

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: **Mr P Stevens (Chairman)**
 Mrs L Javens
 Mr R Selkirk
 Mrs Y Smyth

Co-opted Members:
Mr M Doyle
Rev D Green
Ms Macdonald
Mr J Musker

Mrs A Turner
Mr J Collins (WM Employee)
Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
16/181	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> there were no apologies received.			
16/182	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none other than those already routinely declared.			
16/183	<u>MINUTES</u> – after an amendment to item 16/141.1, plot 28B is vacant not 28A, the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14 March 2016 were approved and signed.			
16/184	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u> - from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda</p> <p>(16/141.1) Mrs Smyth asked if there was no longer an allotment waiting list. The Assistant Clerk said that there had been seven vacant half plots and six of these had now been allocated. She had contacted everyone on the list but some no longer wanted one and others had moved out of the Parish.</p> <p>(16/145.1) Mr Stevens asked if a reply had been received from the Cricket Club regarding taking payment for the exercise class. The Assistant Clerk said that to date a reply had not been received.</p> <p>(15/146) The Assistant Clerk was asked to chase Turfsoil regarding a quote to reduce the height of the hedge behind the Pavilion.</p> <p>(15/151.1) Mr Selkirk said about the increase of dog excrement in the Parish especially in West Street. The TMBC dog warden has patrolled the area but little dog fouling was evident on those occasions. The dog fouling signs are to be refreshed with new ones and regular patrols will continue. Stencils are to be placed on the pavement using temporary paint. Leaflets will be provided by the Borough Council and attached to a leaflet prepared by the Parish Council and delivered to residents in West Street.</p> <p>The dog waste bin on the Cricket Meadow needs emptying. It was agreed a letter be sent to the Borough Council to report that all the bins in West Malling need emptying on a more</p>	SH	✓	

	regular basis especially the dog waste bins as there have been occasions when used waste bags have been thrown in resident's gardens.			
16/185	<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			
185.1	<p><u>Report</u></p> <p>Rev Green reported that the Martin Family bench had been installed by the northwest annexe.</p> <p>It is hoped that the tree work will take place on the 14/15 April dependant on permissions from the Borough Council.</p> <p>Turfsoil have carried out two cuts of the Churchyard.</p> <p>Ms Macdonald said that working parties had been arranged to help maintain the Churchyard and anyone is welcome to help.</p>			
185.2	<p><u>Churchyard Management Document 2015-2016</u></p> <p>Rev Green said that PCC had seen the draft document and had no objections.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk was asked to check when the survey of the boundary walls took place.</p> <p>Rev Green said about memorial stability testing. The next inspection is scheduled for 2018, carried out by a specialist contractor. Liability lies with the PCC. This should be included in the Management Document. Rev Green said he would draft the wording.</p> <p>It was agreed that the draft document be presented to June Amenities with a view to referring to Full Council in July for approval.</p>	SH Rev Green	✓	
	Rev Green, Ms Macdonald and Mr Musker left the meeting at 7.45p.m.			
16/186	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>Mr Doyle reported that the next event will be an Orchard Day on 7 May 2016. They are going to speak to the local schools to encourage the children to get involved.</p> <p>The cobnuts have now all been pruned.</p> <p>Mr Doyle said they have been asked if it is possible to park five cars on the meadow during St George's Parade on 24 April 2016. It would be for disabled and elderly only. He said that it had been agreed but had not had a reply.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that Mr Moon had provided her with a meter reading and that she would send an invoice to Mr West.</p>	SH	✓	
16/187	<p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the ground under the pedestrian gate from the playing fields into the children's play area was very boggy and difficult to pass through especially if using a pushchair. It was agreed that Mr Moon be asked to get some wood chippings and place under the gate. The Assistant Clerk was asked to get Turfsoil to quote for a more permanent solution.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the bench in the children's play area had one wooden slat missing, two in need of attention and several nails sticking up. She had asked Mr Collins to make the necessary repairs as a matter of health and safety. This action was ratified.</p> <p>Mr Stevens reported that the playing field will be used for parking for St George's Parade on 24 April 2016. The hall will be in use on that day so the car park is not available.</p>	SH JM JC	✓ ✓ ✓	

