

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present
Mr P Stevens
Mr R Selkirk
Mr L Collins
Miss G Barkham

Also in Attendance:
Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)
Two representative from the Allotment Society

| Minute | | Action by | Action | Response |
|--------|--|-----------|--------|----------|
| 17/273 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Javens, Mrs Smyth, Mr Doyle, Rev David Green and Ms Macdonald | | | |
| 17/274 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none other than those routinely declared. | | | |
| 17/275 | ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN It was agreed defer until the June Meeting. | | | |
| 17/276 | MINUTES – after an amendment to (17/214) the cost for cleaning St Leonard's Tower is £6K not £6, the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 April 2017 were approved and signed. | | | |
| 17/277 | MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising from the Minutes. | | | |
| 17/278 | ALLOTMENTS | | | |
| 278.1 | Report Mr Stevens carried out the allotment inspection on behalf of WMPC and presented his report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1A – Macey's Meadow will be using this plot. Assistant Clerk to speak with Mr Doyle. • 5A – less than 75% cultivated. A letter be sent recorded delivery requesting that they increase the size of the beds in line with the Allotment Management Plan. • 9B – weeds not controlled. To monitor. • 18B – less than 75% cultivated and weeds not controlled. The tenant's child had been unwell but they hope to start work soon. To monitor. • 23A – grass is not being maintained. Reminder letter re: grass and hedge maintenance to be sent. • 23B – grass is not being maintained. Reminder letter re: grass and hedge maintenance to be sent. | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24A – grass not being maintained. Reminder letter re: grass and hedge maintenance to be sent. • 26A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, grass not being maintained. Letter to be sent. • 27A – Less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, grass not being maintained. To monitor. • 27B – New tenant. • 28A – less than 75% cultivated and weeds not controlled. To monitor. • 29A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, fruit trees not managed, grass not maintained. First letter to be sent. • 29B – VACANT. The contractor to be asked to strim this plot as part of the tender cost of £18.00. | | | |
| 278.2 | <p><u>Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u></p> <p>A report was not available. The representatives from the allotment society said that the member who normally carries out the inspection was away and that, in future, they would be willing to carry out the inspection in his absence.</p> <p>The allotment representatives left the meeting at 8.03pm</p> | | | |
| 17/279 | <p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>It was noted that Minutes of the Macey's Meadow Advisory Committee were received.</p> <p>Approximately 30 people attended the Bird and Bat event. The logo completion is due to be judged on Tuesday 16 May 2017.</p> <p>The Minutes state that there is to be an event in May. The Assistant Clerk to make enquires as to what the event is and when it is due to be held as no information has been forwarded to the Parish Council.</p> | SH | ✓ | |
| 17/280 | <p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens asked if a quotation could be obtained for the replacement of the chainlink fence along the top boundary of the children's play area/playing fields and MR139.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the trees on one side of the tennis courts were now very large and pushing against the fencing. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for their removal.</p> <p>Mr L Collins said that the grass in the playing fields was getting quite long. The Assistant Clerk to speak with the contractor.</p> | SH | ✓ | |
| 17/281 | <p><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></p> <p><u>Lime Tree</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens reported that the Assistant Clerk and himself had met with Liz Guthrie to discuss the siting of the replacement tree. Liz Guthrie approved the proposed location.</p> <p>It was noted that the quotation for the removal of the concrete slab had been approved at Full Council. The Assistant Clerk to contact the contractor.</p> | SH | ✓ | |
| 17/282 | <p><u>BALL PARK</u></p> <p><u>CCTV Meeting</u></p> <p>It was noted that notes of the joint meeting had been received.</p> <p>The School have agreed to cut back the overhanging trees and bushes to the fence line. Both the School and the Cricket Club to put up CCTV signage but the Cricket Club will</p> | SH | ✓ | |

| | | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|--|
| | <p>need to register with the Police.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to obtain a quotation for a kissing gate and fencing to be erected in the gap between the rear of the Cricket Pavilion and Macey's Meadow.</p> <p>It was noted that a quotation had been received from Day Tree Fellers for the removal of the trees at the entrance to the ball park, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To remove 2 x Cherry Trees £200.00 • Fell large multi stem Sycamore Tree £500.00 • Remove 3 x of the stems from the large multi stem Sycamore £350.00 | | | |
| 17/283 | <p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p>It was noted that a report from Mrs Turner had been received, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 year electrical testing complete • As a result of the new boiler being installed, 2 new electric showers have been fitted in the changing rooms. This will prove to be more economic. • A meeting was held on Thursday 4 May with the Hallmark assessors at the Village Hall. 3 committee members attended, including Chairman Chris Gosney. They hope to obtain Grade 3 status. • The Village Hall was successful in being included in the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme for help towards a new roof. Voting is now taking place in the store during May and June. <p>The AGM is to be held on Wednesday 24 May 2017 at the Village Hall at 8pm.</p> | | | |
| 17/284 | <p><u>VILLAGE GREEN</u></p> | | | |
| 284.1 | <p><u>Shrub Bed Maintenance</u></p> <p>It was agreed to defer this until Kent County Council contact the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk asked that Mr Cosier be asked to cut back the large shrubs in the bed by the entrance to the business car park and the railway bridge as they obscure the view for users of the car parking pulling out into the High Street.</p> | SH | | |
| 284.2 | <p><u>Benches on Village Green</u></p> <p>It was noted that the benches had been repaired.</p> | | | |
| 17/285 | <p><u>RECYCLING, CLEANSING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u></p> <p>A resident had complained about the can recycling bin in the car park is constantly overflowing. They should report this direct to T&MBC via the website.</p> | | | |
| 17/286 | <p><u>ST LEONARD'S TOWER</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported the Mrs Dean is making arrangements to meet with English Heritage.</p> <p>Ms Barkham said that the Malling Society had discussed funding ideas for repairs to the Tower. As the Tower is owned by English Heritage this should contact them direct.</p> | | | |
| 17/287 | <p><u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u></p> | | | |
| | <p><u>MR116 – Proposed Diversion</u></p> <p>It was noted that an application had been received for the proposed diversion of MR116.</p> | SH | ✓ | |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------|----------|--|
| | <p>It was agreed that an objection letter be sent to KCC, as follows:</p> <p>West Malling Parish Council object to the proposed diversion.</p> <p>An argument is made that the diversion will prevent further trespass to access the railway station. However, neither the existing route of MR116 nor its diversion will stop people using the route from point A on your map to the junction of Station Approach and Eden Farm Lane, since the diversion is not from point A. Trespass could be prevented by the simple installation of a fence along the footpath boundary but the landowner chooses not to do so. It is, therefore, not an argument for the diversion as proposed.</p> <p>The Parish Council understand that it is in the main interest of the landowner to divert the footpath away from the property boundary but is noted that the path is being moved from adjacent to one property to another with the possible risk of burglary to others. The path should be defined so it is not immediately adjacent to the boundary with the properties in Lavenders Road including Lavender’s Care Home.</p> <p>It is felt that the diversion of this path should be diagonally across the field keeping it away from both sets of properties and making it a shorter walk for users. It is noted that older Ordnance Survey maps show an unofficial path on this alignment.</p> <p>Members have further asked that an ecological assessment is carried out before the footpath is diverted.</p> | | | |
| <p>17/288</p> | <p><u>FINANCE</u></p> | | | |
| | <p><u>Budget Statement</u></p> <p>The statement of receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.</p> | | | |
| <p>17/289</p> | <p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Ms Barkham reported that the Malling Society are to fund a bench in the Churchyard in memory of Freda Barton.</p> <p>Ms Barkham, on behalf of the Malling Society, asked if the Parish Council would consider helping financially with the restoration of St Leonard’s Well. The Parish Council have no funds available. It was suggested that they contact the Heritage Lottery Fund but they should find out ownership of the Well before approaching them.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk asked the Assistant Clerk to remind the litter picker to clear the Ball Park early at the weekends.</p> | <p>SH</p> | <p>✓</p> | |
| | <p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Monday 12 June 2017 (concentrating on Churchyard)</p> <p>Mr Stevens requested that the August Meeting take place on Monday 7 August 2017 as he will be on leave.</p> | | | |
| | <p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.04 p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p> | | | |