

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30PM AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Mr P Stevens (Chairman)
Mrs L Javens
Mr R Selkirk

Co-opted Members:
Mr M Doyle

Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
16/136	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from Mrs Y Smyth, Ms I Macdonald and Rev D Green			
16/137	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none other than those already routinely declared.			
16/138	<u>MINUTES</u> – of the Meeting held on Monday 8 February 2016 were approved and signed.			
16/139	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> - from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda (16/97) The Assistant Clerk was asked if costs had been obtained for posts for the fencing panel at the Village Hall. The Assistant Clerk said she would look into this.	SH		
16/140	<u>Co-opted Member</u> It was noted that a reply had been received from Mr Mullins. He is happy to remain as a Co-opted member but as he is no longer Chairman of the Allotment Society he will not report on the allotments. Members were happy for him to continue in this capacity. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact Val Valvassura and see if she still wished to continue as a Co-opted Member.	SH		
16/141	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
141.1	<u>Report</u> Mr Stevens carried out the allotment report on behalf of WMPC and presented his report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1A – requires a plot marker • 4 – requires a plot marker • 5A – less than 75% cultivated • 9A – overgrown • 9B – overgrown • 12A – overgrown • 14 – less than 75% cultivated • 18A – overgrown • 19 – overgrown 	SH	✓	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24A – overgrown • 28B – overgrown • 29 – overgrown • 30 – overgrown. <p>The Assistant Clerk said that plots 9A, 12A, 19B and 24A were new tenants. 28B was vacant. It was agreed that the plot be advertised in the KM Column and Downs Mail.</p> <p>Mr Stevens said that the path between plots 9 and 10 was not straight and Mr Moon be asked to put a string marker between the two. The hedge and fence by plot 25 needs repair on the Ryarsh Lane side and the old fencing by plot 22 has a couple of broken posts. Mr Moon be asked to carry out these repairs.</p> <p>Mr Collins to be asked to dig up the weeds along the footpath between the allotments , plots 4 and 5.</p>			
141.2	<u>Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u>			
	There was no RLAS report available.			
141.3	<u>Anti-Social Behaviour</u>	SH	✓	
	The Assistant Clerk had obtained costs of Hawthorn, Blackberry and Roses for the boundary of the fence between the allotments and Macey's Meadow. £30 per pack of 10 whips. These would take considerable time to establish. Root ball plants are £20 each. Discussion took place regarding a replacement fence on the boundary and additional quotes will need to be obtained.			
141.4	<u>Request to Erect a Shed on Plot 18B</u>			
	It was agreed that permission be given to the tenant of Plot 18B to erect a shed at the Cricket Meadow end of the plot subject to the usual conditions and no glass window.			
141.5	<u>Water Usage</u>	SH		
	Mr Stevens reported that the water usage over the past 7 years was decreasing. It was agreed to continue to monitor the usage. Mr Moon should be asked to turn the water back on for the sheep in Macey's Meadow. The Assistant Clerk was asked to send a reminder to Mr West for the water contribution.			
141.6	<u>Allotment Tool Marking</u>	SH	✓	
	It was noted that an allotment tool marking campaign has been set up by Kent Police to detect and deter the number of thefts and damage to property within allotments. The objective is that every allotment will be issued with a specific colour and all tools left in sheds will be painted clearly with the colour so that they are easily identifiable to that allotment. A database has been created on their system which informs officers of the location, contact details of the allotment managers and the colour code of the allotment. Each tool will be marked with the owners home postcode and house number using a permanent marker or etching equipment supplied by the police, the only cost to the Parish Council would be a can of wood/metal paint of the designated colour. The police will supply laminated signs for sheds stating that the tools have been marked. They have also provided information on protecting and securing sheds.			
	It was agreed that the Parish Council partake in this scheme and the additional information be sent to allotment tenants.			
16/142	<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			
	<u>Tree Safety and Management</u>	SH	✓	

