

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM

MEETING CONDUCTED BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Present
Mr P Stevens
Ms S Margetts
Mrs L Javens
Mrs Y Smyth
Miss G Barkham

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
20/374	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from Ms M Stacpoole, Mr M Doyle, Rev D Green, Ms I Macdonald and Mr J Musker.			
20/375	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – Mrs Javens declared an interest in [380.3] as a local resident to the children’s play area and Mr Stevens declared an interest in [385.2] details of contractor for tenders.			
20/376	<u>MINUTES</u> – the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3 August 2020 were approved and signed.			
20/377	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> [20/331.1] The Assistant Clerk said that Liz Guthrie had been and looked at the Lime trees. She said it was difficult to view the trunks properly as they are in full leaf. She has no doubt that they have serious internal decay but will be able to see more when they have lost their leaves. Her initial view is that they could be kept if regularly pollarded. It was agreed that a further inspection take place on the trees. [20/305] – Miss Barkham asked about the planter in the High Street. Ms Margetts said she would update under Macey’s Meadow.	SH	✓	
20/378	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
378.1	<u>Report by WMPC and RLAS</u> It was noted that Miss Barkham and RLAS had carried out inspections on the allotments and were presented as follows: 1A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, hedges and grass not maintained. the tenant had responded to the second letter stating that they intend to start working the plot but no work has been carried out. It was agreed that a letter to vacate be sent. 4 - much improved. Letter be sent that glad work has started and if the tenant had considered half a plot. 19A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, hedges and grass not maintained. It was agreed that a second letter be sent. 26A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, hedges and grass not maintained. It was agreed that a first letter be sent.	SH	✓	

	27B – Fruit trees need cutting back. It was agreed that a letter be sent. 28A – Hedge and pathway not maintained. It was agreed a letter be sent. 29A – Hedge needs cutting back. It was agreed that a letter be sent.			
378.2	<u>Theft of Produce and Tools</u> It was noted that some tenants are experiencing theft of produce and tools. Some tools had been recovered from the cricket meadow. The allotment society are storing the tools to hopefully reunite with their owners. It was agreed that a letter be sent to all tenants drawing their attention to the theft.	SH	✓	
378.3	<u>Replacement Fencing</u> The Assistant Clerk reported that Mr Carr had not provided a quote. It was noted that a quote had been received from GKW Wrought Iron for the sum of £3275.00 + VAT. After discussion the Assistant Clerk was asked to obtain revised quotes from GKW Wrought Iron and Parkers for 4ft fencing.	SH	✓	
20/379	<u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u> Ms Margetts said herself and Mr Doyle had walked around the meadow to see what needs maintaining for budget purposes. A date to be arranged to plant the planter in the High Street. A reptile survey had been carried out and it has been a very good year for slow worms. 6 males, 7 females and 2 sub-adults. A common lizard had been seen too.			
20/380	<u>PLAYING FIELD</u>			
380.1	<u>Invicta Rangers</u> It was noted that a request had been received from Invicta Rangers to site a temporary storage container on the field, to store nets and clothing during play, in light of not being able to use the changing rooms. After discussion it was agreed that a small 10x8ft container could be sited, subject to the following conditions.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary siting during the Covid period. • To provide final dimensions before siting and the container be blue or green. • To be sited behind the Village Hall, against the hedge, other side of the trees. (space to be left between the hedge and container to allow for hedge cutting). • Container and contents to be insured by Invicta Rangers (a copy of the insurance to be provided). • The Parish Council are not responsible for any loss or damage to the container or equipment. • To be removed by Invicta Rangers, at the end of the period, at no cost to West Malling Parish Council. 	SH	✓	
380.2	<u>Use of Pitch</u> It was noted that Barming Youth football club would like use of the pitch on the following Sunday afternoons: 20 September 27 September 4 October	SH	✓	

	11 October 18 October 8 November. It was agreed that permission be granted subject to ground conditions as priority is given to Invicta Rangers.			
380.3	<u>Replacement Fencing – Children’s Play Area</u> Mrs Javens asked about the installation of the replacement fencing. She mentioned the gate that is in the wooden fence, which is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Assistant Clerk to contact Parkers to obtain an installation date.	SH	✓	
20/381	<u>CRICKET MEADOW</u> There was not anything to report.			
20/382	<u>BALL PARK</u> The ball park remains closed to the public as the school are using as part of their one way system.			
20/383	<u>VILLAGE HALL</u> It was noted that the points of note had been received, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hallmark Renewal is now in progress. Application almost complete and a review visit to be scheduled shortly. • Hall to be re-opened on Tuesday 1 September 2020. • A COVID 19 Risk Assessment has been prepared and will be displayed in the Foyer. • A Guidance Note for hirers has been prepared and sent to all hirers setting out the conditions to be met following re-opening of the hall. • Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 19 November 2020. Mrs Javens reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good savings have been made in the last quarter in respect of the solar panels. • A new cleaning contractor has started. • Chris Gosney had been thanked, on behalf of the Parish Council, for his work during breakdown. • The village sign has been taken down and refurbished. To be put back up when a cherry picker is available. • The new treasurer is awaiting the new bank registration details. • Currently reviewing policies. • The photo for village life competition has been submitted. Possibility of a win of £1000.00 			
20/384	<u>THE TWITCH</u> A grant has been applied for from TMBC. Volunteers, of the Twitch, are inspecting the premises once a month to complete the demand of the insurance company.			
20/385	<u>FINANCE</u>			
385.1	<u>Budget Statements</u> Monthly budget statements were noted.			

<p>385.2</p>	<p><u>Specifications for Tender</u></p> <p>Members had been issued with the Tenders. Only amendment is to increase the number of cuts at the cricket meadow. It was agreed that the specifications be put out for tender on Friday 9 October 2020.</p> <p>Mrs Javens agreed to open the tenders on Tuesday 3 November 2020.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said he know of a possible contractor and would find out details.</p>			
<p>20/386</p>	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Mr Stevens said that parts of Offham Road had not had a recycling collection for approximately a month. The food bins in Churchfield are being thrown down the road by the contractors. The waste bin in the playing field is not being emptied regularly.</p> <p>Mrs Javens said that the foxes are raiding the food bins, in Woodland Close, and leaving food in the street.</p> <p>These should be reported to Waste Services.</p> <p>Ms Margetts said about the removal of the waste bin from the wall of The Malling Club. It was a handy spot for a bin. The Malling Club did not want it on their wall as cigarettes were being stubbed out on the wall.</p>	<p>SH</p>	<p>✓</p>	
	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Monday 12 October 2020 (concentrating on Churchyard)</p>			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.48p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			
