



MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
26TH APRIL 2016 IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN
COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Min
No

- 130/16 PRESENT: Cllrs Boswell, Reed, Robertson and Turner were in attendance. Cllr Cowin along with the Clerk and Mira Martin, Community Warden were also present.
- 131/16 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Brown and Tippen gave their apologies. The representatives of Marden Minors also gave their apologies.
- 132/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Boswell declared an interest in item 136/16(a)(ii). Cllr Reed declared an interest in item 139/16(a)(i) as a Trustee of Marden Memorial Hall.

GRANTING OF DISPENSATION: There were no requests for dispensation.

- 133/16 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 134/16 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Community Warden may speak on a couple of items if relevant.
- 135/16 SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS
- (a) Open Space
- (i) Playing Field
- Play Inspection Reports: The Assistant Clerk has contacted Park Leisure to report a couple of issues and was waiting to hear back. The rocking horse is still causing a concern and the Clerk was investigating companies to rectify the problem.
- Changing Rooms: The Chairman of MMFC had sent his apologies along with an update of the current situation with teams. He is hoping that these issues can be resolved by the beginning of next season. Village caretaker has made comment on whether a scaffolding pole (or similar) could be erected below the hanging tiles which may stop some of the damage when footballs are kicked up against the wall. Cllr Turner would look at the building to see what the best solution would be. In the interim the village caretaker would be asked to replace with any tiles that we still have.
- Other issues:
- CCTV/Cameras: A commando socket for the mobile CCTV on a building at Rookery Court is in the region of £150 + VAT. Alan Hunter of Maidstone Safety Unit has suggested MPC consider wildlife cameras and this would be discussed in more detail if permission is not given for erecting a camera on a building. An email had been received from the Management Company of Rookery Court requesting more information and the Parish Council agreed in principle to fund the cost of installation and the possibility of funding the electricity for one financial year with the understanding that the management company budget these costs into future years' service charges.
- Litter: some of the area had been cleared up but Cllr Boswell and the Clerk had visited the site and there was still some evidence of rubbish. The Clerk had contacted both developers for The Parsonage and Stanley Farm sites – Redrow had fenced off their site and Millwood were in the process of doing the same. The Community Warden had spoken to a couple of youths who had been found throwing eggs etc and has involved them in a litter pick around this area.

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Dog Fouling - MBC have sent some posters over to erect on posts around the field which have been passed to the village caretaker.
Cllrs agreed to proceed with the resurfacing of the footpath adjacent to The Chestnuts area.

(ii) Southons Field

Cheque for Gatekeeper (to include payment for public conv. locking) – agreed and signed.

Access Road – Easement/Right of Way. Further to conversations held with the Clerk and a previous owner and current resident it seems that all properties have right of way across the drive and would be required to pay a percentage of the costs for repair/resurfacing of the drive. The Clerk was asked to contact the contractor to commence work and to write to all residents for 20% contribution each.

Premises Licence: The application licence was currently being drafted by the Licensing Authority and once this had been received the Committee would then discuss whether amendments needed to be made to the terms and conditions.

Other issues:

Provision of Toddler Seats and Tables and litter bins. Cllr Boswell had contact with a tree surgeon who was able to provide logs etc and Cllrs agreed for this to proceed and for the Clerk to purchase a litter bin.

There is a problem with rabbits and a large amount of holes are appearing. The Clerk would arrange for a sign to be erected as a disclaimer for people using the field to be wary of rabbit holes and to look into possible ways of reducing the problem.

The community chest has a set of goals which could be put out for general use. This was agreed by Cllrs to have as a trial for erecting on the field for use by all. Cllr Boswell reported that the caretaker had planted hawthorns along the hedgerow boundary where gaps had appeared and confirmed a Sweet Chestnut was dead and would need to be removed.

At the picnic held on Saturday the Fire Appliance got stuck in the bottom section of the field. Unfortunately this caused a lot of ruts which need to be rolled out. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a contractor to undertake this and to speak to the Fire Service regarding reimbursement. With this in mind a plan of the field would be provided to all hirers which detailed where items such as heavy vehicles, toilets etc should be placed.

(iii) Other Open Space

Napoleon Drive: Maintenance. Cllrs proposed that the village caretaker take over the grounds maintenance of the open space. The Clerk would write to the current contractor informing him of this but stating that the Parish Council would still want his services for the maintenance of the hedges.

Tree Inspection Reports: There was a couple of trees which needed attention and the Clerk would speak with the village caretaker to undertake the work.

Ownership of Rookery Path: Ownership of the path had been discussed with a previous Parish Councillor who explained the history and suggested to the Parish Council that the owner had given right of way via letter dated June 1990 and he considered what the Parish Council was proposing to do would be beneficial to the village. The Parish Cllrs agreed to proceed with the work.