	<p>Parking is subject to ground conditions.</p> <p>The Assistant said that herself and Mr Collins had measured the metal fencing panel and it will fit between the village hall and bushes on the boundary fence. Enquires will be made for posts and installation.</p>			
16/188	<p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p>Mrs Turner said new lighting and a wall heater had been installed in the committee room. It had also be redecorated.</p> <p>The Defibrillator box had been installed on the outside wall. The Defibrillator will be fitted over the Easter holidays.</p>			
16/189	<p><u>COMMUNITY PATHS PROJECT/PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u></p> <p>It was noted that a reply had been received regarding the proposed diversion of PROW MR143A. They think there may be a slight misunderstanding regarding the link between the diversion of the footpath and the possibility of the site being developed in the future: the diversion of the footpath will <u>not</u> increase the likelihood of the site being developed. This is because separate powers exist within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (section 257) for footpaths affected by development to be diverted; in fact, it is often much easier to divert a footpath affected by development because it is not necessary to demonstrate that the various tests set out in section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 (concerning convenience and enjoyment) have been met, and the only legal test is whether the diversion is 'necessary to enable development to take place'. As such, the grounds for successfully opposing a planning-related diversion are therefore considerably narrower in scope.</p> <p>They are not aware of any impeding proposals to develop the site and indeed the diversion application was made over two years ago (well before the Borough Council's call for sites) in order to overcome the clearly bizarre situation caused by the construction of the bypass. The proposed diversion does, in our view, offer an evidently common-sense solution to this situation and will provide walkers will a more sensible and direct off-road connection between MR111 and the Lavenders Road bridge.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk said he would draft a response to the reply and asked for a copy of the letter to be sent to him.</p> <p>Mrs Smyth said about the footpath which runs across Manor Park. It is not clearly defined. Mr Stevens said he would find out the number.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said about organising a footpath walk and the Assistant Clerk was asked to put an item on the next agenda.</p>	<p>RS</p> <p>SH</p> <p>PS</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	
16/190	<p><u>KENT HERITAGE TREES PROJECT – CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS</u></p> <p>This five year scheme will involve hundreds of people of all ages from across the region in an education and activity programme focused on Kent's rich stock of heritage trees. The project will also survey and record over 10,000 heritage trees across the county.</p> <p>WMPC tree wardens had been provided with the information. Mr Cosier has recorded the great oak south of the lake, in Manor Park, using the data provided.</p>			
16/191	<p><u>LAND WEST OF AGE CONCERN</u></p> <p>Mr Wickenden had been provided with copies of the quotations for survey work to the Lime Tree. He had looked at the tree and felt that there was little that could be done in the long term. He felt that by reducing the height of the tree it would reduce the pressure on the tree and it may have a longer life expectancy. The Assistant Clerk was asked to get quotes for height reduction.</p>	<p>SH</p>	<p>✓</p>	

	Consideration should be given, by Members, in the replacement of the Lime Tree in the long term. The Assistant Clerk was asked to speak to Mr Wickenden regarding the siting of a replacement tree in case the area has been contaminated with spores from the fungus.			
16/192	<u>RECYCLING, CLEANSING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u>			
	<u>Funding from Tesco – “Bags of Help”</u> Bags of Help is a local grant scheme where the money raised from the government's 5p bag charge is being used to fund a large number of local projects to create or improve green spaces in communities' right across England, Scotland and Wales. These will range from building new parks and sports facilities, to woodland walks and community gardens: great places for communities to enjoy. Local community groups can apply for the funding - the second round of applications opens on 18th April 2016. It was suggested that the War Memorial may qualify. The Assistant Clerk will download the application form.	SH	✓	
16/193	<u>BUDGET STATEMENT</u> The statement of Receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.			
16/194	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u> Discussion took place regarding the recent spate of anti-social behaviour mainly around the cricket pavilion. The security light has been broken and a sofa had been put under the canopy. Mr Selkirk took the sofa to the tip. Damage has been reported to the Police. The Assistant Clerk was asked to request a crime report for Full Council. Mr Selkirk said they leave a lot of litter. It was agreed that Mr Collins check the area in the mornings. Mrs Smyth said that the recycling containers in Tesco car park need emptying on a more regular basis. When they are full people are leaving their recycling on the floor around the containers. There are signs on the containers warning against flytipping, the maximum penalty being £50,000. This was thought not to be a sufficient deterrent as it is unlikely to be enforced. The same was happening at West Malling Station. This should be reported to the Borough Council. Mr Selkirk said that the allotment hedge by plot 5 had still not been hand cut by Turfsoil. A reminder should be sent. Mr Selkirk reported that he some wildflower seeds which he had received free and they could be used in Macey's Meadow to add to their existing area. It was noted that the allotment report had been received from the Allotment Society. The general state of the allotments is very good: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19A – not work done and mostly grass cover. • 20 – new marker post needed • 24A – new marker post needed • 29A – neglected, no recent work done • Slight leak from stand pipe tap It was agreed that a first letter be sent to plot 19A. Mr Moon be asked to replace marker posts and fix leak on the stand pipe tap. Mr Moon has provided water meter readings for the allotments and Macey's Meadow. An invoice should be sent to Mr West.	SH	✓	
	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> - Monday 14 March 2016 (concentrating on Allotments) Monday 4 April 2016 (concentrating on Churchyards) – please note change of date Wednesday 4 May 2016 (concentrating on Allotments)			

	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m.			
	Signed.....	Date.....		