities Site Meetings

Cllr Boswell suggested the dates for the Amenities Site Meetings will be Friday 12th April and Saturday 13th April. Cllrs noted.

TreesMonthly Tree Inspections

The Caretakers had completed their monthly tree inspections and there were no issues to report. Cllrs noted. The trees on Parish Council open space have been checked regularly following high winds.

Tree/Hedge Planting at Marden Cemetery

Cllr Besant updated the meeting on the recent tree planting. The planting went very well and took two days. The Police Cadets did a fantastic job in assisting with the planting along with Cllr Rabot. A YouTube video of them was circulated by the Deputy Clerk on Marden Parish Council communication. Cllr Besant has passed on his thanks to Kent County Council and to all the volunteers who took part.

Kent Men of Trees Competition Result and Reports

Marden Parish Council has been awarded “Highly Commended” and we have received a certificate. There were two reports received regarding the trees in the Parish which were very interesting. Cllr Boswell requested that Marden Parish Council be entered into the competition again if they are running it again this year. Cllrs agreed and noted.

131/24 CEMETERYStandpipe Quotes

The quote from the Plumber was not received in time for this meeting and therefore was not discussed at this meeting.

132/24 ALLOTMENTS

This item is reported at Full Council. There were no further updates on allotments for this meeting.

133/24 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK**Public Toilets**

There were no issues to report for this meeting.

Car Park

Cllr Besant informed Cllrs that the parking enforcement visits were working and that the car park was empty at 7.15am. However, it began to fill up from 9.00am.

134/24 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP**Next Meeting**

The Environment Sub-Group met on 20th February and the Deputy Clerk had circulated the notes to Cllrs.

Earth Charter

Cllr Boswell had submitted a report on this but Cllrs asked that this item be put on the March Amenities Committee Meeting to give them the opportunity to read all the information.

Engagement with Current/Prospective MP

Cllrs discussed and agreed in principle to writing a letter to a prospective MPs regarding their views on environmental issues.

Climate & Ecology Bill

Cllr Boswell had submitted a report on this but Cllrs asked that this item be put on the March Amenities Committee Meeting to give them the opportunity to read all the information.

135/24 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

136/24 HEALTH AND WELLBEINGUpdate on Nature Prescribing Project

The Clinicians have already handed out 16 packs which is amazing. Other initiatives were in the pipeline like Wellbeing Walking.

137/24 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**Memorial Hall**

The next meeting will be 1st March. Cllr Tippen confirmed that the Trustees have received the solar battery grant which is good news and a big tick for the environment.

138/24 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**Outstanding Issues List**

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the newly created Outstanding Issues List. Cllrs agreed and were content with the format.

139/24 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION**Amenities Policies for Review**

The policies will be emailed to Amenities Councillors with tracked changes. The Deputy Clerk will discuss with the Clerk about them going to the next Full Council meeting.

Amenities Risk Assessments

Cllr Boswell read out the amendments to the risk assessments. Cllrs agreed.

Community Payback Team

Marden in Bloom would like to use the Community Payback Team to scrub the planters. Cllrs agreed for the Clerks to contact the Team on behalf of Marden in Bloom. Cllr Adam also suggested that the Team works on Rookery Path. Cllrs agreed. The Deputy Clerk would approach and meet with the Community Payback Team Co-ordinator.

Spring Village Litter Pick

Cllrs were asked if they were content for the Clerks to purchase signage. Cllrs requested the Clerk enquire with KCC and Kent Highways the correct signage. Cllrs agreed for signage to be purchased.

140/24 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

The following invoices were submitted for payment:

Marden Memorial Hall – Office rent, cleaning and refuse - £345.15

Viking – Copier Paper - £51.46

Castle Water – Changing Rooms water supply - £14.38

Total: £410.99

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.53.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Anne Boswell Chairman, Amenities Committee

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