

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2015, 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Mr P Stevens
Mrs L Javens
Mr R Selkirk
Co-Opted Member:
Mr M Doyle
Rev D Green
Ms I Macdonald
Mr J Musker

Also in Attendance:
Mr J Collins (WMPC Employee)
Mrs A Turner

Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)

Minute		Action by taken	Action	Response
15/358	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Y Smyth			
15/359	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –Mrs Javens declared an interest in 15/366.2 as the hedge is on the boundary of her property. Mr Stevens declared an interest in 15/362.2 as his parents own the garage on the boundary of the footpath. Mr Stevens declared an interest in 15/363 as a relation had provided a bench for the family. Mr Selkirk declared an interest in 15/364 as he has an allotment at the Ryarsh Lane site.			
15/360	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN – It was agreed not to elect a vice-chairman at this time.			
15/361	MINUTES of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 were approved and signed.			
15/	MATTERS ARISING from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda			
362.2	(15/327) Village Green – it was agreed to ratify the action taken to obtain quotations for tree work at the Village Green			
362.3	Footpath MR139, Rear of Woodlands Close – It was noted that a reply had been received from KCC footpath officer, as follows: I have already had a complaint and been to look and it is not really that bad. A few overhanging branches can be cut but nothing more as the trees are the responsibility of the landowner. Comment was made regarding the possibility of a volunteer working party. The Assistant Clerk was asked to make enquiries into the insurances required and to contact KALC.	SH		
15/	CHURCHYARD			
363.1	Report from Rev David Green Rev Green reported that down to earth had been approached to provide an updated quotation for the next phase of tree work. he said that PCC met in July and have agreed to put forward a request for faculty permission, for tree removal, to the Diocesan.	SH	✓	

	<p>Rev Green reported that PCC have approved an application for faculty permission for another bench, in the churchyard, and a request will be sent to the Diocesan Advisory Council.</p> <p>Rev Green said about the Parish Council's suggestion of a living Christmas tree located behind the War Memorial. If the tree is to be a permanent feature they would need to seek faculty permission and run the matter past PCC, Diocesan Advisory Council and then (all being well) Diocesan Chancellor. It will take time. The Church are happy to explore the possibility although careful consideration should be given to the location. Some of the oldest graves are in the vicinity of the War Memorial and there is also the matter of other trees.</p> <p>Ms Macdonald reported that the streetlight above the church door was still not working and neither was the streetlight at the Church Centre. The Assistant Clerk said she would contact the contractor.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said about the four year Management Plan. He will provide some dates and times for a site meeting and the Assistant Clerk was asked to liaise with Rev Green, Ms Macdonald and Mr Musker.</p> <p>Rev Green, Ms Macdonald and Mr Musker left the meeting at 8.05p.m.</p>			
15/	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
364.1	<p><u>Allotment Report from WMPC</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens said he would visit the allotments on Saturday to inspect the plots of the tenants who had first letters. He will report back to the Assistant Clerk .</p> <p>Mr Stevens reported that a letter had been received from an allotment tenant regarding their allotment plot. Mr Stevens said he had met with the tenant, at the site, and discussed the plot. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the tenant thanking them for meeting with Mr Stevens. The Parish Council ask if they would move their small tool cabinet to the Cricket Ground end of the plot in keeping with other tenants and if they could increase the number and size of the beds.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact Turfsoil regarding weedkilling the footpath between the allotments.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk reported that a white van regularly parks blocking the gates to the site.</p> <p>It was noted that a letter had been received regarding the cutting of the perimeter hedge. It was agreed that Turfsoil be asked to cut this in October.</p>	SH	✓	
364.2	<p><u>Allotment Tenancy Agreement</u></p> <p>It was agreed that no amendments be made to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement at this time.</p>			
15/365	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>Mr Doyle reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July there had been a bat watch and a moth survey. • Stinging nettles had been sprayed and may have to repeat in the Autumn. • There will be an apple pressing event in early October. • The Hawthorn Tree had been cut back with a small area to be completed. WM Parish Council thanked Mr Doyle for carrying out the work. <p>Mr Doyle said that a group of teenagers had lit a bonfire in the Meadow using branches broken from the trees. Fire damage has also been sustained by several other trees as well as damage to the grass. Many of the trees have been sponsored as memorial trees. The Assistant Clerk was asked to look at the map of the trees sponsored as the trees will</p>	SH	✓	

