



**AGREED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 28TH JUNE 2022 HELD AT 7.30PM AT
THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD**

021/22 PRESENT

Cllrs Barker, Besant, Boswell (as Chair), Robertson, Newton (arrived late), Tippen and Turner were present. Cllrs Adam, Gibson and the Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

022/22 APOLOGIES

Cllr Stevens sent his apologies.

023/22 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 027/22 (Southons Field) as a resident backing onto the field; Cllr Tippen declared an interest in item 034/22 as a Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation for any item on this agenda.

024/22 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record by Cllr Boswell as Chair.

025/22 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was one member of the public present who wished to discuss item 30/22 Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity (ii) Date of Inaugural Meeting. The Chairman proposed, and all agreed, that this item be brought forward to the beginning of the meeting.

Cllr Newton arrived at 19.33.

030/22 CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY

(i) Water Bottle Refill Station – Further Quotes

The Deputy Clerk shared with Cllrs prior to the meeting some costings and examples of water bottle refill stations as requested from the last Amenities Committee meeting. Cllrs discussed and requested that the Deputy Clerk creates a spreadsheet with comparable costs and installation information. Cllr Barker raised that perhaps just a push top tap and drain would suffice and agreed to research this idea and return to the next Amenities Committee meeting with further information. Cllrs also requested that this project be added to Infrastructure Spend Plan.

(ii) Date of Inaugural Meeting

The member of the public raised the email they had sent to the Deputy Clerk regarding Hedgehogs in the village. The Deputy Clerk had explained prior to the meeting by email that as there was no agenda item for this subject on this agenda, the relevant meeting for this to be discussed was the Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Sub-Group which was in the process of being set up. The suggested date for the inaugural meeting of the Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Sub-Group would be Tuesday 5th July at 6.30pm prior to the Planning Committee meeting. Cllrs agreed the date. This meeting would be for Cllrs to create Terms of Reference and appropriate policies. The next meeting of the Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Sub-Group would be agreed at the inaugural meeting and the member of the

public would be invited to join. Cllrs also gave information of the Marden Wildlife group and a resident who was monitoring the hedgehog movements in the village.

026/22 DEPUTY CLERK REPORT

The Deputy Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting to Cllrs. The Deputy Clerk had chased the contractor about the outstanding issues raised at the site meeting. A quote had been received for the wet pour from the contractor and Cllr Turner requested this be put on the next Full Council Meeting agenda for a decision to be made. The Clerk had been chasing the management company for The Parsonage regarding the tree at the bottom of the Playing Field about a start date for works on removing the large branch. The Community Protection Team have offered to get involved to help move things along quicker. The Clerk had received an email from Golding Homes letting us know that the power supply is not there yet for the CCTV and that they are in the process of trying to sort out permissions and licencing which is currently with Golding Homes at the moment. When in place, they will confirm the date for the power to be laid on. We have yet to sign the Community Payback contract as we have been checking our insurance to make sure it covers service users when they are working on our behalf. The insurance company has responded and the Deputy Clerk will discuss this further with the Clerk. The Cemetery Pathway Signage is yet to be ordered and the Deputy Clerk will get onto this. Due to the Clerk being away on annual leave and having to edit the Parish Newsletter, the Clerks have not looked into quotes for the on-demand heating of the showers and decommission of the old water heating system. Cllrs recommended this be added to the Full Council Meeting agenda and the actions from the notes of the football changing room meeting be circulated and a meeting be set up. The Clerk has received a response from Kent Men of Trees. They will not be running the competition this year but intend to relaunch it next year in a revamped form. It is likely to be by invitation only so that they can control the number of entrants given the limited number of judges they have. They will make sure that Marden is in the list they invite next year. Cllrs noted.

027/22 OPEN SPACE

Playing Field

(i) Play Inspection Reports from MBC and MPC

The Deputy Clerk reported that due to the Caretaker's long term absence, both herself and the Admin Assistant had conducted two Play Inspection Reports on the Playing Field (these need to be conducted weekly). Cllrs thanked the Admin Assistant and Deputy Clerk for carrying out this additional work. There were issues at the Playing Field of the missing replacement bench at Napoleon Drive and some wire that was poking out of the rope net on the multi-play in the Playing Field play area (this was remedied with gaffa tape). There had also been a Maidstone Borough Council monthly inspection received with the same reported issues as last month which are low risk. The contractor had been contacted again to fix these. The Clerks would also ask the contractor to install the new bench at Napoleon Drive play area.

(ii) Other Playing Field Issues

No other Playing Field issues were raised.

Southons Field

(i) Play Trail Inspection Report from MPC.

As reported above, the Deputy Clerk and Admin Assistant had conducted two Playing Inspections at Southons Field for the play trail and swings. The play trail had some loose posts which the Clerks will look at and the matting underneath the swing had come loose and the Clerks will contact the contractor to fix. The contractor would be asked to assist with fixing the matting underneath the swing.

(ii) Events on Southons Field.

The events for Southons Field were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs noted. Cllrs agreed to the request from the Marden Bowls Club regarding a donation of a no parking fee for their charity day.

