



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH  
COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 22ND  
APRIL 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS,  
ALBION ROAD, MARDEN**

**147/25 PRESENT**

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

**148/25 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Summersgill gave his apologies for this meeting.

**149/25 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION**

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 153/25 (Open Space - Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllrs Tippen, Newton and Turner as Trustees of the Memorial Hall, declared an interest in item 159/25 (Outside Bodies Reports - Memorial Hall). Cllrs Boswell and Rabot for item 153/25 (Open Space – Playing Field – Request the Use of the Playing field) as members of the Marden in Bloom village group.

**Granting of Dispensation**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**150/25 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllrs received and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

**151/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**152/25 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT**

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Southons Field wall has now been cleared by the Caretaker and the grass seed has been scattered. The resident has been communicating with other residents regarding the sign for the houses. A mock-up will be emailed shortly for Cllrs to review. The Clerks are submitting the TPO for the trees at the Playing field. The new picnic benches have been ordered for the Playing Field. The Council has also been donated a children's bench to use at the Playing field by Marden Pre-School. The Caretaker has fixed the leaking tap in the cubicle in the Gents toilets. The Contractors have installed the new CCTV cameras at the Playing Field, however, there is an issue with software. Costings for each option will be obtained for Cllrs to discuss. Cllrs noted.

**153/25 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. There were no issues to report. Cllrs noted.

Request for Use of the Playing Field

The Marden in Bloom village group wrote to the Council requesting the use of Marden Playing Field for a fundraising event of a Dog Show in August 2025. The group will be providing a risk assessment. Cllr Rabot explained the event further. Cllrs discussed and agreed for the group to use the field.

**Southons Field**Play Trail 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.

**Other Open Space**Annual Play Inspections

Cllrs were sent the breakdown of the work needed for the Annual Play Inspections. There was some work for the Caretakers and Contractors. Cllrs noted.

**Trees**Monthly Tree Inspections

The monthly tree inspections had been received and no issues were reported. Cllrs noted.

**154/25 CEMETERY****Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates**

There were no Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates to sign for this meeting.

**Soil Waste Collection Quotes**

The Deputy Clerk and the Admin Assistant had obtained quotes for the Cllrs to discuss for the soil waste removal from the Cemetery. These were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed and decided to go with the Contractor that knows the Cemetery, has the appropriate waste licence and knows the exact vehicle to use.

**Storage**

The Clerk and the Admin Assistant had obtained some costs for container storage at the Cemetery. Cllrs discussed and agreed to a refurbished 20ft used container from Lawrence Containers in Hunton. The Clerks would take this forward.

**155/25 ALLOTMENTS**

There were no further updates for this meeting.

**156/25 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK****Public Toilets**Update on Solar Panel Installation

The Structural Survey had been received and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed the contents of the letter which flagged up additional

roof work. Cllrs requested that the Clerk seek a quote for the roof work plus installation for Cllrs to review and discuss further.

#### Water Refill Station

The Deputy Clerk had obtained quotes for water refill stations for Cllrs, but given the work needed as reported above on the Solar Panel Installation, Cllrs requested this item be deferred.

Cllr Newton arrived at 19.59.

#### **Car Park**

There were no issues to report for this meeting.

### **157/25 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP**

The Environmental Sub-Group's next meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### **Village Events Sub-Group**

The notes of the Village Events Sub-Group were circulated to Cllrs regarding the plans for the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration taking place on Southons Field on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Cllrs noted.

#### **Playscheme Sub-Group**

The notes to the Playscheme Sub-Group meeting were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Playscheme will run for 8 days from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Cllrs noted.

#### **Open Space Sub-Committee**

The notes of the Amenities Site Meetings were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and the actions of which will be carried out by the Deputy Clerk and the Caretakers. Cllrs noted.

### **158/25 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

### **159/25 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**

#### **Memorial Hall**

Cllr Turner reported that the new projector screen is now up in the main hall and there is work being quoted for the Ladies Toilets. Cllr Newton was elected as the Chairman of the Trustees.

### **160/25 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

#### **Outstanding Issues List**

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the amended Outstanding Issues List. Cllrs noted.

### **161/25 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION**

#### **Buddy Bench**

A resident had come into the office with a flyer for a Buddi Bench. Historically, there had been a sign on the Ken Rhodes bench near the Library prior to the pandemic. The Deputy Clerk suggested that perhaps two of the new benches on the Playing Field be chosen and that a plaques on these could be installed. Cllrs agreed.

**162/25 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

There were no invoices for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.06.

Date:

Signed:

Chairman, Amenities Committee  
Marden Parish Council, Parish Office, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent, TN12  
9JX

T: 01622 832305 / 07940 241333

E: [deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

W: mardenkent-pc.gov.uk