



MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST 2026 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 8.45PM

Marden Parish Council operates under General Power of Competence since adopted on 7th May 2024. Minute Reference 012/24.

017/26 PRESENT

Cllrs Boswell, Dobinson, Newton, Rabot (in the Chair), Summersgill, Tippen and Turner. Cllrs Adam and Gibson together with the Clerk were also in attendance.

018/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Goda.

019/26 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs Newton and Tippen declared an interest in item 027/26 as Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall. The Clerk was also a Trustee.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation.

020/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllrs received and accepted as a true record the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2026. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

021/26 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public in attendance.

022/26 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The report had been circulated by the Clerk which gave Cllrs updates on outstanding issues including storage at Southons Field, reflectors on gateway at Morello Path and play/tree inspection reports. The Action Log had also been updated and circulated to Cllrs.

023/26 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Playing Field

Changing Rooms Refurbishment

Cllr Griffiths was in discussion with the architect regarding obtaining new quotes for phased work alongside informing Maidstone Borough Council of the proposals.

OtherTrees

A resident had requested that trees be cut back in Rookery Path/Playing Field as overhanging the property. The Clerk reported that some of the trees may be covered by TPOs. It was agreed to view these at the next site meeting.

Playing Field Vehicle Gate

For information: The Clerk reported that the padlock to the vehicle gate had been changed to a combination one for emergency use. Several Cllrs who lived nearby, along with the manager of Rookery Court, had been given the code for access if required. It was agreed that once the Resilience Planning mobile had been set up this number would be advertised.

Strategically Important Play Areas (SIPA) Funding

Cllrs discussed options for the grant funding available following a submission made to Maidstone Borough Council. A grant of £5,000 was available for equipment at Marden Playing Field and it was proposed to view and discuss at the site meeting.

Other

The Clerk was due to install the reflectors on Morello Path gateway shortly.

Southons FieldGoals

Cllrs received details of quotes received for replacement goals at Southons Field. Cllrs agreed to purchase a like for like goal and the joints taped to give more support.

Other Issues

Anti-social behaviour had been reported by Cllr Boswell around the boundary and access was being made from the BT Telephone Exchange. It had been reported to 101 and the local Beat Officers had been informed to check locations when in the area.

Storage at pavilion had been rearranged to accommodate equipment from the two main users of the Southons Field.

Other Open Space Issues

Cllrs agreed for 15th September starting at 9am at the cemetery.

Maintenance Strategies

Cllrs reviewed the maintenance strategies for all areas of open space. A couple of changes were discussed. The Clerk would update and provide copies to the caretakers.

024/26 CEMETERY**Cemetery Issues**

Cllrs agreed to consider the management of the additional trees at the Cemetery site meeting and for the information to be added to the Management Policy.

Cllr Summersgill proposed that the external tree audit be undertaken every 18 months rather than every 3 years. It was agreed that this would be undertaken in the Autumn 2026. The Clerk would contact the tree surgeon to arrange a date.

Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates

There were no Exclusive Right of Burial certificates to sign.

Other

ICCM Journal for noting

025/26 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK**Public Toilet Issues**Solar Panels

The licence had now been completed and received. Cllr Griffiths was due to contact the contractors to arrange a start date for the structural work and installation of the solar panels.

Car Park Issues

No issues were raised for the car park.

026/26 AMENITIES SUB-GROUPS**Environmental Sub-Group**Next Meeting

The Environmental Sub-Group meeting was cancelled on 18th August. Cllrs to consider meeting during the daytime rather than an evening meeting. Dates would be circulated for agreement.

Estate Management Plan

Cllrs agreed to defer the Estate Management Plan to the next Environmental Sub-Group meeting.

Village Events Sub-GroupMarden at Christmas

Cllrs noted that the next meeting to discuss Marden at Christmas will be 17th September.

Play Scheme Sub-Group

Cllrs received a report following the end of Summer Play Scheme. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Dobinson and Tippen for helping to pack away at the end of the scheme and to the Clerk for the work she had put in to make this a success.

027/26 MARDEN MEMORIAL HALL REPORT

Cllrs Tippen provided an update following the Memorial Hall meeting held on 20th July. The fire alarm system was being replaced, and it was reported that if there were no bookings at weekends the car park would be blocked off to prevent unauthorised parking.

028/26 AMENITIES ISSUES FOR DECISION / NOTING**Young People**

Cllr Rabot gave an update following the event organised by Golding Homes at Marden Playing Field. It was hoped that further events would be held next year.

Community Pay Back Team

Cllrs would view the locations when holding the site meetings to see if there were any thing that could be undertaken by the Pay Back Team.

029/26 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

The following invoices were due for payment:

Alison Hooker: Miscellaneous office supplies (Budget codes: 4076) £17.40

Ian Jones: Locking/Unlocking Southons Field and Toilets (Budget codes: 4222 / 4328) £200.00

Marden Scout Group: Hire of Scouts HQ for Play Scheme (Budget Code: 4215) £250.00

P&F Cleaning: August toilet cleaning (Budget Code: 4326) £775.00

Castle Water: Toilet water supply (Budget Code: 4327) £77.68

Total: £1,320.08

Cllrs agreed invoices and Cllrs Dobinson and Tippen authorised on Unity.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.40.

Date: 22nd September 2026

Signed:

Cllr Adrian Rabot

Chairman, Amenities Committee

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