(iii) Other Southons Field Issues

- (a) Old Picnic Benches. Cllrs discussed the two old picnic benches that were in disrepair at Southons Field due to age and being dragged around the field. Cllrs agreed for these to be removed and in principle to purchase two picnic benches like the others and requested the Deputy Clerk to investigate with the same company that the new picnic benches were purchased from. Cllrs also requested the Deputy Clerk discuss with the Clerk regarding what capital budget this should be spent from.
- (b) Southons Field Wooden Gates. Cllr Boswell shared Cllrs photos of the state of the gates which are now in a very poor state. Cllr Tippen recommended that neighbouring residents should be consulted. Cllrs suggested the Deputy Clerk look into more robust examples of wooden and metal 5 bar gates and also vertical infill gates with costings. Cllr Newton would review the current gates and make safe any sharp edges/nails.
- (c) Security of Pavilion and Shed. The door of pavilion has been fixed and Cllrs thanked a local resident for his work. Cllr Newton raised that the metal shed could have a barrier fixed and asked the Deputy Clerk to speak to the contractor. Cllr Tippen reported that a resident had said that youths had been climbing on the pavilion roof and asked for some signage to put up to state "No Climbing". Cllr Tippen reported that there had been anti-social behaviour at an event on Southons Field and this had been reported to Kent Police.

Other Open Space

(i) Open Space Action Plan.

There were no changes to the Open Space Action Plan since the last Amenities meeting.

Trees

- (i) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Rose/Tree. Cllr Boswell raised that she had found a Commemorative Rose in a newspaper and proposed this would be a good thing for the Parish Council to remember the occasion by. Cllrs discussed but proposed that a tree would be better and that one of the trees in Cllr Besant's proposal below at Trees (ii) would suffice and to have a plaque for it at the Playing Field.
- (ii) Rookery and Recreation Ground Trees at Playing Field. Cllr Boswell reported that following the Finance Committee meeting the amount of £785.53 had been agreed for purchasing more trees for the Playing Field. The next step is for Cllr Besant to seek further quotes regarding this project from local companies and report back at the September Amenities Committee meeting.

028/22 CEMETERY

(i) Other Cemetery Issues

- (a) Tree at Cemetery. Cllrs viewed a photo of the tree that was looking a bit poorly at the Amenities Site Meeting but now in leaf was looking much more healthy. Cllrs agreed to monitor.
- (b) Working Party for Cremated Remains Area – Removal of Heathers. Cllrs viewed a photo of the heathers around the cremated remains area, some of which had grown so big the memorial stones could not be seen. Cllrs agreed that a working party needs to meet in the Autumn to review and cut them back.
- (c) Cllr Boswell would like the Scattering of the Ashes section to be put on the next Amenities Committee meeting agenda for discussion.

Cllrs thanks Cllr Tippen and her husband for their work on the rose bushes.

029/22 PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

Public Toilet Issues

There were no new issues to report. It had previously been discussed about the possibility of an Electrical Charging point at the Library car park. Cllrs asked the Clerks to add this to the next Borough Councillor meeting agenda to see if they could tap into any funds as MBC own the building/car park and to check if this was added on the Infrastructure Spend Plan.

Car Park Issues

- (a) Commuter Parking Increase – Email from Resident. An email had been received from a resident raising the issue of an increase of parking at the Library car park by commuters. Cllrs discussed and Cllr Tippen recommended that a meeting with MBC to discuss this issue be organised by the Clerks and Cllrs agreed.

The member of the public left at 20.32.

031/22 CORRESPONDENCE

There had been no correspondence received for this meeting.

032/22 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

There were no issues raised under this item.

033/22 ACTION GROUPS REPORTS

Village Events

(i) Festive Lighting 2022 – Survey Results.

Cllr Tippen reported from the Village Events Sub-Group meeting, the results of the Festive Lighting 2022 survey. It showed that most votes from residents went for Option 1 of sparkling pea lights wraparound garland style on lampposts. Cllrs agreed for the Deputy Clerk to press ahead with contacting the contractor and starting the process of having them ready for Christmas 2022.

(ii) Marden Summer Playscheme

Cllr Boswell reported that spaces are filling up. Everything is in hand and whilst they are a leader down, they are within ratio. If any Cllr would like to visit the Playscheme they are more than welcome to pop along.

034/22 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall.

Cllr Tippen reported that they are ready to go ahead on the refurbishment of the children's toilets and there is a skip in the car park where the Pre-School are having a clear out.

Youth

Cllr Boswell reported that the KCC Youth Leader had emailed stating the group didn't take off for whatever reason so they are currently undertaking detached work in Marden. They have started a group in Staplehurst which on the second week they retained all those who attended the first week and then gained a few more but this is not intended to replace the group in Marden. They fully intend to deliver a group in Marden and have a space young people can come, if young people from Marden come to the Staplehurst group then they will take those and plant the group in Marden. He requested a representative from Marden Parish Council to attend a meeting to discuss this further and Cllrs agreed for a representative to attend.

The KCC Youth Leader also offered to assist with a proposed graffiti project at the Youth Shelter and this would be discussed further.

035/22 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Update from To Do List.

Due to the long term absence of the Caretaker, the Clerks had reviewed the To Do List to ascertain whether there were any urgent jobs that needed to be dealt with.

036/22 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

There were no issues for decision for this meeting.

037/22 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

There were no issues for discussion or information for this meeting.

038/22 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

There were no invoices for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Anne Boswell Chairman, Amenities Committee

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