WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present Mr P Stevens Miss G Barkham Mr L Collins Mrs L Javens Mrs Y Smyth Ms M Stacpoole Mr N Stapleton

> Also in Attendance: Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk) Mr M Doyle Ms I Macdonald Mr J Musker Mr J Collins – employee of West Malling Parish Council

	Minute		Action by	Action	Response
17/705		APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Rev David Green			
17/706		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none other than those routinely declared.			
17/707		<u>MINUTES</u> –Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 9 October 2017 and Monday 13 November 2017 were approved and signed.			
17/708		MATTERS ARISING			
		(17/640.1) Miss Barkham said she would be willing to take over the allotment inspections from April with some initial help from Mr Stevens. This was agreed.			
		(17/644) Mr Stevens asked about the replacement Lime tree at the Cricket Meadow. The Assistant Clerk reported that the tree had been collected from the nursery by Four Seasons but a planting date had yet been agreed.			
17/709		<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			
709.1		Report by Rev Green	SH	✓	
		Rev Green had prepared a report, in his absence, as follows:			
		In regard to my report, if I had been present, I would have said that most activity is quiet at present with the end of the grass cutting having concluded in November and various things effectively on hold around Christmas. I look forward to the Committee's appointment of a contractor for the maintenance of the Churchyard, and I'll be interested to hear what the Committee make of the three War Memorial quotes now received.			
		It may be worth noting, as I think I mentioned in October, that we have now had it			

17/710	MACEY'S MEADOW Mr Doyle reported on the following:			
17/710				
47/740				
	Representatives from the Church left the meeting at 8.05p.m.			
	The Assistant Clerk reported that Cemetary Development Services had carried out the topple test in 2008. The test will be due again in 2018. She had contacted them for a quotation and they will carry out a test and prepare a report for the sum of £1100.00 + VAT. The test will take two days. Any works required will be at an additional cost. It was agreed that a sum of £2000.00 be included in the draft budget for 2018/19			
709.3	Topple Testing	SH	~	
	Grant information from War Memorials.org is still awaited.			
	Ms Macdonald said that Heritage Stone had carried out wall repairs in the Churchyard and had been very good.After discussion it was agreed that a recommendation be made to Full Council to accept Heritage Stone Restoration Ltd and upon agreement Rev Green be asked to apply for Faculty permission. The draft budget to be amended.			
	The Stone Shop£15,500.00 + VATSouthern Stone Ltd£11,835.00 + VATHeritage Stone Restoration Ltd£ 8,576.00 + VAT.			
	Mr Stevens explained that three quotations had been received for work to the war memorial, all based on the same specification, as follows:		*	
709.2	West Malling War Memorial	SH		
	budget arrangements. Rev Green to be informed that Turfsoil had been awarded the maintenance contract for 2018/19.			
	 the vicinity of the southernmost wall of the south side of the Churchyard. This would be the first new bench in some time (the three most recent all being replacement benches). PCC have given approval and it will start its Faculty journey in the new year. PCC have recently received quotes for some tree work in the Churchyard, prompted by a request from neighbours on Churchfields. It is additional work to the plan previously agreed with Parish Council and so PCC decided to try and fund it entirely from their own money. However, the quotes came in above what we had available in our budget. PCC have asked me to write to the residents of Churchfields seeing if they could contribute to help with the shortfall. Failing that, PCC may have to consider using budget from 2017 and 2018 if they are to do the works. I mention it purely for the WMPC's information. I'm not expecting or looking for any contributions since it is above and beyond the previously agreed work and 			
	Finally, in my report, it may be worth noting:that we have received a further request for a fourth memorial bench to be sited in			
	confirmed that because the memorial sits on church land, any repairs or renovations will need Faculty Permission from the Diocesan Advisory Council and Diocesan Chancellor before they can move ahead. It is, therefore, imperative that we not only appoint a contractor but that we formulate a plan to raise the necessary funds since both are key questions that the DAC/Chancellor will wish to know and which form part of the Faculty paperwork required, before they are likely to grant approval. It may also be worth noting that (at minimum) the Faculty process can take three months. Often it takes longer.			
	CONTIFEMENT THAT DECALISE THE MEMORIAL SITE OF CHUICH LAND, ANY REPAIRS OF REPOVATIONS WILL			

A request has been received from the Malling Lioness Club to buy and site a bench in the meadow. A brochure showing the proposed seat was seen by members and it was agreed that it be discussed at the next Macey's Meadow meeting. Comment was made regarding the style of bench.	SH	 ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 	
710.2 Request for Bench Image: Second s			
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December 2017.			
17/713 LAND WEST OF AGE CONCERN			
Date to be confirm for the planting of the replacement Lime tree.			╞
17/714 VILLAGE HALL		+	+
The Assistant Clerk reported that K Sports Colts had experienced problems with the changing rooms after their game. The changing room was left in a very bad state by a previous user. They cleared the changing room of litter but they were unable to use the toilet. The VHMC have sincerely apologised for this.			
17/715 <u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u>	SH	+	+
Miss Barkham asked if the landowner had reinstated the width of footpath MR138. The Assistant Clerk to check with the Clerk as this had been discussed at the planning committee.			

17/716	VILLAGE GREEN			
	Dangerous Trees	SH	✓	
	A complaint had been received from a resident of King Street regarding the condition of one of the trees on the village green. The tree is heavily laden with fruit and the limbs are too weighty to hold themselves up. One large limb broke off a few months ago, falling into the road, narrowly missing a car. They moved it to the side of the road where is was picked up by KCC the next day.			
	This has been reported to KCC and they have scheduled for some work to be undertaken. The Assistant Clerk to chase this.			
17/717	FINANCE			
717.1	Budget Statement			
	The statements of receipts and payments to date were received.			
717.2	Outcome of Tenders	SH		
	It was noted that Full Council approved the recommendation of this committee that Turfsoil be awarded the grass cutting at the churchyard and playing fields and Four Season was awarded the hedge cutting at the allotments, cricket meadow and playing fields.		√	
	Contractors to be informed.			
717.3	Consideration of Budget for 2018/19	SH		
	At Full Council it was agreed that the proposed replacement fencing be carried out in two stages. The fence by the children's play area and the playing fields. Two revised quotations had been received, as follows:			
	Tonbridge Fencing – children's play area playing fields£3085.00 + VAT £3980.00 + VAT			
	Southern Fencing – children's play area playing fields£4166.78 + VAT £5163.45 + VAT			
	It was agreed that the draft budget be amended to £4000.00 and the fencing to the rear of the playing fields should be completed first.			
	Mrs Smyth said about security fencing and the Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations.			
	Considerable discussion took place regarding the village hall contribution. In view of budget restrictions it was felt that it was difficult to justify this expenditure when additional security is required. It was agreed that this matter be referred to Full Council for further discussion.			
17/718	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS	SH		
	Mrs Smyth said that the recycling bins, in the car park, were often full to overflowing. Miss Barkham said that the tin can recycling bin was also full. Mr Stevens said that the recycling bins at the Station are the same. To be reported to TMBC.			
	Comment was made regarding the amount of litter left after the Christmas event. It was felt that additional bins were required. To be reported to the Chamber of Commerce.			
	Mr Stevens reported that the rubbish dumped on the ashy path has been cleared.			
	Date of Next Meeting – Monday 15 January 2018 (concentrating on Allotments)			

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the meeting at 9.15 p.m.	Members for attending and closed		
Signed	Date		