



**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
25TH APRIL 2017 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

- Min No**
- 143/17 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Cowin, Harvey, Newton, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. The Clerk was also in attendance.
- 144/17 **APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received.
- 145/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 148/17(a)(ii) as property adjoins the field.
Cllrs Newton and Tippen declared an interest in item 152/17 as Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall.
- GRANTING OF DISPENSATION:** There were no requests for dispensation.
- 146/17 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 147/17 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 148/17 **SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS**
- (a) **Open Space**
- (i) **Playing Field**
- Play Inspection Reports: The monthly report had been received from Maidstone Borough Council. There was still an issue with the seesaw on the list but this had been repaired by Park Leisure. As the Village Caretaker had resigned the Assistant Clerk would undertake the play inspections for the Parish Council until a new Caretaker was in place and trained.
- Other Playing Field Issues:
- Grounds maintenance: Cllr Newton had agreed to assist with mowing of the playing field for the time being and Cllrs thanked him for his help.
- Litter picking: Ian Jones was litter picking the play areas and emptying the bins on a Monday each week and the Clerk/Cllr Tippen would look to litter pick at the end of the week. The Clerk had contacted other Clerks to see if they use a company to do this.
- Other Litter: Unfortunately there was an enormous amount of litter again in the ditch at the far end of the field. Cllr Tippen asked the Clerk to set up another meeting with Millwood to discuss what could be done.
- (ii) **Southons Field**
- Play Trail Inspection Reports: As the Village Caretaker had resigned the Assistant Clerk would undertake the play inspections for the Parish Council until a new Caretaker was in place and trained.
- Cheque for Gatekeeper (to include payment for public conv. locking): Cheque was signed
- Fees for Hourly Hire of Field: Although this was not a regular request it was agreed that something should be put in place for hourly rates. It was discussed, and agreed, that a fee of £15 per hour would be set.

Bandstand: Cllr Newton had raised this item after being in a conversation with Marden Theatre Group. Cllrs agreed that this may be possible and would look into costings etc. It was also agreed that a "wish list" for Southons Field would be added to the Open Space Action Plan, similar to that of the playing field.

Other Southons Field issues:

Cllr Newton had agreed to assist with mowing of Southons Field for the time being and Cllrs thanked him for his help.

The litter bin needed emptying

There are a lot of rabbit holes so it was agreed for several Cllrs to meet and fill with soil.

(iii) Other Open Space

Open Space Action Plan: To be updated with Southons Field "wish list"

(iv) Trees

Tree Inspection Report: The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for a tree audit of all Parish owned trees.

(b) Cemetery

Cemetery Issues:

Cllr Newton would look at repositioning the circular bench.

South and South East in Bloom judges would be visiting the cemetery on 6th July

Dog signs had been ordered and were ready for collection. Cllr Newton would collect.

149/17 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

(a) Public Convenience Issues:

The gents flush had been repaired. The company who undertook the work would be asked to visit and look at the urinal and cisterniser.

Cllr Robertson raised concern over the paving slabs to the side of the library. An elderly person had tripped and fallen. The Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways.

150/17 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received

151/17 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

(a) Stilebridge: The transfer was due to take place on 1st April. A meeting with Borough Councillors was arranged for 27th April and this would be raised.

(b) Play Scheme: The majority of staff were in place and Jordan Manley had agreed to be the Scheme Manager this year. One of her proposals is to have a trip to the Rare Breeds Centre at Woodchurch. Costings had been obtained for both the Centre and coach and Cllrs agreed that a small contribution from parents would be asked for.

152/17 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April were available at the meeting. The new kitchen had been installed but there were still a few things to complete, a skip had been delivered to dispose of the old units, an interim Health and Safety report had been received. The next meeting will be held once the full Health and Safety report had been finalised.

Youth: Nothing to report.

153/17 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

(a) Update from Action list: Up to date list had been circulated to Cllrs but most of the items had been covered in these minutes.

154/17 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

- (a)** Bank Mandate. Due to the resignation of the village caretaker from 18th May his salary standing order needed to be cancelled. A letter was signed by three Cllrs which would be sent to Nat West cancelling the standing order from end of April. The salary payment for May, until leaving date, would be via cheque.

155/17 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**156/17 INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:**

No invoices were presented.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:.....
Chairman, Amenities Committee
Marden Parish Council

Date: 30th May 2017