



**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
28TH FEBRUARY 2017 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD,
MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

- Min No**
- 115/17 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Adam, Boswell, Cowin, Harvey, Newton, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. The Clerk was also in attendance.
- 116/17 **APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies
- 117/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 120(a)(ii) as a neighbouring resident to Southons Field. Cllr Newton declared an interest in item 124/17 as a Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.
- GRANTING OF DISPENSATION:** there were no requests for dispensation.
- 118/17 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 119/17 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** there were no members of the public in attendance.
- 120/17 **SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS**
(a) **Open Space**
(i) **Playing Field**
Play Inspection Reports: Reports had been received from MPC Caretaker and MBC and items noted.
Changing Rooms: The Football Club had reported a problem with one of the showers and the Clerk would contact a local plumber to investigate this.
Grounds maintenance: Both Napoleon Drive open space vegetation and the majority at the far end of the playing field. Cllr Tippen gave a report at the meeting on the work Millwood undertook on land between Stanley Farms and the playing field – a lot of the trees had been cut down to about 5 foot but it was agreed to ask the caretaker to lower these slightly and look to plant hedging in the Autumn. A litter bin would be purchased from the Community Warden for this area.
Under 5s Play Equipment consultation: This was on held on the 27th February and the Assistant Clerk had circulated an analysis of the responses received. Cllrs Boswell, Robertson and Tippen will be meeting on 6th March to discuss the outcome and put forward a proposal to the March Full Council meeting.
There was a comment made by some residents over the possible positioning of the Adult Gym – Cllr Tippen proposed that a letter be sent to residents of Napoleon Drive of what has currently been done and what is proposed with the play equipment. Mention of the suggested inclusion of an adult gym in the area would also be included.
Rocking Horse and other play equipment: problems continued to be reported in regard to the Rocking Horse. The Clerk would contact engineering companies to see what can be done to stop it moving. An update from supplier regarding swing basket and see saw had been received and Park Leisure are looking into repairing the two items of equipment.

(ii) Southons Field

Play Trail Inspection Reports: The report was still awaited from the MPC caretaker.
Cheque for Gatekeeper: (to include payment for public conv. locking). This was agreed and signed.

Purchase of new shed/garage: Agreement had been made at a previous Finance Committee for purchase of shed/garage however after a discussion it was proposed to look at other options before making a decision.

Other:

Outside theatre: This had previously been booked for hiring of Southons Field on 3rd June however there is a large party arranged elsewhere in the village and the hirer felt this may be detrimental to their event. A further date of 27th July had been suggested and there was no problem with moving to this however the Clerk would inform the hirer that a Temporary Events Notice would need to be obtained.

Outstanding Maintenance: There were several items of maintenance to still be undertaken. Cllr Boswell and the Clerk would visit the site next week to list what is outstanding and these would be raised with the caretaker.

Running/walking path around field: A resident had contacted the Parish Office with a suggestion of this. It was noted and the Clerk had responded to say that Cllrs had also looked at something similar at the playing field.

Family Fun Day: Several residents had come forward to ask if they could arrange a family fun day on 17th June, as the Musical Picnic in the Park was not going ahead this year. Cllrs had no issue with this and when further details were available they would discuss further.

(iii) Other Open Space**(iv) Trees**

Tree Inspection Report Report received from MPC Caretaker. The Clerk was asked to contact the caretaker asking for written reports if checks were made following high winds etc.

Tree in High Street: Kent Highways had expanded the tree pit, the London Plane will be removed and replanted in Southons Field. The stump is to be removed and two new Sorbus Shearwater Seedlings will be planted in the tree pits.

Cllr Adam asked what was happening with the tree stumps at Jewell Grove. It was understood that this area was owned by Kent Highways and they had arranged for the trees to be cut down. Contact would be made with Kent Highways to see if the tree stumps could be reduced slightly and if permission given the Clerk would arrange for the caretaker to undertake the work.

Parish Council owned trees: The Clerk had still received no response from Tree Officer regarding application and had contacted the Borough Councillors for their assistance.

Other: A local resident has contacted the Parish Office interested in becoming the parish tree warden. The Hadlow Tree Warden was telephoned and would speak to the resident.

(b) Cemetery

New Area – drainage and preparation of borders The Clerk contacting companies for drainage costs and Cllr Boswell and the Clerk would visit the cemetery next week to review the situation. The Clerk advised Cllrs to consider larger plots in the new section and would obtain details regarding this.

South East in Bloom application: The application had been submitted and judging will take place end of June/beginning of July

121/18 PUBLIC TOILETS

(a) Anti-social behaviour: No anti-social behaviour had been reported

(b) Other issues: There were several urgent items of maintenance which required attention and the Caretaker is aware of these.

122/17 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received

123/17 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

- (a) **Stilebridge:** Update. A report from a MBC meeting had been obtained giving details of rent increases to residents. Cllrs Boswell and Cowin to deliver the newsletters later next week.
- (b) **Christmas:** Update Minutes from meeting held on 21st February had been circulated to all Councillors and village organisations. The format will remain the same as 2016 and will be held on 9th December. A suggestion of several "older elves" being present in the village the week before to hand out leaflets was made and this would be discussed at the next Christmas meeting.
- (c) **Litter pick:** This will be held on Saturday 18th March 2017 and posters have been placed around the village. Cllrs Boswell, the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk have met to discuss the day and the Assistant Clerk will be working on the 18th as the Clerk is away.

124/17 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: Next meeting AGM on 13th March 2017. Cllr Tippen had send a letter to the Trustees regarding the amount of work still being undertaken by the Clerk and asked for this to be raised at their next Committee meeting.

Youth: Nothing to report.

125/17 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- (a) Update from Action list: The action list had been circulated to Cllrs and the Chairman raised a couple of issues which were still being dealt with.

126/17 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

- (a) **KCC – Freight Consultation:** This had been deferred from Full Council and was completed by Cllrs at this meeting. The Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council.
- (b) **Road Crossing consultation:** MBC has consulted the pre-school, primary school and children's centre regarding the proposal to refurbish/upgrade the zebra crossing. A meeting was held today with Kent Highways in relation to this and highway conditions of the housing developments. The closing date for the consultation is 2nd March.

127/17 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- (a) **KALC Communication & Media Conference** – notes circulated
- (b) **Project Initiation Document** – details provided by Cllr Boswell and content noted.
- (c) **Other:**
 Site Meetings for Cemetery, Southons Field, Public Conveniences and Playing Field would be held on 25th March. Times would be confirmed by the Clerk.
 Cllr Cowin asked what the update was regarding grounds maintenance of Lucks Way Open Space and Sovereigns Way street name plate. The Clerk would chase MBC regarding both of these.
 Cllr Adam informed the meeting that the car park sign had been changed and that the phone box at the bottom of Church Hill had been removed. The Clerk would try to obtain details of this removal.
 Cllr Adam raised the issue of irresponsible parking of vehicles at the weekend in Merchant Place. It was believed that these vehicles belonged to the football players and the Clerk was asked to contact the Club to ensure that visiting teams be told to use the car park, the post code would also be provided for passing on to players.
 Cllr Tippen would report to the Planning Committee following the meeting with Jones Homes.

128/17 **INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:**
There were no other cheques to sign.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.37

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

Date: 28th March 2017

Agreed 28th March 2017