

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present
Mr P Stevens
Mr N Stapleton
Ms M Stacpoole
Mrs L Javens
Mrs Y Smyth

Co-opted Members:

Mr M Doyle
Rev David Green
Ms I Macdonald
Mr J Musker
Mrs C Medhurst

Also in Attendance:

Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)
Mr J Collins – employee of West Malling Parish Council

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
18/218	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from Mr L Collins and Miss G Barkham.			
18/219	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none other than those routinely declared.			
18/220	<u>MINUTES</u> – after amendments to (157.3) RLAS member left at 8.00p.m. and (163.3) Mr Stevens the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 March 2018 were approved and signed.			
18/221	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> There were no matters arising.			
18/222	<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			
222.1	<u>Report by Rev Green</u> Rev David Green reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission, from TMBC, is awaited for the tree work. Upon approval Day Tree Fellers will confirm a date. • Vehicles which had been parking and turning on a piece of ground by the allotments have churned up the grass. It has been necessary to rotavate the area and it will be re-seeded. • Faculty approval has been granted for two benches. One to be sited on the south side and one on the north side of the Church. • Faculty approval has been granted for the planting of a commemorative tree in the 			

	<p>south eastern corner of the Church. The tree will be a Handkerchief tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The private drive that runs past the Vicarage to the properties (126 and 140) at the end of the drive is within the land owned by the church, but the Trust Deeds of the three properties share responsibility for the maintenance of the drive. The respective owners plan to have the drive resurfaced. Once resurfaced this Summer, it will no longer be possible for cars to park in that area by the allotments. Funeral vehicles, bridal cars, contractors, or visitors to the Churchyard will all have to park in the area by the North Door of the church. If those spots are occupied, churchyard users will either need to walk from home or park on the High Street. The first grass cut had been carried out before Easter as arranged. 			
222.2	<p><u>West Malling War Memorial</u></p> <p>Rev David Green reported that he had submitted details of the proposed work to the diocese and they recommend approval subject to further investigation as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Samples of the mortar, pointing and cleaning are inspected by the PCC's Architect. Details of the sub-contractor Antique Bronze and work proposed including possible repatinating of the bronze inscriptions. The need for a soakaway behind the Memorial. <p>Rev David Green said he had spoken to the Architect and they would be able to do the inspection for the sum of £350.00 + VAT.</p> <p>He has also contacted Antique Bronze and they did not think it would be necessary to repatinate. They are preparing a quote to clean, re-enamel the inscriptions on the bronze panels and Smart Water. Approximate costs are thought to be in the region of £2000.00 + VAT. It may be possible that we deal direct with Antique Bronze and that the Heritage Stone quote be amended to show removal of this work.</p> <p>Rev David Green said that a public subscription had been set up in various forms. A fund is being held at St Mary's and a just giving fund page has been set up at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/westmallingswarmemorial. An application has also been submitted to Tesco for the Bags for Help scheme. The War Memorial Grant decision is awaited.</p> <p>Details of the fund raising will be available on social media.</p> <p>Rev David Green was thanked for all his help.</p> <p>It was suggested that maybe a community stall could be set up at the farmers market. The Assistant Clerk to speak with Mrs Dean.</p> <p>Rev David Green said he would speak with the Architect regarding the need for drainage behind the Memorial.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to ask Heritage Stone and Antique Bronze approximately how long it will take to carry out the work.</p> <p>Ms Stacpoole commented on the need for plastic poppy wreaths and felt it would be more environmentally friendly for paper ones to be use. Ms Macdonald said she would speak the Royal British Legion to enquire if this is a possibility.</p>	SH DG IM	✓ ✓ ✓	
	Members of the churchyard left the meeting at 8.05p.m.			
18/223	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
223.1	<p><u>Report by West Malling Parish Council and Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens and Miss Barkham carried out the allotment inspection. It was generally felt</p>	SH	✓	

	<p>that the plots were being well maintained. It was agreed that any unworked plots be monitored.</p> <p>There are 3 vacant plots and it was agreed that Four Seasons, as part of the tender, be asked to clear and cover plots 1A and 18A. Plot 5A is mainly grass.</p> <p>The tap near plot 23 is dripping. Mr Moon be asked if he can fix this.</p> <p>Mrs Medhurst reported on the RLAS AGM, as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Blanning is Chair and Peter Yeoman is Vice Chair. • Possibility of a shed on plot 1A for additional storage of weed suppressant as the tenants are keen to keep the vacant plots clear of weeds. • Possibility of an environmentally friendly compost toilet to be sited on plot 1A. <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the contractor will be clearing and covering the vacant plots as part of the tender.</p> <p>Mr Stevens asked Members to consider the request for a compost toilet and any thoughts to be reported at the next meeting. The Assistant Clerk to make enquiries and to check if planning permission is required. It was suggested that a Lottery Grant could be applied for.</p>			
223.2	<p><u>Use of Vacant Plots</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens said he had been approached by a resident of Leybourne who would like an allotment but is unable due to not living in West Malling. He would be willing to take on a plot and vacate should a resident of West Malling wish to become a tenant. The Assistant Clerk to check the allotment act is see if this is possible.</p>	SH		
223.3	<p><u>Amendment to Tenancy Agreement</u></p> <p>It was agreed to amend Clause 4c of the Tenancy Agreement, as follows:</p> <p>“no livestock, bees or poultry of any kind shall be kept upon the Allotment Garden other than reasonable numbers of hens or rabbits for the tenant’s own domestic consumption”.</p> <p>This is take effect from November 2019 with notice of the amendment given in November 2018.</p>			
18/224	<p><u>MACEY’S MEADOW</u></p> <p>Mr Doyle reported that they had been concentrating on pruning the apple trees and the cobnuts.</p> <p>The Picnic in the Orchard event will be taking place on Saturday 21st April 2018 between 1pm-4pm. Bring a picnic to enjoy amongst the apple and cherry trees and enjoy folk music, arts and crafts, guided wildlife walks, hat parade and competition. There will be a bee keeping talk, little owl talk and reptile mats put down around the orchard.</p> <p>The container is due to be delivered on Friday.</p> <p>Following the request to install a recycled bench by the Lionesses it was felt that a wooden bench would be preferred.</p>			
18/225	<p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p>			
225.1	<p><u>Request for use of Playing Field for MK11 Spring Meet</u></p> <p>It was noted that an application has been received to hold their annual car spring meet on the playing fields on Sunday 6 May 2018. The village hall has been booked in conjunction with this.</p>			