	<p>Discussion took place regarding the tree work at the Churchyard. It had been agreed at the December Amenities Meeting, (15/625 refers), that Down to Earth carry out the tree work at the Churchyard. Unfortunately, due to complications at their office Down to Earth had not scheduled the work to start or be completed before the end of March 2016 and had not sought permission from the Borough Council Tree Officer. Rev Green felt that due to these circumstances the work by Down to Earth would need to be cancelled and an alternative quote be considered. However, Down to Earth have now asked that they continue with the planned work and have submitted an application to the Borough Council and will carry out the work at the 2012 price of £1770 + VAT. It has been agreed to go ahead with Down to Earth. Mr Stevens proposed that the Committee ratify the action taken and that the unspent tree budget for this work be safeguarded should the work not be completed before the end of March 2016, seconded by Mr Selkirk.</p> <p>Mr Stevens reported that the Martin Family bench had been installed.</p>			
16/143	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>Mr Doyle reported that the fun run had taken place yesterday and had been very successful. There had been approximately 170 runners.</p> <p>Several of the rotten fence posts have been replaced.</p> <p>A cobnut pruning workshop has taken place at the Meadow.</p> <p>Mr Doyle said that the Swan Pub in Swan Street have shown interest in taking some of the produce from the Meadow.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk said about sheep worrying by dogs. It was agreed that this be reported in the Downsmail and the KM Column and that dog owners be requested to keep their dogs on a lead when in the field with the sheep.</p> <p>Mr Doyle said that Macey's Meadow had been approached to be used as car parking for St Georges Day Parade. Unfortunately, the fields are not suitable for parking.</p>	SH	✓	
16/144	<p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p>			
144.1	<p><u>Hedge to the Rear of 183 Norman Road/Boundary of Playing Field</u></p> <p>It was noted that a request had been received from the resident of 183 Norman Road that they reduce to the height of the hedge to the rear of their property/boundary of the playing fields to the same height as their neighbours. It was agreed that we have no objection to the work being carried out.</p>	SH	✓	
144.2	<p><u>Repair to Flymobile, Children's Play Area</u></p> <p>It was noted that a quote had been received from ARD playgrounds for the repair of the Flymobile in the children's play area. It requires a full strip down and new thrust bearings, full lubricate and rebuild for the sum of £426.50 + VAT. It was agreed that the work be carried out as there is sufficient funds for play equipment repairs in the 2015/2016 budget.</p>	SH	✓	
16/145	<p><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></p>			
145.1	<p><u>Use of Cricket Ground for Exercise Class</u></p> <p>It was noted that a reply had been received from the Cricket Club regarding the use of the ground for an exercise class. They have resolved to allow the use conditional of the following three points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That only the outfield is used. This means that the central area or 'square' is not used at any time - this is the area in the centre of the field that is usually roped off, and in the summer is mown shorter than the outfield. 2. Use of the ground for cricket and football takes priority 	SH	✓	

	<p>3. That adequate liability insurance is provided with a limit of indemnity of not less than £5m to protect class members, class teachers and the general public against any accidents arising from the use of the ground. We require evidence that the insurance cover is in place, to be provided to TMCC <u>BEFORE</u> classes commence.</p> <p>The class organiser had been made aware of the conditions and the Assistant Clerk said that she had also requested a copy of the liability insurance.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Cricket Club be asked if they were taking any payment for the classes as it is a commercial venture and should be charged at the going rate or it will set a precedent for other recreational classes.</p>			
145.2	<p><u>Vehicle Damage on Cricket Meadow</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Cricket Club has been in contact with Colus and they have been very helpful and sympathetic. They have agreed to pay the groundsman to repair the damage.</p>			
16/146	<p><u>BALL PARK</u></p> <p>At the February Joint Meeting with WM CEP School, Age Concern, Town Malling Cricket Club, Police and members of the Parish Council preliminary discussions took place regarding ways of dealing with the incidence of anti-social behaviour. The pros and cons of CCTV were discussed and Police felt that it would definitely be an advantage but often moved offenders on to another area. The school were asked if their CCTV could be extended to cover the ball park. This is being considered as the existing system could accommodate a further two cameras.</p> <p>It was felt that the hedge behind the Pavilion had grown quite high and was providing cover for miscreants. The Assistant Clerk had been asked to obtain a quote from Turfsoil to reduce the height. This is awaited.</p>	SH	✓	
16/147	<p><u>LAND WEST OF AGE CONCERN</u></p> <p>It was noted that a quote had been received from Bartlett Consulting – To provide an arboricultural report to assess the health and safety. The tree will be sounded, any cavities probed, the crown inspected through binoculars and any fungus found analysed. A separate Picus test will then be carried out – For the sum of £550.00 + VAT.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said she had spoken with Malcolm Wickenden who had been and looked at the tree. He agreed that it did have quite a lot of fungus but felt that no work should be carried out until the tree had been looked at again when in leaf.</p> <p>A copy of the quotes should be sent to Malcolm Wickenden for information.</p>	SH	✓	
16/148	<p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p>A report had been received from the Village Hall Management Committee. The defibrillator should be fitted over the Easter break. The Hall will also have its six monthly spring clean. The floor has been refurbished. There has been a small increase in hiring charges. The accounts have been audited and uploaded to the Charity Commission website. The committee is interested in the possibility of installing CCTV. Progress towards Hallmark 3 was discussed. The hall has achieved level 1 and 2. The water supply main under the car park has been repaired as has the pothole. Consideration is being given to a remembrance for June Towler, something that can be displayed at the hall, her family have been approached.</p>			
16/149	<p><u>Community Paths Project/Public Rights of Way</u></p>			
	<p><u>Proposed Diversion of Part of Public Footpath MR143A</u></p>	SH	✓	