	need to be replaced.			
15/	<u>PLAYING FIELDS</u>			
366.1	<p><u>Norman Road Playing Field & Children's Playground Specification</u></p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the Specification and it was agreed that the following amendments be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow for 14 cuts. • All internal hedging to be cut in late winter, including Village Hall Car Park • Woodland Close/Children's Play Area hedge to be kept a 1.8m, measured from ground level Play Area side. <p>Subject to these amendments it was agreed that the Norman Road Playing Field & Children's Playground Specification be put out to tender, date to be agreed at the September Meeting (see Appendix 1); deadline for receipt of tenders is 6 November 2015.</p>	SH	✓	
366.2	<p><u>Hedgerow Work at Norman Road Playing Field & Children's Playground</u></p> <p>It was noted that the following quotation had been received from Turfsoil for hedgerow work required at Norman Road Playing Field and Children's Play Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hedge in play area adjacent to Woodland Close: reduce height of hedge to approximately 1.8m and trim playground side only For the sum of £630. 2) Pedestrian gate at furthest end of Football pitch from Village Hall: Lift up four paving slabs, supply and fill void with topsoil and replay paving slabs on top For the sum of £145. 3) Car park by Village Hall: trim both sides of hedge and top by footpath, trim side only by property, right hand side of entrance cut back shrubs to edge of car park and crown lift trees over car park bays to two and a half metres For the sum of £177. 4) Hedgerow between Football Pitch and Playground area: Trim back vegetation towards fence and up to a height of approximately 2.1 metres using a tractor mounted side arm flail. Trim by hand areas inaccessible to tractor For the sum of £628. 5) Hedgerow adjacent to Football Pitch running length of pitch and furthest end from Village Hall: Trim back vegetation growing over grass and up to a height of 2.1 metres using tractor mounted side arm flail For the sum of £628. <p>If items 4 and 5 are ordered together a reduction of £100 would be offered.</p> <p>All prices exclude VAT.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that items 2 and 3 for the sums of £145 and £177 + VAT be accepted. It was further agreed that £2000 be budgeted in 2016/2017 for hedgerow work (items 1, 4, 5 refer).</p>	SH	✓	
366.3	<p><u>Children's Play Areas – Playground Safety</u></p> <p>Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils Health and Safety Officer had forwarded a news bulletin regarding a serious accident in Rochdale involving a child injured by an access gate to a play area. They suggest that these facilities be checked. The Assistant Clerk said that the gates are included in the Play Area inspections.</p>			
15/367	<p><u>BALL PARK</u></p> <p>Considerable discussion took place regarding the anti-social behaviour at the Ball Park. The rubbish bin has been set light to and is melted down one side and the surrounding grass burnt. This should be reported to the Borough Council. The loose slats on the broken table are being thrown about, Mr Selkirk said he would remove them from the site.</p>	SH	✓	

	The Assistant Clerk was still awaiting a quote for the removal of the benches. The Assistant Clerk said that planning permission was required for the removal of the tree in front of the benches. She was awaiting a quotation for the removal.			
15/368	<u>LAND WEST OF AGE CONCERN</u> The Assistant Clerk reported that planning permission was required to fell one Elderberry and one Cherry tree as the trees are in a Conservation Area. Written technical evidence is required from an appropriate expert and the Assistant Clerk has requested a report from Turfsoil.	SH	✓	
15/369	<u>VILLAGE HALL</u> Mrs Turner gave the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boiler room door has been kicked in for the second time. Slats have now been fitted across the doors. • Cigarette holder, on the wall, has been vandalised. • Lottery funded sign outside the main doors of the hall has been stolen – although they did leave the screws. • Security alarm had been set off. Police had been informed. • Branches on some trees around the hall have been broken off. • Padlock on the gate into the playing fields had been damaged. This has now been replaced. • Hall floor to be refurbished end of August. 			
15/370	<u>SCHOOL PARKING AT WEST MALLING CE PRIMARY SCHOOL/CRICKET MEADOW</u> Discussion took place regarding the improved parking at the school/cricket meadow and it was agreed to refer this to Highways, Transport and Streetlighting.			
15/371	<u>VILLAGE GREEN, TREES</u> The Assistant Clerk reported that she was meeting with a Tree Surgeon to obtain a quotation for tree work.	SH	✓	
15/372	<u>Questions from Members of the Public and Councillors</u> Mr Collins said that the litter bins and dog waste bins were not being emptied frequently. A letter should be sent to the Borough Council. Mr Doyle reported that he was resigning as tree warden. Mr Stevens thanked him for all his hard work.	SH	✓	
	<u>Date of next Meeting</u> – 14 September 2015 (concentrating on Allotments)			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20p.m.. Signed..... Date			