	It was agreed permission be granted subject to ground conditions. A donation of £50.00 to be requested.			
225.2	<u>Replacement Fence, boundary of Playing Field</u> The Assistant Clerk reported that Tonbridge Fencing have agreed to hold their price of £3980.00 + VAT to replace the section of boundary fencing at the playing fields. It was agreed that this quotation be accepted and for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.			
225.3	<u>Play Area Annual Inspection Report</u> It was noted that the annual play equipment report had been carried out and there are no areas of concern. Mr Stevens asked that the Ball Park be put on the Full Council agenda for discussion regarding its condition.	CC		
18/226	<u>CRICKET MEADOW</u> The Assistant Clerk said she had received a request from a resident of Norman Road, adjacent to the cricket meadow regarding the re-siting of the dog bin. It is next to their garden fence and when the weather is warm the smell from the bin is very unpleasant and they are unable to sit in their garden. TMBC are responsible for the dog bin and it should be suggested that it be moved nearer the entrance to Macey's Meadow from the cricket meadow. It was reported that one of the branches on the new lime tree had been damaged. A tree guard to be placed around the tree.	SH	✓	
18/227	<u>VILLAGE HALL</u>			
227.1	<u>Report on VHMC Meeting</u> Points of note had been received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Javens has become the new Parish Council representative in relation to WMVH. • Hall bookings are very healthy and a further slot on Tuesday afternoons has now been taken by a junior drama/dance class. • Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 24 May 2018 • AGM also scheduled for Thursday 24 May 2018. The Assistant Clerk said that the dance school had reimbursed the Parish Council for the damaged padlock.			
227.2	<u>Additional Security of Car Park</u> Mrs Javens said about talks regarding the feasibility of an extension to the car park, to the side of the hall. She said that this had not been discussed at the last village hall meeting. Comment had been made that this area contributes to the rural setting of the hall and allows hirers to open the doors and use the outdoor area. This is not possible due to the electrical cut off if the doors are opened. It was agreed to defer the item of additional security until further discussions had taken place in respect of a possible car park extension.			
227.3	<u>Replacement Wooden Troughs</u> It was noted that Chris Gosney had ordered two large wooden troughs to replace the	SH	✓	

	<p>barrels at a cost of approximately £150.00. He will empty the existing barrels into the new ones. He has requested a contribution towards the cost of the barrels but his labour is free.</p> <p>Discussion took place and it was that as the Parish Council are responsible for the car park they should have been consulted before the purchase was made. As there are no additional funds available it was felt that a contribution should be out of the £3000.00 contribution to the village hall. The Assistant Clerk to speak with Mrs Dean.</p>			
18/228	<u>RECYCLING, CLEANSING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u>			
	<p><u>Recycling Site – Car Park – Rear of Tesco Store</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that she had attempted to arrange a site meeting with TMBC regarding the overflowing recycle bins. Unfortunately, they declined. They say that the problems being experienced is a borough-wide issue. The two specialist vehicles they use are towards the end of their working life and have required significant maintenance. As they are specialist vehicles back up vehicles are not readily available to hire in the event one of them is off the road. The recent bad weather has compounded the issue by meaning both vehicles were unable to empty any banks for four days and they are still trying to catch up. Additional resources have been redeployed to clear the sites of excess materials which has been left at the sites due to the banks being full. They are also borrowing a vehicle from Medway Borough Council one or two days a week to assist. Whilst the signage at the site does ask residents to take their recycling home some residents feel unable to do so. They would find it difficult to fine residents who leave glass on site if they have not been able to empty the banks. They will review the situation during w/c 26 March and if there are any residual site specific issues they will meet with the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that she had visited the site on Friday 23 March and the site was clear and the banks were not full.</p> <p>The tin recycling bin is full and this should be reported to TMBC.</p>	SH		
18/229	<u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u>			
	<p><u>Temporary Closure of FP MR116 – Lavenders Road</u></p> <p>It was noted that Kent County Council has made an order to temporarily close part of footpath MR116, between Lavenders Road and Ashton Way/Kings Hill Bypass for a maximum of 6 months from 13 April 2018. This is due to water pipe work. Diversion is in place.</p>			
18/230	<u>FINANCE</u>			
	<p><u>Budget Statement</u></p> <p>The statement of receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.</p>			
18/231	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u>	SH		
	<p>Mr J Collins said that youths have started congregating in the ball park seat area and are leaving a lot of rubbish. TMBC to be asked to replace the rubbish bin.</p>			
	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Wednesday 23 May 2018 (concentrating on Allotments)			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.12 p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			