



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 8.00PM AT THE PARISH OFFICE, MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL, MARDEN

Following a talk from Cheryl Mason of the High Weald Swifts regarding the Swift Survey, the meeting started at 20.28.

103/26 PRESENT

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

104/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Summersgill, Tippen and Turner gave their apologies. Although not an Amenities Committee member, Cllr Gibson gave her apologies for this meeting.

105/26 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs Newton declared an interest in item 113/26 (Outside Bodies Reports - Memorial Hall) as Trustees of the Memorial Hall. Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 109/26 (Open Space – Southons Field) as a resident backing onto Southons Field.

Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

106/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received, and accepted as a true record, the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 24th March 2026. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

107/26 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

108/26 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report was submitted to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk has suggested that installation of the baby changing facilities is delayed until the internal work has been carried out on the Public Toilets. I have tried to contact the Community Payback team but have yet to receive a reply. The Clerk and I installed the reflectors on Thursday 23rd April and we will see how they last before ordering some more. Cllrs noted.

109/26 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.

Changing Rooms Refurbishment

The Deputy Clerk updated Cllrs the tender process has started and the closing date is 5th May. Site meetings are currently be conducted with contractors.

Basket Swing Replacement

Cllrs discussed replacement of the basket swing and looked at costings of an example replacement. Given the low risk of safety to use, Cllrs agreed to delay in replacement for a year. However, the Deputy Clerk will contact the Contractor to see if they have any basket swings in their yard.

Southons FieldPlay 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.

Goal Post on Southons Field

Cllrs discussed options for replacing the goal post and costings. The Deputy Clerk circulated some examples of metal goal posts. Safety was discussed and whether the goal post should be installed into the ground. As there was not an urgent need to replace, the Cllrs asked the Deputy Clerk to discuss further with the Clerk regarding more durable goal posts and to come back with more information at the next Amenities Committee Meeting.

Requests for Storage from Field Users

Requests were received for storage on Southons Field by two field users. Cllrs discussed the area at Southons Field and agreed that the Clerks look at the storage and see if it is big enough to house the items. Cllrs requested that a letter be written stating risk would be taken by the field user and that there will be end date of the storage to be reviewed.

TreesMonthly Tree Inspections

The monthly tree inspections had been received for the Playing Field and Southons Field and no issues were reported. Cllrs noted.

Other Open SpaceMachinery for Village Caretaker

Following further discussions with the Caretaker and the Cemetery Groundsman. This item would be researched further in order for Cllrs to have a proper discussion and make a decision.

Notes of the Amenities Site Meetings

The Notes of the Amenities Site Meetings were circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted.

Caretaker's To Do List

The Caretaker's To Do Lists were circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs noted.

110/26 CEMETERY**Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates**

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

ICCM Journal

The Spring edition of the ICCM Journal was received in time for this meeting and a hard copy was available at the meeting. Cllrs noted.

111/26 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

Public Toilet Issues

Solar Panels

The licence has been signed and sent back to the solicitors. Cllrs agreed at the previous meeting to award the work on the refurbishment of the Public Toilets to J Hooker Carpentry and once confirmation from the solicitors has been received, work can commence. Cllr Goda reported that the electricity provider is being changed to get the best return rate.

Car Park Issues

There were no car issues to report for this meeting.

112/26 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS

Environmental Sub-Group

Next Meeting

The Environmental Sub-Group will be meeting again on 16th June 2026.

113/26 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT

Memorial Hall

Cllr Newton reported that the fire alarm system is going to be changed as it is quite antiquated and the Facilities Manager is now in the process of getting quotes. The velux window controller was found to be damaged is being investigated.

Youth Issues

Cllr Rabot reported that he is still working with the Programme Manager at Kent Cricket Community Trust. They have been looking at dates in May half term and in the August during the Summer holidays. This would be for two days of the Youth Minibus and activities. There would be two youth works and a portable toilet would need to be hired. Golding Homes had been in touch regarding funding assistance. Cllrs discussed and agreed that May half was too soon and that the two dates in August would be better. Cllr Rabot also informed Cllrs that potentially two more dates in October half term could work. Cllrs agreed for Cllr Rabot continue his negotiations regarding the dates in August.

114/26 AMENITIES MEETING ACTION LOG

Meeting Action Log

The action log was updated and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted.

115/26 OTHER AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION / NOTING

Change of Location of Meetings

The Deputy Clerk requested that the Amenities Committee Meetings be moved from The Allens to the Parish Office. Cllrs agreed.

116/26 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

There were no invoices received for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.04.

Date: 26th May 2026

Signed:

Cllr Dobinson
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