

# WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 10 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM  
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

**Present**  
**Mr P Stevens**  
**Mrs L Javens**  
**Mr R Selkirk**  
**Miss G Barkham**

**Co-opted Members:**  
**Rev David Green**  
**Ms I Macdonald**

**Also in Attendance:**  
**Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)**

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
17/200	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> were received from Mrs Y Smyth, Mr M Doyle and Mr J Musker			
17/201	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> – none other than those routinely declared.			
17/202	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b> – the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2017 were approved and signed.			
17/203	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b> There were no matters arising from the Minutes.			
17/204	<b><u>CHURCHYARD</u></b>			
204.1	<p><b><u>Report from Rev Green</u></b></p> <p>Rev Green gave his report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The churchyard has received its first cut.</li> <li>• The holes left from the tree removals will be filled and reseeded.</li> <li>• Designs are awaited for the War Grave Signs.</li> <li>• Replacement bench in the vicinity of the pedestrian gate. Existing bench, which is dedicated to a parishioner who died in 1993, is not in a good state of repair and a family would like to replace it in memory of their loved one. In order for the bench to be replaced the Diocesan Chancellor will need to know if the Parish Council paid for the original bench and are content to see it replaced. Also effort should be made to consult with any surviving relatives of Mr Barnard.</li> </ul> <p>Rev Green thanked members of the Parish Council who were able to attend the funeral of Ruby Shaw. Her nephew was very pleased to see so many people there.</p>	SH	✓	

	Discussion took place regarding the replacement bench. The Assistant Clerk to check the Parish records to see if the bench had been paid for by the Parish Council. It was felt that the memorial plaque on the existing bench would need to be re-sited if permission was given for replacement. The Parish Council understood that Mr Barnard's wife passed away some years ago and it is believed there is a son but he does not live locally.			
<b>204.2</b>	<p><b><u>West Malling War Memorial</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that Historic England has completed their assessment of the memorial and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has agreed to add the war memorial to the list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic interest. The memorial is now listed at Grade II.</p> <p>The land on which the memorial stands belongs to the Church. However, the memorial was paid for by public money and should be held on a public trust for the benefit of the community. Responsibility to be shared between the Church (PCC) and the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to obtain quotes for a structural survey of the memorial. It was felt that restoration work be carried out for 2018 anniversary and any improvements to be made for 2021 anniversary of unveiling of the memorial.</p> <p>The wreaths have now been removed. The Assistant Clerk to speak with Leybourne Parish Council as they have ironwork on their fence which holds the wreaths.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>204.3</b>	<p><b><u>Churchyard Management Document 2015-2019</u></b></p> <p>Mr Stevens had made amendments in respect of the war memorial and it was agreed that it be referred to the June Full Council meeting with recommendation that it be approved.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding burials for residents of Kings Hill. Rev Green explained the current burial process, where residents of Kings Hill are buried in St Mary's, which may change when Kings Hill has its own church. Mr Stevens said there were no plans at present to discuss this with Kings Hill Parish Council but consideration should be given to approaching them. It was agreed that this be referred to the June Full Council for further discussion.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
	Churchyard representatives left the meeting at 8.15p.m.			
<b>17/205</b>	<b><u>ALLOTMENTS</u></b>			
<b>205.1</b>	<p><b><u>Report</u></b></p> <p>Mr Stevens carried out the allotment inspection on behalf of WMPC and presented his report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled and grass not being maintained. To monitor.</li> <li>• 9B – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled. To monitor.</li> <li>• 17 – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled and grass not being maintained. To monitor</li> <li>• 18A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled. To monitor</li> <li>• 18B – weeds not controlled. To monitor.</li> <li>• 19A – less than 75% cultivated and fruit trees not managed. To monitor.</li> <li>• 21 – weeds not controlled, To monitor.</li> <li>• 26A – less than 75% cultivated and weeds not controlled. To monitor.</li> <li>• 27A – less than 75% cultivated and weeds not controlled. To monitor. The Assistant Clerk said that the tenant had contacted the office to say they were going away and would start work on the plot upon their return.</li> <li>• 28A – shed not in the correct position. The Assistant Clerk to check.</li> <li>• 28B – less than 75% cultivated, fruit trees not being managed. To monitor.</li> <li>• 29A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled and grass not being</li> </ul>	<b>SH</b>	✓	

