



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.40PM AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN**

There was an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting that took place prior to this meeting from 7.30pm.

### **061/26 PRESENT**

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

### **062/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Rabot and Summersgill gave their apologies for this meeting. Cllr Gibson who is not on the Amenities Committee also passed on her apologies.

### **063/26 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION**

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

Cllrs Newton, Tippen and Turner declared an interest in item 071/25 (Outside Bodies Reports - Memorial Hall) as Trustees of the Memorial Hall. Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 067/25 (Open Space – Southons Field) as a resident backing onto Southons Field.

There were no requests for dispensation

### **064/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

### **065/26 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **066/26 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT**

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Marden at Christmas was another successful event. A meeting is due to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February when Cllrs will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the day. A short online feedback form has been shared on social media and the e-newsletter for any residents to comment on what is good/bad/could be done better and the responses will be available at the meeting. Local groups/business will be given a form to fill in to get their feedback as well as the stallholders. The tree work at Marden Playing Field was completed on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January and photos were circulated. Cllrs noted.

**067/26 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.

Strategically Important Play Area (SIPA) Funding

Cllrs discussed the response and grant offer from MBC and agreed for the funding to be received before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. This project will be looked at during 2026/2027 and added to projects for 2027/2028 financial year allowing any additional sources of funding to be set aside when discussing the 2027/2028 budget.

**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.

Purchase of a Storage Container

Following the funding agreement at the Finance Committee, Cllrs discussed the purchasing of a storage container and looked at the three quotes obtained by the Clerk. Cllrs agreed for a 20ft container to be purchased in the Spring from Lawrence Containers to replace the metal shed on Southons Field.

Hedging

Cllrs discussed the hedge cutting and agreed for the Clerks to contact a contractor should the parish groundsman be unable to carry out the work.

**Other Open Space**Site Meeting Dates

Cllrs agreed that all of the Site Meetings will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 starting at 9.00am at the Cemetery, then onto Southons Field, Public Toilets and Playing Field.

**Trees**Monthly Tree Inspections

The monthly tree inspections had been received for the Playing Field and Southons Field and no issues were reported. The Clerks are chasing the caretaker on the monthly tree inspection form for the Cemetery. Cllrs noted.

**068/26 CEMETERY****Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates**

There were no burial certificates to sign for this meeting.

**ICCM Journal**

The ICCM Journal link was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and the hard copy was made available at the meeting. Cllrs noted.

**Tree Planting**

Cllr Boswell reported that approximately 500 of the 1,000 hedge saplings from MBC had been planted at the back of the Cemetery adding to the hedge boundary. Cllrs agreed that some of them should be used to fill a gap in the hedge in the new area and the rest to be planted at the Playing Field in the areas that are sparse between Napoleon Drive and Playing Field. Any saplings left over would be offered out to the village.

### **Container Entrance**

Cllrs were asked to consider laying road planings (or similar) down to allow the Caretakers to access the container in all weathers. Cllrs discussed the container entrance and agreed for the Clerks to get some quotes for hard surfacing.

### **Cemetery Rules**

Cllrs discussed the Cemetery Rules wording with regard to dogs being in the Cemetery and agreed to keep the same wording. However, it was agreed that a clearer sign be put in the Cemetery noticeboard and a sign to be staked in front of the gap in the hedge to reflect the same wording to make dog walkers in that area aware.

## **069/26 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK**

### **Public Toilet Issues**

#### Solar Panels

Quotes were received for the structural work and Cllrs were updated on the project by a report circulated by the Clerk. Four contractors had been approached as the original Contractor was now unable to carry out the work, but only two quotes were received. Cllrs discussed and agreed for J Hooker Carpentry to carry out the work.

#### Baby Changing Facilities

Following a request, Cllrs discussed the installation of a flip down baby changing unit in the Ladies Toilet. Cllrs agreed for the Clerks to purchase and arrange for one to be installed.

### **Car Park Issues**

There were no car park issues to report.

## **070/26 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS**

### **Environmental Sub-Group**

#### Next Meeting

The next Sub-Group meeting will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm.

#### Carbon Literacy Training

Cllr Dobinson is attending the training on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### **Green Homes Event**

Cllr Boswell updated Cllrs on the upcoming event, however timings and venue are yet to be confirmed. Once this information was received, it would advertised.

## **071/26 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT**

### **Memorial Hall**

Cllr Tippen reported that the Trustees are working on changing the Constitution to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The Trustees are also hoping to refurbish the kitchen in the summer. There had been a water leak that needs work that they are awaiting a further report on.

### **Youth Issues**

As Cllr Rabot sent his apologies for the meeting, a report was sent to Cllrs which was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed and agreed that a grant application be applied for through the usual channels at Full Council.

**072/26 OUTSTANDING ISSUES****Outstanding Issues List**

There is no update on the Outstanding Issues List for this meeting.

**073/26 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION**Village Litter Pick

Cllrs discussed the date of the next Village Litter Pick and decided on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Marden at Christmas

Cllrs noted that the Post Marden at Christmas meeting was taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**074/26 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

The following invoice was put before Cllrs for payment:

Ian Jones – Locking/Unlocking S/F and Public Conv. – £200.00

Total: £200.00

Cllrs agreed the payment and Cllrs Adam and Turner would authorise on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.45.

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Signed:

Cllr Dobinson

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