

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present
Mr P Stevens
Mrs L Javens
Mr L Collins
Miss G Barkham

Also in Attendance:
Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
17/137	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Y Smyth, Mr R Selkirk, Mr M Doyle, Rev D Green, Ms I Macdonald and Mr J Musker			
17/138	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none other than those routinely declared.			
17/139	MINUTES – the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 were approved and signed.			
17/140	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>[17/80] Mr Stevens reported that he has made further amendments to the Churchyard Management Plan and will forward the revised copy to Rev David Green.</p> <p>[17/90] The Parish Walk will be taking place on Sunday 2 April 2017. Commencing at the village hall at 2pm. It will be a walk of approximately 3 miles. Refreshments will be provided after the walk at the village hall. Details to be put in the KM column.</p> <p>[17/92] The Assistant Clerk to chase the footpath officer in respect of MR141.</p>	SH	✓	
17/141	ALLOTMENTS			
141.1	<p>Report</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that she had been and looked at plot 28A, as the tenant had now vacated the plot. The plot is now clear. It was agreed that the deposit of £25.00 be refunded.</p> <p>There are 4 vacant plots at the allotments. Details to be put in the KM column.</p> <p>The kissing gate is due to be installed at the end of the footpath/cricket meadow on Saturday 18 March.</p> <p>Mr Collins said about the amount of foxes down at the allotment. They trample produce and cause damage to netting. It was felt there was no solution to this and the Assistant Clerk to google for ways to deter them.</p>	SH	✓	

141.2	<u>Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u> The allotment society had not provided a report,			
17/142	<u>Churchyard</u>			
	<u>Tree Work</u> The tree work has now been completed. Rev Green is satisfied with the standard of work. There was one issue where the contractor nicked the edge of a flat tablet stone grave with the root grinding machine. Some damage was done to the wooden surround and a corner of the tablet stone chipped. It is an extremely difficult area to work in with so many graves. The contractor has taken responsibility. Rev Green will liaise with the family and put them in touch with the contractor should they wish to pursue a repair.			
17/143	<u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u> In the absence of Mr Doyle the Assistant Clerk reported that the competition was now open and 7 designs had been received to date. Volunteers are currently pruning the apple and cobnut trees. Compensation of £350.00 has been secured from Railscape Ltd for the damage to the meadow during works to replace the fencing in February 2016. Work to complete the replacement fencing commenced March 2017. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Mr Doyle met with the new contractor, on site, and they will not need vehicular access across the meadow. They hope to complete this section by Friday 17 March 2017. Pippa Palmar has now returned to work, part-time, after her illness. It may still be possible for the tools to be obtained through the project.			
17/144	<u>PLAYING FIELD</u> The Assistant Clerk reported that she had looked at the trip hazards highlighted in the annual play equipment inspection and the area concerned is on footpath MR139. She said it was very low risk and it was agreed to monitor. The Assistant Clerk said that a possible move of the bench under the tree had been suggested. It was felt that the bench remain under the tree as it provides shade for park users.			
17/145	<u>CRICKET MEADOW</u>			
	<u>Lime Tree</u> Mr Stevens said he had paced out the area for the replacement tree. It is suggested it be sited centrally between Age Concern and 18 Norman Road. There is a small area of tarmac that will need removing and the Assistant Clerk to obtain a quote. It was agreed that Liz Guthrie be asked to meet with Mr Stevens and the Assistant Clerk to agree the position.	SH	✓	
17/146	<u>BALL PARK</u>			
	<u>Roof Netting System</u> It was noted that a quotation had been received from Park Leisure to supply, deliver and erect a roof netting system to the full layout above the existing fence line and extensions, which is manufactured from polypropylene to form a 50x50 mesh and is attached to 2	SH		

	<p>galvanised steel strand wires across the diagonals of the area. The entire roof netting system is suitably braced using corner bracing bars. All steel work to be galvanised and polyester powder coated for the sum of £8737.00.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the gates were locked and the school was not using it. The School to be asked to unlock the gates so that it could be used outside school hours. The contractor had indicated that it could be cheaper to remove and replace with a new one.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk obtain a quote for the removal and replacement of the ball park, for information purposes only. It was agreed to refer this to Full Council for discussion regarding the future of the ball park.</p> <p>The Clerk is trying to arrange a date for the Anti-social meeting.</p>			
17/147	<p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p>It was noted that the following report had been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to the Parish Council for installing and subsequently repairing the fencing and posts • Inquiries being made into setting up a new website for WMVH as opposed to continuing with existing HIBU (Yell) site • ACRK membership renewed for 2017-2018 • Hallmark level 3 application imminent • New hall boiler in situ and asbestos removal completed • New generic email account for WMVH now in place (westmallings@gmail.com) • Roof leak being investigated with a view to having remedial works carried out • AGM scheduled for Thursday 25 May 2017. 			
17/148	<p><u>VILLAGE GREEN</u></p>			
148.1	<p><u>Shrub Bed Maintenance</u></p> <p>It was noted that to date a reply had not been received. The Assistant Clerk to chase.</p>	SH		
148.2	<p><u>Benches on Village Green</u></p> <p>It was noted that a reply had been received from the Borough Council regarding repairs to the benches. Due to the weather they are behind on their timber works. They hope to make the repairs as soon as possible. The Assistant Clerk to monitor.</p>	SH	✓	
17/149	<p><u>Land on Junction St Leonard's Street/Teston Road</u></p> <p>It was noted that a reply had been received confirming that the land is not owned by KCC and nor does it fall within the public highway.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to speak with Mrs Dean as to ownership</p>	SH	✓	
17/150	<p><u>RECYCLING, CLEANSING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u></p>			
	<p><u>Saturday Freighter Service</u></p> <p>It was noted that a letter had been received from TMBC regarding the freighter service. In April there will only be one visit, but for a longer period of time, due to the Easter weekend and the following weekend being worked to provide the kerbside collections in place of the two bank holidays. The same vehicles are used for both the kerbside collections of refuse and green waste and the Saturday service.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said about the increase in dog mess along West Street into Norman Road. The Assistant Clerk to report to Environmental Services. The Borough Council in April 2016 said they were going to refresh the existing dog fouling signs and stencil the pavement (15/151.1 refers). The Assistant Clerk to check with Mr Selkirk as he had</p>	SH	✓	

	made the initial contact with TMBC.			
17/151	<p><u>St Leonard's Tower</u></p> <p>It was noted that a letter had been received from English Heritage. St Leonard's Tower is an impressive and unique building They are aware that the tower is in need of attention and it is frustrating for them that they have been unable to undertake the work. Due to limited resources they are having to concentrate on the most urgently required work. They are making regular inspections of the Tower to monitor its condition and will implement conservation work as the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>It was further noted that a resident has informed us that a few youths were intercepted, by neighbours, entering the Tower. They said that they just pushed the door. A hard shove opens the door. The Clerk reported the damaged lock to the Estates Surveyor at English Heritage and the lock has now been changed.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to check this has been fixed.</p>	SH	✓	
17/152	<u>FINANCE</u>			
	<u>Budget Statement</u>			
	The statement of receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.			
17/153	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u>			
	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Monday 10 April 2017 (concentrating on Churchyard)			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.41 p.m.			
	Signed..... Date.....			