

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

MEETING CONDUCTED BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

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

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
20/561	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mr M Doyle.			
20/562	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none other than those routinely declared.			
20/563	MINUTES – after amendments to [20/490] addition of numbering to declarations, [20/496] from end of wooden fence/tree to 12 Woodland Close and [20/502] Rowan tree the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 November 2020 were approved.			
20/564	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising			
20/565	CHURCHYARD			
565.1	Report by Rev David Green Rev Green said that the grounds maintenance had finished for the winter and is happy to meet with the new contractors in the next couple of months. The taps have been turned off. There are no vacant plots in the Church allotments. He said about the national programme of God's Green Acre and that two representatives from Kent Wildlife Trust had been to the Churchyard and had made suggestions to encourage more wildlife into the area. Rev Green felt that a small group of volunteers get together and put forward a set of proposals.			
565.2	Memorial Tree Rev Green reported that he had spoken with the Archdeacon to clarify the regulations and general practice in regard to trees to mark an anniversary/civic commemorations. Churchyards are sacred ground and primarily places of remembrance for those that have died and PCC should be cautious because of the potential precedent it sets out for other civic groups and anniversaries. There would also need to be consideration regarding future care of the tree. Although, it is technically possible there are significant challenges.	SH	✓	

	After discussion it was agreed that a copy of the letter be forwarded to the Rotary Club and await their response.			
	Ms Macdonald was in support of the planting of the tree.			
	Churchyard representatives left the meeting at 7.51p.m.			
20/566	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
	<u>Request for a shed – plot 6</u>	SH	✓	
	It was noted that a request had been received for a shed on plot 6. It was agreed permission be granted subject to the usual conditions.			
20/567	<u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u>	SH		
	Ms Margetts said about the noticeboard cover. The Assistant Clerk will check the specification and order new cover.			
20/568	<u>PLAYING FIELD</u>			
568.1	<u>Tennis Courts</u>	SH	✓	
	It was noted that a quotation has been received, from Four Seasons, to apply a moss killer to the surface on the tennis courts for the sum of £178.48 + VAT. It was agreed that this be accepted.			
	Jimmy's Tennis had been in contact regarding renewal of the Lawn Tennis Association registration. The fee has increased from £200 to £300. Jim feels that benefits we receive is not worth the increase and suggests that the registration is not renewed. We will now be covered under Jimmy's Tennis Club for licencing, insurance, child welfare and safeguarding, diversity, whistleblowing and GDPR.			
568.2	<u>Outdoor Group Fitness Group</u>	SH	✓	
	It was noted that a request had been received to use the playing fields for an outdoor fitness group twice a week. The fitness sessions are for all ages and abilities. A copy of the public liability insurance has been received. After discussion it was agreed in principle subject to agreeing costs and what equipment will be used. The Assistant Clerk to obtain this information.			
20/569	<u>CRICKET MEADOW</u>	SH		
	It was noted that the above fitness instructor has also requested use of the cricket meadow. This to be referred to the cricket club.			
20/570	<u>BALL PARK</u>			
	There was not anything to report.			
20/571	<u>VILLAGE HALL</u>			
	<u>Hall Closure due to Lockdown</u>			
	It was noted that the village hall will remain closed, other than the pre-school, until the new year.			

20/572	<u>WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES</u>			
572.1	<u>Transfer of Public Toilet Facilities</u> Any discussion regarding transfer of the toilets will take place at Full Council.			
572.2	<u>Dog Fouling</u> It was noted that there have been reports of increased dog fouling especially West Street/Norman Road. There are several schemes TMBC promote in partnership with Parish Councils. The Assistant Clerk has information on these and will look into how each scheme works. Members felt that action needs to be taken and that dog owners should be responsible for clearing up after their dog. Information should be put out on social media. Ms Margetts said that the clean up after your dog sign had been removed from the gate in Macey's Meadow. The Assistant Clerk has some spare and will arrange for them to be dropped into the office. Ms Margetts said about a rota for litter picking by members. Miss Barkham, Ms Stacpoole and herself agreed to carry out litter picking. The Assistant Clerk to prepare a risk assessment.	SH		
20/573	<u>FINANCE</u>			
573.1	<u>Budget Statements</u> Monthly budget statements were noted.			
573.2	<u>Consideration of Budget for 2021/2022</u> The following amendments were made to the budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of £150.00 for maintenance of the planter in the High Street • Addition of £175.00 for a tree survey of the village hall car park. It was noted that a sum of £900.00 had been added, to the Macey's Meadow budget, for any emergency tree work after the tree survey. It was agreed that the proposed budget be referred to Full Council for final approval.	SH	✓	
20/574	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u> Mrs Smyth said that the food waste collection, in Frog Lane, was a week late in being collected. To be reported to Waste Services. Ms Margetts said about the mess that is left behind by the waste collectors, after collection. To be reported to Waste Services. Miss Barkham said that if it had been raining any soggy waste was left in the bottom of the green bin. Waste Services to be asked if they could ensure the waste collectors made sure the bin was completely emptied. She felt that the consideration should be given to changing the use of each bin. A letter to be sent to Waste Services.	SH		
	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Monday 11 January 2021 (concentrating on Churchyard)			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40p.m.			

	Signed.....	Date.....			
--	-------------	-----------	--	--	--