	<p>It was noted that an application had been received by the County Council to divert part of Public Footpath MR143A at Lavenders Road, West Malling.</p> <p>The construction of the West Malling Bypass resulted in the footpath being bisected and diverted along the boundary of the bypass on either side of it. This has created a dog-leg that requires users to walk from the western end of MR111 diagonally across an orchard in a north-easterly direction and then turn sharply in a south-westerly direction to re-join. The proposed diversion is therefore in the interests of the landowner by removing a footpath crossing the orchard and enabling him to make best use of the land, whilst also providing a more convenient and enjoyable route for the public.</p> <p>Mr Selkirk said that this area of land had been nominated as a site of interest as part of the TMBC Local Plan "call for sites" exercise. It was agreed that the Parish Council object to the diversion and the following comments be submitted:</p> <p>WMPC has thoroughly reviewed the application to redirect the public right of way and would like to register its objection.</p> <p>The area of land containing the PROW has been nominated as a site of interest as part of the TMBC Local Plan 'Call For Sites' exercise.</p> <p>TMBC are at the early stages of reviewing these in advance of the publication of the next stage in the autumn of this year.</p> <p>To agree to the removal of the PROW at this time would be wrong as it would be beneficial to any future development. Its removal would increase the likelihood of this site being developed.</p> <p>For that reason at this time we cannot agree to this and would ask you to refuse. This will allow the planning application to be reviewed fairly.</p> <p>Were this site not to be developed as part of the TMBC Local Plan we would be willing to reconsider our view at that time.</p>			
16/150	<u>TREE WARDENS/TREE WORK</u>			
	There was no tree warden/tree work other than the lime tree discussed in [insert]			
16/151	<u>RECYCLING, CLEANSING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</u>			
151.1	<u>Dog Excrement around West Malling</u>			
	It was noted that a letter had been received from a resident of Alma Road regarding the increase of dog excrement in West Malling. The Assistant Clerk said she had reported this to the Borough dog warden.			
151.2	<u>Littergram</u>			
	<p>Littergram is a free app solution that allows users to take a picture of litter, flytipping or overflowing litter bins that need emptying. GPS then pinpoints the location of the problem and the photo is sent automatically to the relevant local council authority.</p> <p>TMBC worked with littergram to develop the app, which will help the Council to respond even more quickly when rubbish is spotted and reported by app users. As well as pinpointing the exact location of the rubbish and sending a photo, the app also gives the Council the opportunity to reply to the sender to let them know what action is being taken. For further information the web address: www.littergram.co.uk.</p>			
16/152	<u>YOUTH ISSUES</u>			
152.1	<u>2016 Easter Activate</u>			

	The Borough Council will be again running the popular Easter Activate from Tuesday 29 March to Friday 8 April 2016. Copies of the leaflet will be held in the Office.			
152.2	<u>Rural Spotlight on Young People</u> A roundup of news, research and work provided by the Rural Services Network, highlighting issues for young people in rural areas in the last 12 month. This will be held in the Office.			
152.3	<u>Easter Activities at Bore Place</u> It was noted that activities over the Easter Holidays will be taking place at Bore Place. For more details: www.boreplace.org .			
16/154	<u>BUDGET STATEMENT</u> The statement of Receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.			
16/	<u>FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u> There were no questions from the public and Councillors.			
	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> - Monday 14 March 2016 (concentrating on Allotments) Monday 4 April 2016 (concentrating on Churchyards) – please note change of date Wednesday 4 May 2016 (concentrating on Allotments)			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.44p.m. Signed..... Date.....			