

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 08 JUNE 2020 AT 7.30PM

MEETING CONDUCTED BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Present
Mr P Stevens
Miss G Barkham
Ms S Margetts
Mrs Y Smyth
Mrs L Javens
Ms M Stacpoole
Co-opted Members:
Rev D Green
Ms I Macdonald

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
20/222	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mr M Doyle			
20/223	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none other than those routinely declared.			
20/224	<u>MINUTES</u> – the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 March 2020 were approved and signed.			
20/225	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> [20176] Miss Barkham asked if the guard rail supports on MR 140, Churchfields end of the churchyard, had been replaced. The Assistant Clerk to chase.	SH	✓	
20/226	<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			
226.1	<u>Report by Rev David Green</u> Rev Green reported that the grounds maintenance team our continuing to tend the churchyard and looks good. People are still tending graves. The tap, near the allotments, is still not working. The two taps in the churchyard are on the same water line. South East Water have been on site and feel the only option is to dig and check the water supply. PCC permission will be required before any work is carried out. Subsequent to the meeting Rev Green reported that the tap was now working. A plumber that was on site looked at the tap, identified the problem, and replaced it.			
226.2	<u>Tree Work</u> A resident of Churchfields raised concerns regarding a Laburnum in the churchyard which he said is dying and shedding leaves and flowers into the path, road and front gardens.	SH	✓	

	<p>As this type of tree is poisonous and the tree nearly being dead it was suggested that it be removed. Down to Earth have inspected the Laburnum and provided a quotation for the removal of the tree for the sum of £175.00 + VAT. Whilst on site they noticed that the adjacent Cherry laurel has also declined and have provided a quotation for removal for the sum of £120.00 + VAT. Rev Green said, at this time, he did not feel removal of the Cherry laurel was necessary.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that there was £215.00 in safeguarded sums for tree work. After discussion it was agreed that the Laburnum be removed to near ground level.</p> <p>Assistant Clerk to instruct Down to Earth.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk asked if consideration could be given to obtaining quotations for the 12 month tree work as identified in the tree survey. This was agreed.</p>	SH	✓	
	Churchyard representatives left the meeting at 19.49pm.			
20/227	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
		SH	✓	
227.1	<p><u>Reports by West Malling Parish Council and RLAS</u></p> <p>It was noted that inspections had been carried out and reports provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot 1 A – new tenant. Plot 4 – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, fruit trees not managed, no plot marker, hedges and grass not maintained. It was agreed to monitor. Plot 26 – post needs to be put back up. <p>Ms Margetts said that the elder at the top of plot 3, boundary of the school, was very overgrown and she is unable to maintain it. It was agreed to obtain a quotation from Four Seasons to cut back.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that the top end of plot 1A is very overgrown. It was agreed to obtain a quotation from Four Seasons to trim.</p> <p>Mr Moon to be asked to check the top water tank.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said about the possibility of directing people on the waiting list to Rev Green should there be any allotments available at the church. This is subject to GDPR and agreement with the church. GDPR forms to be sent out later in the year. Rev Green to be consulted.</p>			
227.2	<p><u>Application for a shed on plot 1A</u></p> <p>It was noted that an application has been received for a shed on plot 1A. Discussion took place regarding the siting of the shed and it was agreed that it be sited at the top of 1A not at the top boundary fence and subject to the usual conditions. The tenants of plot 1A to be informed why it is necessary to site there.</p>	SH	✓	
20/228	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the volunteer days. It was agreed that they can start back up subject to volunteers using their own tools and observing social distancing rules.</p> <p>The hedge, on the boundary of Norman Road, is due to be cut on Saturday 11 July 2020. Permission has been sought from KCC.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the Apple fest event. It was agreed that no decision be taken at this time as to whether the event can go ahead.</p>			

20/229	<u>PLAYING FIELD</u>			
229.1	<p><u>Quarterly Playground Inspection Report</u></p> <p>It was noted that the inspection report had been received. No high risk levels were identified. Quotations to be obtained for moderate risk levels as identified in the report.</p> <p>Mrs Javens said that if the underlay, by the bin, is put into a bag she is happy for it to be put in her rubbish bin.</p> <p>Ms Margetts suggested that the grounds maintenance team be asked to be careful when strimming around the trim trail as strimmer damage to the posts was identified in the report.</p>	SH	✓	
229.2	<p><u>Application for use of pitch 2020/21</u></p> <p>It was noted that an application had been received from Invicta Rangers to use the pitch for the next season. The Assistant Clerk said there had been not problems last season. It was agreed that permission be granted subject to the usual conditions.</p>	SH	✓	
229.3	<p><u>Tennis Courts</u></p> <p>It was noted that a repair had to be made to a section of the tennis court fencing. A section had been cut out when the courts had been locked. This work was carried out under delegated powers due to health and safety issues. Cost of the work was £120.00 + VAT.</p>			
20/230	<p><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></p> <p>During the Covid 19 lockdown a request had been received from Town Malling Cricket Club to suspend rent on the cricket meadow. This had been agreed by members under delegated powers. However, the Cricket Club have been successful in raising money through subscriptions and donations and are now financially stable for the foreseeable future. They, therefore, are in a position to be able to pay the rent.</p> <p>Miss Barkham made comment on the need to upgrade the toilets in the Pavilion. This would be the decision of the Cricket Club under the terms of the lease.</p>			
20/231	<p><u>BALL PARK</u></p> <p>It was noted that it had been necessary to relock the ball park. It was opened in line with government guidelines but due to social distancing issues it was felt it could not be open to the general public.</p> <p>Mrs Javens made comment on replacement backboards. There are no immediate plans to replace.</p>			
20/232	<p><u>FINANCE</u></p> <p><u>Budget Statements</u></p> <p>Monthly budget statements were noted.</p>			
20/233	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Mrs Javens asked if litter picking was taking place on playing fields and village hall car park. The Clerk has been checking the area. It was agreed to discuss this further at budget time.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said a resident had reported that there was a lot of litter in St Leonard's Street. Mainly, takeaway receptables and broken glass. Assistant Clerk to report.</p>	SH	✓	

	Miss Barkham asked if she could trim the grass under the banner at Rotary House, as it was obscuring the telephone number. This was agreed.			
	Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13 July 2020 (concentrating on Allotments)			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.39p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			