



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

**019/25 PRESENT**

Cllrs Boswell (in Cllr Dobinson's absence, Cllr Boswell acted as Chair), Newton, Summersgill and Turner were present. Cllr Gibson and the Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

**020/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Dobinson, Goda, Rabot and Tippen gave their apologies for this meeting.

**021/25 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION**

**Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 025/25 (Open Space - Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllrs Newton and Turner as Trustees of the Memorial Hall, declared an interest in item 029/25 (Outside Bodies Reports - Memorial Hall).

**Granting of Dispensation**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**022/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllrs received and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025. These were duly signed by the Cllr Boswell who acted as Chair for this meeting.

**023/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**024/25 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT**

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting, the picnic benches and football goal posts have now been installed at the Playing Field. The quote for the signs for the Happy to Chat benches is yet to be received and the Deputy Clerk will chase. A tree has been nominated by Marden Wildlife and this has been submitted for the Tree of the Year 2025 competition being ran by Kent Friends of the Trees. There was some vandalism at the Public Toilets in the mens cubicle but this has been remedied by the Caretaker and Electrician. The soil waste at the Cemetery has now been removed by the Contractor. Cllrs noted.

## **025/25 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.

#### Pitch at the Marden Playing Field

Cllrs received a report from the Clerk with suggested terms and fees to charge users of the football pitch. Cllrs discussed and agreed to the fee prices and recommended terms.

#### Play Equipment Replacement and Safety Measures

Unfortunately, a quote was not received in time for this meeting. The Deputy Clerk continues to put up warning posters not to use and tape.

### **Southons Field**

#### Play 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 Bookings of Southons Field

The Clerks had received two enquiries regarding a wedding event and a fireworks display on Southons Field. Cllrs discussed and agreed for the Deputy Clerk to respond with the terms and conditions. There was also a proposal to change the wording of the Southons Field hiring terms regarding bouncy castles. Cllrs reviewed the wording and agreed to the proposed changes.

There had also been a query regarding cutting a hedge on Southons Field. Cllrs discussed and agreed not to contribute to the cost but that our groundsmen will do the work on the side of Parish Council land.

### **Other Open Space**

#### Machinery for Open Space

The Clerk submitted a report for Cllrs to review regarding the purchasing of new strimmers for the Caretakers. Cllrs discussed and agreed to recommend the purchase the STHIL strimmer for the Cemetery Caretaker. Cllrs deferred the purchase of a strimmer for Southons Field and recommended that the Cemetery Caretaker use the new Cemetery strimmer for this work. Following discussions with the Caretakers, the purchasing of electric machinery would not be fit for purpose.

### **Trees**

#### Monthly Tree Inspections

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

#### Tree Work at the Playing Field

The Deputy Clerk had received a quote for the additional work at the Playing Field. Cllrs agreed. The TPO had been received back from MBC and the contractor will begin work shortly.

**026/25 CEMETERY****Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates**

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

**ICCM Summer Journal**

Cllrs to received the link to the ICCM Summer Journal and a hard copy was available at the meeting. Cllrs noted.

Cllrs would like to extend their thanks to the amazing work the new Caretaker has done at the Cemetery.

**027/25 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK****Public Toilet Issues**

There are no issues to report at this meeting.

**Car Park Issues**

There are no issues to report at this meeting.

**028/25 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS****Environmental Sub-Group**

There were no issues to discuss. The next meeting for the Environmental Sub-Group is Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**029/25 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT****Memorial Hall**

Cllr Newton provided an update following the meeting of the Trustees that took place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July. There will be some ongoing work at the end of July and beginning of August at the ladies toilets. There has been an increase in bookings which has been positive.

**Marden Summer Playscheme**

The Clerk had prepared an update for Cllrs on this year's Summer Playscheme. Cllrs noted.

**030/25 OUTSTANDING ISSUES****Outstanding Issues List**

The Outstanding Issues List had been circulated to Cllrs. The Clerks were awaiting a response from MBC with regard to moving litter bins on the High Street. A response has now been received and MBC have agreed to move a bin from opposite West End Stores to the corner of Albion Road and for a double bin to be installed outside the shops at Church Green.

**031/25 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION**

There were no other Amenities issues for decision.

**032/25 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

The following invoices were put before Cllrs for payment:

P&F Cleaning – Public Conveniences Cleaning - £725.00

Rams Hill – Mower Repairs - £53.00

G Carey – Grounds Maintenance - £366.00

Howlands Electrical – Remove hand dryer from gents cubicle - £65.00

Torcal – Structural Survey – Public Conveniences Building - £500.00

Q Tec – CCTV Annual Maintenance - £126.00

Marden Memorial Hall – Office Rent x 2/refuse x2/hall hire - £752.00  
Viking – Public Conv/Play Scheme Supplies - £121.22  
Paul Waring – S/F and P/F Mowing - £334.50  
Alison Hooker – Play Scheme Supplies, Van Clean, Travel - £273.93  
Castle Water – Public Convenience Water Supply - £27.69  
Castle Water – Cemetery Water Supply - £3.48  
Changing Rooms – C/R Water Supply - £9.26  
Total: £3.357.08  
Cllrs agreed payments and Cllrs Turner and Gibson would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.41.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Dobinson  
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