



**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
24TH NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Min No

- 074/15 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Brown, Reed, Robertson, Tippen and Turner. Cllr Adam and the Clerk were also in attendance.
- 075/15 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Boswell gave her apologies.
In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Tippen took the chair.
- 076/15 **(a) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Reed declared an interest regarding item 083/15 as trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.
(b) GRANTING OF DISPENSATION: There were no requests for dispensation
- 077/15 **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 078/15 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING:** There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 079/15 **SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS**
- (a) Open Space**
- (i) Playing Field**
Play Inspection Reports: The Annual inspection of the play equipment had been received. Overall inspection was low risk however there were a couple of issues which the Clerk would raise with Park Leisure.
19:40 Cllr Adam arrived
Changing Rooms: As there will not be a December Amenities meeting it was proposed to invite MMFC representatives to the January meeting.
Other issues:
The Clerk was asked to write to the Football Club regarding parking and litter around the pitch at matches.
- (ii) Southons Field**
Cheque for Gatekeeper (to include payment for public conv. locking) – cheque agreed and signed
Other issues: Two requests for the use of the field for 2016 and 2017 had been received, one for a renewal of vows and one for a wedding reception. Further information was required before a decision is made.
The Clerk to speak to Cllr Newton regarding the litter bin.
- (iii) Other Open Space**
Napoleon Drive: Transfer document – Clarification had been received from the Solicitors regarding a couple of issues which Cllrs had raised at Full Council. All questions had been answers and the document could be signed but was needed to be done with a member of the public being witness. This would therefore be taken to Full council.
Tree Inspection Reports: Kent Men of Trees had sent the report for 2015 and Marden was voted to be the best "treed" village. A cheque for £30 was received along with a voucher for a further £25 to be spent on a tree. As a replacement tree was needed for Rookery Path the prize money would be used for that. A copy of the report would be sent to all other land owners where the trees were judge.
Other issues: No other issues were raised.
- (b) Cemetery**
New section: Unfortunately rabbits were eating the new plants in this section and the heathers in the cremated remains area. Wire mesh was being used to try to deter them.
Other issues: Rabbit proof fencing to be erected around the northern corner of the

cemetery.

Biffa Contract – The contract does not expire until August 2016 however as the cemetery waste is classed as “general” the Parish Council should not have to abide by the new recycling regulations put in by Biffa.

Letter regarding additional items on a grave. A response had received from next of kin in relation to additional memorial stones being on their grave. Cllrs were totally opposed to this additional stone, and a further one had been placed since the letter was sent out. Cllrs therefore asked the Clerk to write to the Exclusive Right of Burial owner to state that these are not permitted and must be removed by 15th January.

080/15 PUBLIC TOILETS

(a) Anti-social behaviour: No issues

(b) Cleaning: No issues

(c) CCTV: The Clerk was still awaiting response from company. Cllrs were not prepared to continue with this and requested that the Clerk write to the company to state that Cllrs do not wish to have any further correspondence with them and to state that 28 days will be given and if no response received they will accept that the contract is void.

(d) Other issues: The lighting outside of the toilets were still on when toilets closed. The Clerk to speak to an electrician to investigate the problem.

081/15 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence has been received other than listed on items within this agenda.

082/15 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

(a) **Stilebridge:** Update: Newsletters due to be delivered. Issues regarding the way KCC received the residents’ water rates. Residents advised to speak to Citizens Advice Bureau.

(b) **Christmas:** Update – All plans were in place and the Assistant Clerk had sent out a list of roles for the day for Cllrs to complete.

083/15 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: Update from Hall meeting held 2nd November - Minutes were available at the meeting. A snagging meeting was held earlier today regarding the hall roof completion and there were a couple of issues which are being addressed.

Youth: New weekly drop in sessions are being planned for Friday afternoons for youths once staffing can be confirmed.

084/15 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

(a) Update from Action list: The Chairman went through the list but most items had been addressed in the meeting.

085/15 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

S106 contributions - The Clerk attended a meeting at MBC regarding S106 contributions on 17th November and notes of this had been circulated. A response was awaited from MBC regarding clarification of Marden Playing Fields.

086/15 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

The Clerk to chase MBC regarding the removal of the clothing bank in the car park.

The Clerk to check that the recycling sign had been removed from opposite the library.

087/15 INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:

One cheque was agreed and signed:

No. 5329 – R Underdown – undertake PAT Testing of all Christmas lights and trees - £250.

Signed:

Date: 26th January 2016

Chairman, Marden Parish Council Amenities Committee