

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present
Mr P Stevens
Miss G Barkham
Mr L Collins
Mrs L Javens
Mrs Y Smyth
Ms M Stacpoole
Mr N Stapleton

Also in Attendance:
Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)
Mr M Doyle
Ms I Macdonald
Mr J Musker
Mr J Collins – employee of West Malling Parish Council

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
17/705	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Rev David Green			
17/706	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none other than those routinely declared.			
17/707	MINUTES –Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 9 October 2017 and Monday 13 November 2017 were approved and signed.			
17/708	MATTERS ARISING (17/640.1) Miss Barkham said she would be willing to take over the allotment inspections from April with some initial help from Mr Stevens. This was agreed. (17/644) Mr Stevens asked about the replacement Lime tree at the Cricket Meadow. The Assistant Clerk reported that the tree had been collected from the nursery by Four Seasons but a planting date had yet been agreed.			
17/709	CHURCHYARD			
709.1	Report by Rev Green Rev Green had prepared a report, in his absence, as follows: In regard to my report, if I had been present, I would have said that most activity is quiet at present with the end of the grass cutting having concluded in November and various things effectively on hold around Christmas. I look forward to the Committee's appointment of a contractor for the maintenance of the Churchyard, and I'll be interested to hear what the Committee make of the three War Memorial quotes now received. It may be worth noting, as I think I mentioned in October, that we have now had it	SH	✓	

	<p>confirmed that because the memorial sits on church land, any repairs or renovations will need Faculty Permission from the Diocesan Advisory Council and Diocesan Chancellor before they can move ahead. It is, therefore, imperative that we not only appoint a contractor but that we formulate a plan to raise the necessary funds since both are key questions that the DAC/Chancellor will wish to know and which form part of the Faculty paperwork required, before they are likely to grant approval. It may also be worth noting that (at minimum) the Faculty process can take three months. Often it takes longer.</p> <p>Finally, in my report, it may be worth noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that we have received a further request for a fourth memorial bench to be sited in the vicinity of the southernmost wall of the south side of the Churchyard. This would be the first new bench in some time (the three most recent all being replacement benches). PCC have given approval and it will start its Faculty journey in the new year. PCC have recently received quotes for some tree work in the Churchyard, prompted by a request from neighbours on Churchfields. It is additional work to the plan previously agreed with Parish Council and so PCC decided to try and fund it entirely from their own money. However, the quotes came in above what we had available in our budget. PCC have asked me to write to the residents of Churchfields seeing if they could contribute to help with the shortfall. Failing that, PCC may have to consider using budget from 2017 and 2018 if they are to do the works. I mention it purely for the WMPC's information. I'm not expecting or looking for any contributions since it is above and beyond the previously agreed work and budget arrangements. <p>Rev Green to be informed that Turfsoil had been awarded the maintenance contract for 2018/19.</p>									
709.2	<p><u>West Malling War Memorial</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens explained that three quotations had been received for work to the war memorial, all based on the same specification, as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>The Stone Shop</td> <td>£15,500.00 + VAT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern Stone Ltd</td> <td>£11,835.00 + VAT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heritage Stone Restoration Ltd</td> <td>£ 8,576.00 + VAT.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Ms Macdonald said that Heritage Stone had carried out wall repairs in the Churchyard and had been very good.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that a recommendation be made to Full Council to accept Heritage Stone Restoration Ltd and upon agreement Rev Green be asked to apply for Faculty permission. The draft budget to be amended.</p> <p>Grant information from War Memorials.org is still awaited.</p>	The Stone Shop	£15,500.00 + VAT	Southern Stone Ltd	£11,835.00 + VAT	Heritage Stone Restoration Ltd	£ 8,576.00 + VAT.	SH	✓	
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709.3	<p><u>Topple Testing</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that Cemetary Development Services had carried out the topple test in 2008. The test will be due again in 2018. She had contacted them for a quotation and they will carry out a test and prepare a report for the sum of £1100.00 + VAT. The test will take two days. Any works required will be at an additional cost. It was agreed that a sum of £2000.00 be included in the draft budget for 2018/19</p>	SH	✓							
	Representatives from the Church left the meeting at 8.05p.m.									
17/710	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>Mr Doyle reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bid for funding a container through the KCC Members fund was unsuccessful. 									

	<p>Information had been obtained to rent a container but it was felt that it would not be suitable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are now looking at the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. • The hedge running through the middle of the meadow has been trimmed. • The little owl project was now running and owl boxes have been set up in the meadow and these will be monitored. 			
710.2	<p><u>Request for Bench</u></p> <p>A request has been received from the Malling Lioness Club to buy and site a bench in the meadow. A brochure showing the proposed seat was seen by members and it was agreed that it be discussed at the next Macey's Meadow meeting. Comment was made regarding the style of bench.</p>	SH	✓	
710.3	<p><u>Additional Hedge Cutting</u></p> <p>A quotation has been received for additional work to the hedge along the boundary of Norman Road/Macey's Meadow from Four Seasons. There is a 25 metre section that is a mixture of hedge and spindly trees which was not included in the cut for 2017/18. The cost is £240.00 + VAT. If cut before March 2018 this section will be cut in the 2018/19 Tender at no extra cost.</p> <p>To be discussed further at the Macey's Meadow meeting in January. A copy of the quotation to be sent to Mr Doyle.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that a letter had been received from a resident of Norman Road who would like to confirm that himself and other neighbours were very pleased with the standard of work undertaken by the contractor and in the manner in which they completed the task.</p>	SH	✓	
17/711	<p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p>			
	<p><u>Provision of Community Tennis Coaching</u></p> <p>At the F&GP meeting copies of the insurance, child welfare and DBS certification, first aid certification and risk assessment form had been requested. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk to meet Mr Barton in the New Year to assess the condition of the tennis courts.</p>			
17/712	<p><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that the hedge cutting was completed on Saturday 9 December 2017.</p>			
17/713	<p><u>LAND WEST OF AGE CONCERN</u></p> <p>Date to be confirm for the planting of the replacement Lime tree.</p>			
17/714	<p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that K Sports Colts had experienced problems with the changing rooms after their game. The changing room was left in a very bad state by a previous user. They cleared the changing room of litter but they were unable to use the toilet. The VHMC have sincerely apologised for this.</p>			
17/715	<p><u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u></p> <p>Miss Barkham asked if the landowner had reinstated the width of footpath MR138. The Assistant Clerk to check with the Clerk as this had been discussed at the planning committee.</p>	SH		

	There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.			
	Signed.....	Date.....		