Tree in High Street: Meeting was held on 13th April regarding the High Street tree and Cllr Boswell reported to the Cllrs the outcome of this meeting where Kent Highways stated that the tree was in fact dead. As it was in a conservation area, Kent Highways would remove, dig a new pit and plant a new tree in the Autumn. The Clerk was asked to contact Claire Chewter of Kent Highways and Roger Butler to discuss the correct replacement tree. The Rookery Path tree which needed to be replaced could be provided by Golden Hill in the Autumn and Cllrs agreed to

proceed.

Other issues:

The Cockpit Play Area and feedback from meeting at Children's Centre: Cllr Boswell had provided a report prior to Amenities meeting and had put together a timeline for the Children's Centre and Helen Grant. MBC had published a report regarding Open Spaces and Parks that the play area would be removed as it was within 10 minute walk of the main playing field. The Assistant Clerk had received a telephone call from Borough Councillor Steve McLoughlin confirming this and a letter should be on its way with this in writing. Cllr Turner asked if the Parish Council could consider what options were available including (a) the play area closes; (b) Helen Grant is able to turn MBC around to keep it open; or (c) MPC considers the possibility of taking it over if costings were available from MBC. Once the letter has been received and the Clerk has discussed the S106 contributions further with MBC the Amenities Committee would review the situation again.

(b) Cemetery

New section: This area still needs to be plotted and dug. A date for early Autumn would be made to meet at the cemetery and design.

Other issues:

The Clerk had written back to the Cathedral Archives regarding the consecrated areas of the cemetery and was awaiting a response. The Clerk was also attending a burial training event in July so the question of consecration would be raised.

The memorial stone that had been placed on the grave illegally had tried to be removed by Cllrs but unfortunately this could not be done due to the weight of the stone. The Cllrs then discussed the other options available. The Clerk was asked to contact stone masons to enquire how much it would cost to remove the stone. The Clerk would also write to the next of kin advising them of the situation.

136/16 PUBLIC TOILETS

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

(b) Cleaning: There had been no cleaning issues raised.

(c) CCTV: The mobile camera from Maidstone Safety Unit had been erected at the car park and the Clerk had been instructed by the solicitor to return the original camera.

(d) Other issues: There were no other issues.

137/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Email from resident re bridleways in the Parish: This is something that has not been discussed at either Parish Council or Marden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It is understood that the only lane which can be used for horses, pedestrians and cyclists is Clapper Farm Lane. All PROWs are walked on a regular basis by the Footpath Group at Marden but the Clerk was asked to pass to Catherine Alderson for her comments.

138/16 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

(a) Stilebridge: The Clerk was asked to contact all MBC and KCC current representatives along with Borough Councillors to see the current situation with management, ownership and responsibility of the site.

(b) Play Scheme: Meeting held with new Manager to discuss staffing and activities. Further arrangements will be made following the Annual Parish Council meeting when a Parish Councillor would be asked to assist with employing staff and at the end of the scheme as the Clerk would be away.

139/16 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Memorial Hall: Information received from Consultants as to the retention due to Artisan. This amounted to £9,645.14 which was due now and a final retention of £7,028.86 to be paid in May 2017. The Clerk would finalise the final figures and put forward to Full

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Council to discuss the next step.

Youth: There was nothing outstanding regarding youth.

140/16 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- (a) Update from Action list: Cllr Boswell went through the list but the majority had been covered within items in this agenda.
Fingerposts – Cllr Boswell and the Clerk would drive round the parish and take photos of all sign posts.

141/16 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DECISION

Marden History Group – Village Stocks. The Clerk and Marden History Group Chairman had contacted Mike Parkinson (Conservation Officer at MBC) but no response had been received to date.

Community Orchard: Cllr Boswell had received information from the Cricket and Hockey Club who were proposing to make a gift of a tree to the Parish Council. The Cllrs agreed to accept this gift.

MBC Planning Committee – next meeting 28th April 2016. There was no item listed on the agenda which were relevant to Marden.

142/16 FURTHER ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Open Space Byelaws: Agreement to set up a Sub-committee at the Annual Parish Council Meeting to discuss this in more detail before submitting to Full Council.

Proposed Action Plan: The Clerk had drafted a new Action Plan which Cllrs recommended to be passed to Full Council for adoption.

Cllrs proposed and agreed that a hanging basket would be placed outside the parish office for Marden in Bloom.

143/16 INVOICES/CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED:

The invoice for Artisan to the value of £9,645.14 was agreed and a cheque was signed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.52 pm

Signed:

Date: 24th May 2016

Chairman, Marden Parish Council Amenities Committee