	<p>maintained. To monitor.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that Macey's Meadow had some saplings which they needed to heal in over the summer ready for planting out in October. It had been suggested that they use the vacant plot 1A at the allotments. This was agreed.</p>			
<b>205.2</b>	<p><b><u>Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u></b></p> <p>The Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society report was received. In addition to the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 – weeds not being controlled. To monitor.</li> </ul>			
<b>17/206</b>	<p><b><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></b></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that there is a bird/bat watch evening on Wednesday 26 April (7-9pm). The Assistant Clerk to contact Pippa Palmar for a copy of the risk assessment and public liability insurance for the event.</p> <p>It was noted that a request had been received for a small family and friends Easter egg hunt on Friday 14 April 2017 at the Meadow. After discussion it was agreed that it be limited to 12 people. They should be made aware that it is a Meadow and the ground is uneven and that there are sheep grazing. They to be asked to take away their rubbish.</p> <p>At the recent Macey's Meadow meeting comment had been made regarding the possibility of the Parish Council taking on the responsibility of cutting the internal hedge which runs parallel to the cricket meadow and the internal cutting of the hedge on the boundary of Norman Road. Concern was expressed regarding the funding of such work and it was agreed that an informal quote be obtained from Four Seasons. Consideration will be given to it being added to the Tender for 2018/19.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that compensation of £350.00 had been received, via bank transfer, from Railscape.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>17/207</b>	<p><b><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that a request had been received from K Sports to use the footpath pitch at the village hall for full pitch 11 a-side friendlies over the summer and Thursday night training sessions. After discussion it was agreed consent be given to the use and cost will be £25 per game. All games are subject to weather and pitch conditions and if the goal mouths need re-seeding before the next season the cost will need to be met by the team. They should be informed that the pitch is not available on Sunday 23 April 2017 due to a prior event.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the cradle seat in the children's play area had still not been replaced as the contractor had not been to the area. She said that she had sourced another seat from a more local supplier, Sovereign, and the cost is £120.60 + VAT. Our quarterly inspectors will be able to fit for the sum of £20.00 + VAT. The original quote, from Ard, was for £132.50 + VAT. After discussion it was agreed that a seat be ordered from Sovereign and fit by our inspector. The Assistant Clerk to cancel order with Ard.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>17/208</b>	<p><b><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></b></p>			
	<p><b><u>Lime Tree</u></b></p> <p>Mr Stevens and the Assistant Clerk to meet with Liz Guthrie on Tuesday 11 April to confirm position of new tree.</p> <p>It was noted that a quotation had been received for the removal of the concrete slab, at the proposed new position, for the sum of £220.00. It was agreed that this be referred to Full Council with a recommendation for approval.</p>	<b>SH PS</b>	✓	
<b>17/209</b>	<p><b><u>BALL PARK</u></b></p>			

	<p>A date for the CCTV meeting is still awaited.</p> <p>Some anti-social behaviour has been taking place in the seated area. Glass and rubbish being left. The litter picker should be asked to check the area early on every Saturday and Sunday morning and remove any glass and rubbish. He should reduce his litter picking at the playing fields to incorporate the time. He should inform the Office if the area is in a bad state.</p>			
<b>17/210</b>	<p><b><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></b></p> <p>A metal and wire guard has been placed over the two flues above the boiler door as a precaution. The flues are at a height that could attract youths from swinging on them. The 5 year electric check to be carried out.</p> <p>There had been a request from Weight Watchers to display an advertisement banner on the fence at the village hall for a period of two weeks. Permission was not granted as this would set a precedent and the area could look unsightly.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>17/211</b>	<p><b><u>VILLAGE GREEN</u></b></p>			
<b>211.1</b>	<p><b><u>Shrub Bed Maintenance</u></b></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk will speak with Mrs Dean for an update.</p>	<b>SH</b>		
<b>211.2</b>	<p><b><u>Benches on Village Green</u></b></p> <p>The bench repairs have not been carried out. The Assistant Clerk to contact TMBC for an update.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>17/212</b>	<p><b><u>Land on Junction St Leonard's Street/Teston Road</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that a reply had been received from KCC. They confirm that the land does not belong to KCC nor does it fall within the public highway. It is assumed that it is being maintained by local residents.</p>			
<b>17/213</b>	<p><b><u>RECYCLING, CLEANSING &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u></b></p>			
<b>213.1</b>	<p><b><u>Pavement Fouling</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that a letter of complaint had been received from a resident regarding the increase in dog fouling on pavements in the Parish. A reply should be sent saying we understand his concerns but all dog fouling issues are the responsibility of TMBC and should be reported direct to the dog warden service on their website. The Assistant Clerk to report the areas concerned.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>17/214</b>	<p><b><u>St Leonard's Tower</u></b></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that the damaged lock has now been fixed.</p> <p>A letter had been received from English Heritage with costs of repairs to replace the netting and to clean the Tower. It would be approximately £11K for the netting and £6K for the cleaning + VAT, the VAT is not recoverable by English Heritage. They would be interested in looking into the possibility of the Parish Council securing funds to address the problems. A copy of the correspondence should be sent to The Malling Society for their comments.</p>	<b>SH</b>	✓	
<b>17/215</b>	<p><b><u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u></b></p>			
<b>215.1</b>	<p><b><u>Parish Walks</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that both walks were successful and that consideration will be given to holding another walk later in the year.</p>			

215.2	<p><b><u>MR 141 – Manor Park</u></b>  It was noted that the PROW officer inspected the footpath and the landowner has now clearly marked the path through the field.</p>			
215.3	<p><b><u>MR 116 – Lavenders Road</u></b></p> <p>Part of the route of the Parish walk was along MR116. Upon reaching Eden Farm the path was found to be blocked by wire fencing. This has been reported to the PROW officer who has walked both the current route and the proposed diversion and could access both with no obstruction.</p> <p>As soon as the diversion order has been received the Parish Council's objection to be lodged immediately.</p>			
17/216	<p><b><u>FINANCE</u></b></p>			
	<p><b><u>Budget Statement</u></b></p> <p>The statement of receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.</p>			
17/217	<p><b><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></b></p> <p>There were no questions raised</p>			
	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b> – Monday 15 May 2017 (concentrating on Allotments)</p>			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.35 p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			