



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH
COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 27TH
MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM AT THE ALLENS,
ALBION ROAD, MARDEN**

Cllr Rabot took the meeting for the first item.

001/25 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Boswell proposed, and Cllr Rabot seconded that Cllr Dobinson be elected Chairman for the forthcoming Council year. All Cllrs were in favour. Cllr Dobinson accepted the role of Chairman and took over the remainder of the meeting.

002/25 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Turner proposed, and Cllr Goda seconded that Cllr Boswell be elected Vice Chairman for the forthcoming Council year. All Cllrs were in favour. Cllr Boswell accepted the role of Vice Chairman.

003/25 PRESENT

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

004/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Summersgill and Tippen gave their apologies for this meeting.

005/25 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 009/25 (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 015/25 (Outside Bodies Reports - Memorial Hall).

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

006/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received and accepted, as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 22nd April 2025. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

007/25 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

008/25 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The TPO is about to be applied for by the Clerk for the trees at the Playing Field. The rest of the work on the other trees will be carried out after this has been approved. The CCTV at the Playing Field has now been installed and the Clerk has received the Licence agreements which will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting

in June. The picnic benches have been delivered and so have the chains, ground anchors and padlocks. This has been added to the Caretaker's To Do List and will be installed shortly. The Contractor visited the Playing Field and met with the Clerks and Caretakers. The field was measured and marks were indicated of where the permanent football goal posts will be installed. The Deputy Clerk is seeking quotes for a "Happy to Chat" sign to go on two of the benches at the Playing Field for residents. The list of events currently booked on Southons Field were circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs noted.

009/25 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.

Football Goal Posts

Cllrs discussed whether to invite local junior football teams to use the Playing Field following installation of the permanent junior football goal posts. This was agreed and the Deputy Clerk was asked to approach local teams.

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.

Southons Field Entrance Sign

An example of a new sign indicating all the names of houses on the Southons Field drive was emailed by the resident along with the proposed location for Cllrs to review. Cllrs discussed the sign and location. The sign was accepted and the location agreed. The Deputy Clerk would inform the resident to go ahead.

Other Open Space

Maintenance Action Plans

The maintenance strategy documents were circulated to Cllrs prior to this meeting for the Playing Field, Southons Field and the Cemetery. Cllrs reviewed and agreed with the changes suggested. This would be finalised and given to the Caretakers.

Trees

Monthly Tree Inspections

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

010/25 CEMETERY

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There was one Exclusive Right of Burial Certificate. Cllr Dobinson and Boswell signed this on behalf of the Council.

Request for Burial Outside Boundary

The Clerks had received a request through email from a resident who wished to be buried in Marden Cemetery but they lived outside of the Parish boundary. Cllrs were provided with the location and maps of the resident's home address. It was discussed and decided that providing the resident had

not historically resided at an address within the Marden boundary, the request would be declined by Cllrs. It was also recommended that the Rules of the Cemetery be sent to the resident.

Container Location

The container had been delivered and located at the Cemetery. The Deputy Clerk asked Cllrs to view the container to check whether this was the correct location given that the company who provided it would be prepared to move it. Cllrs discussed and decided that the container remains where it is.

011/25 ALLOTMENTS

There were no updates on Allotments for this meeting.

012/25 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

Public Toilet Issues

Update on Solar Panel Installation

The Clerks had contacted three companies for quotes for the work needed for the Solar Panel Installation. Two had been received and circulated to Cllrs prior to this meeting. It was discussed and Cllrs agreed to one quote in principle. The Cllrs requested that Clerk continues to chase a response from Maidstone Borough Council on the Licence. Cllrs also agreed that Cllr Dobinson would review the current costings for the project.

Car Park Issues

There were no car park issues for this meeting.

013/25 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS

Environmental Sub-Group

The next Environmental Sub-Group meeting will be Tuesday 10th June.

MBC Big Day Out on 14th June

Cllr Boswell updated Cllrs on the Maidstone Borough Council's Big Day Out and Cllrs were informed that the Marden Walking Group will be joining the initiative by creating a special walk.

Retrofit Session

Cllr Boswell informed Cllrs that the Retrofit Session has been organised for Monday 30th June in the Marden Village Club in the evening.

014/25 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received for this meeting.

015/25 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT

Memorial Hall

Cllr Turner reported that there were no major issues other than the Ladies toilets were being refurbished.

016/25 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Outstanding Issues List

The Outstanding Issues List had been circulated to Cllrs prior to this meeting. Cllrs noted.

017/25 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION

There were no Amenities Issues for Decision to be discussed at this meeting.

018/25 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

There were no invoices for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.15.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Dobinson

Chairman, Amenities Committee

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