

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2015, 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Mr P Stevens (Chairman)
Mr R Selkirk
Mrs A Turner
Co-Opted Member:
Mr S Mullins
Also in Attendance:
Mr J Collins (WMPC Employee)
Two Allotment Tenants

Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Y Smyth			
	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –Mrs A Turner declared an interest in as her husband was involved in the organisation of the event. Mr Stevens declared an interest inas the tenant of Plot 5B was his parents neighbour.			
	MINUTES of the meeting held on 9 th February 2015 were approved and signed			
	MATTERS ARISING from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda			
	(15/83) Cricket Club Ground – Mr Selkirk asked if a response had been received regarding the use of bad language of spectators at some football matches. The Assistant Clerk said she would chase this.	SH		
	(15/26) Village Green/Open Spaces – Draft List – Mr Stevens asked if Mr Selkirk had received a reply from the Borough Council. Mr Selkirk reported that he had not received a response from either the Borough Council or the County Council and had lodged an official complaint.			
	Churchyard Tree Work			
	It was noted that an invoice had been received for the sum of £2280 + VAT from down to earth. The Assistant Clerk reported that Rev Green was happy with the work.			
	Allotment Report from WMPC Mrs Turner had carried out the inspection on behalf of WMPC and presented her report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot 5A – work started but not adequately cultivated. Small storage cupboard erected at Ryarsh Lane end. Comment was made regarding the size of the beds. It was agreed to monitor for one month. A member of the allotment society will report back to the Assistant Clerk . Plot 5B – work has started but very little done. Plot 15 – no marker post. Plots 19A & 19B– work has started. New tenant. Plots 28A & 28B – 28A part worked. 28B recently taken over by tenant of plot 28A. Mrs Turner said that the wire boundary fence by plot 30 had been pushed down. Mr Selkirk	SH RS	✓	

	said he would have a look and report back to the Assistant Clerk .			
	<p><u>Allotment Report from Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u></p> <p>Mr Mullins reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot 5A some token work has been done. • Plot 5B tidy but small beds. • Plot 6 untidy. • Plot 10 untidy and little work done. • Plot 14 small beds • Plot 19 half is nearly all grass/weed. New tenant. • Plot 24A marker post missing. • Plot 28A half worked. <p>General condition of the site is good. Mr Moon will replace the marker posts as soon as possible.</p>			
	Discussion took place regarding plots 6 and 10 and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the tenants saying we are pleased that they have started work on the plots but if they felt it was too much to maintain a full plot they would be able to relinquish half of the plot.	SH		
	<u>Other Allotment Matters</u>			
	There was discussion concerning the advisability of allocating full plots to new tenants as it was felt by some tenants that a full plot could be too demanding. It was noted from the Amenities minutes of 5 November 2013 that “prospective tenants be encouraged to consider taking on half plots”. There was, however, no requirement to allocate only half plots to new tenants. It was further noted that the Allotment Management Plan stated “All efforts will be made to promote the take-up of half plots where full plots may be considered to be more than the prospective tenant considers viable” However, in the case of the most recently allocated full plots, it was felt by WMPC that the incoming tenants were able and willing to maintain a full plot. The WMPC staff had explained to the incoming tenants that if they (the incoming tenants) felt that they were unable to maintain a full plot then they should notify WMPC staff who would allocate a half-plot instead.			
	An allotment tenant reported that there was panes of glass on plot 29. Mr Selkirk said he would inspect the plot and report back to the Assistant Clerk	RS		
	The Assistant Clerk reported that an invoice had been received from Turfsoil for the hedge cutting at the allotments. The allotment tenants felt sure that the work had not been carried out. Mr Selkirk said he would look and report back to the Assistant Clerk .	RS	✓	
	(8.20pm the two allotment tenants left the meeting)			
	<u>Macey’s Meadow</u>			
	The Assistant Clerk did not have anything further to report.			
	<u>Playing Fields</u>			
	<u>Mark II Spring Meet</u>			
	It was noted that £50 donation has been received as requested.			
	<u>Football Pitch</u>			
	<u>Use of Pitch by a Second Team</u>	SH	✓	
	It was noted that advice had been received from Turfsoil regarding the use of the pitch by a second team. Turfsoil have no problem with two football matches being played each week. They suggest that the teams respect a postponement for ground or weather issues, as Turfsoil do not carry out any after match repairs, to give everyone a chance to enjoy a full season. The Assistant Clerk will inform Holtwood Football Club.			

<p><u>End of Season Treatment</u></p> <p>It was noted that Turfsoil's main remedial work at the end of the season will be goal mouth reinstatement. This mainly involves cultivating the bare area of turf filling the void with topsoil and over seeding. There are other tasks that could be carried out such as sanding the goal mouths in extremely wet conditions but this has not been previously required. Also aeration, harrow and roll but this would incur an additional charge. In the next couple of weeks they will be looking to cut the grass and the weight of the machine with its rollers should give the pitch a much needed roll.</p>			
<p><u>Land West of Age Concern</u></p> <p>It was noted that a quotation had been received from All Seasons to remove the existing seat section of 5 benches and replace with pressure treated sleepers fixed to existing timber uprights. For the sum of £370.00. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Selkirk that the quotation be accepted subject to there being sufficient funds in the budget, seconded by Mrs Turner . Access to power and water will be required. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact Age Concern regarding this.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said about the bushes and trees overhanging on the boundary to the left of the benches. The Assistant Clerk was asked to get quotes for cutting back.</p>	SH	✓	
<p><u>National Clear Up Day – Saturday 21 March 2015</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Borough Council are participating in National Clear Up Day on Saturday 21st March 2015. They are inviting groups to host a local clear up. Members felt that insufficient notice had been given to be able to set up an event.</p>			
<p><u>Questions from Members of the Public and Councillors</u></p> <p>Mrs Turner said about the falling down fence at the tennis courts. The Assistant Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for its repair. Mr Collins said he will cut down the creeper on the fence.</p> <p>Mr Collins said that the ground by the pedestrian gate from the play area to the playing fields was very muddy and uneven, making access to the playing areas difficult. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact Turfsoil.</p>	SH		
<p><u>Date of next Meeting</u> – Mr Stevens proposed there not be a Meeting in April, unless any urgent matters arise, due to Easter Bank Holiday, seconded by Mr Selkirk.</p>			
<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35p.m.</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date</p>			