

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2018 AT 7.30PM
AT WEST MALLING PRIMARY SCHOOL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present
Mr P Stevens
Mr N Stapleton
Ms M Stacpoole
Mrs L Javens
Mrs Y Smyth

Co-opted Members:
Mrs C Medhurst

Also in Attendance:
Mrs Sarah Howard (Assistant Clerk)
Mr J Collins – employee of West Malling Parish Council
Two allotment tenants

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
18/273	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> were received from Miss G Barkham, Mr M Doyle, Rev David Green, Ms I Macdonald, Mr J Musker			
18/274	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –</u> Mr Stevens and Mrs Javens declared an interest in [18/284.1] of the Minutes as Mr Stevens has relatives living close to the area and Mrs Javens lives on the boundary of the playing fields.			
18/275	<u>Election of Vice-Chairman</u> Miss Stacpoole proposed that Mr Stapleton serve as vice-chairman, this was seconded by Mrs Javens and agreed unanimously. There being no other nominations Mr Stapleton was duly elected.			
18/276	<u>MINUTES</u> – after amendment to (18/222.1) being “The private drive that runs past the Vicarage to the properties (126 and 140) at the end of the drive is within the land owned by the church, but the Trust Deeds of the three properties share responsibility for the maintenance of the drive. The respective owners plan to have the drive resurfaced. Once resurfaced this Summer, it will no longer be possible for cars to park in that area by the allotments. Funeral vehicles, bridal cars, contractors, or visitors to the Churchyard will all have to park in the area by the North Door of the church. If those spots are occupied, churchyard users will either need to walk from home or park on the High Street.” the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 April 2018 were approved and signed.			
18/277	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> [18/223.3] Mrs Javens made comment regarding the Clause 4c of the tenancy agreement. It says no poultry but then states a reasonable number of hens. This to be clarified at the next Amenities meeting concentrating on allotments.			
18/278	<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			

	<p><u>West Malling War Memorial</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that we were unsuccessful in our application for a grant from the War Memorial Trust. There was a very high demand and priority is based on the condition of the War Memorial. While our work was eligible for funding, the project was of a lower priority.</p> <p>The application can be carried forward to the next grant assessments but timescales would be extremely tight for the work to be carried out.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that a revised quotation had been received from Heritage Stone with removal of the work to be carried out by Antique Bronze direct. The total cost of the restoration is £8762.00 + VAT.</p> <p>Public donations towards the work now stands at £3383.19.</p> <p>It was noted that Mr Stapleton has offered to carry out the tending of the war memorial garden. This was greatly received and he was thanked for his offer.</p>	SH	✓	
18/279	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
279.1	<p><u>Report by West Malling Parish Council and Ryarsh Lane Allotment Society</u></p> <p>Miss Barkham and the Assistant Clerk carried out the allotment inspection and was presented to the meeting, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 – weeds not controlled. Very overgrown. To monitor. • 5A – new tenant. • 6 – less than 75% cultivated and weeds not controlled. To monitor. • 18B – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled. Very overgrown. It was agreed to send a first letter. • 26A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, grass not maintained. To monitor • 27A – less than 75% cultivated, grass not maintained. To monitor. • 29A – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, fruit trees not managed, hedges and grass not maintained. It was agreed to send a first letter. • 29B – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, fruit trees not managed. RLAS said that work had now started. To monitor. • 30 – less than 75% cultivated, weeds not controlled, grass not maintained. RLAS said that the tenant had been ill but was hoping to start soon. To monitor. <p>There is an old kitchen cabinet next to the gate by plot 6. A notice to be put on the cabinet asking if is of use to anyone with a 28 day notice of removal.</p> <p>The RLAS had also carried out their inspection but the Assistant Clerk had been unable to pick up a copy in time for the meeting.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that Four Seasons had strimmed the two vacant allotment plots and they would be weedkilled next week and then covered.</p>	SH		
279.2	<p><u>Use of Vacant Plots</u></p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the letting of plots to people outside of West Malling. The general consensus was to let the plots rather than have vacant plots and to have a waiting list with residents of West Malling being given priority.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss this further when the Allotment Management Plan expires in 2019.</p>			
279.3	<u>Compost Toilet</u>	SH		

	<p>Mrs Medhurst reported that she had spoken with a Parish Council in Essex and a fishing lake company in Crowborough who both have wheelchair accessible compost toilets. Grant funding had been obtained for the installations. She has also spoken with a company that provides the toilets and they are happy to come and look at the site and provide us with details. The Assistant Clerk said she had downloaded their information.</p> <p>Mrs Medhurst said that grant funding is available through Lottery Funding, The Postcode Lottery, Groundwork UK and the Big Lottery Fund. The Assistant Clerk to look into these.</p> <p>Discussion took place and it was agreed that at the next RLAS meeting tenants be asked for their views. It was agreed to discuss this further when the Allotment Management Plan expires in 2019.</p> <p>The provision of new water tanks to be discussed at the next allotment meeting in July.</p>			
	The allotment tenants left the meeting at 8.18p.m.			
18/280	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p> <p>The annual Blossom Picnic was held at Macey's Meadow on Saturday 21 April. The warm weather in the preceding week came just in time to bring out the cherry blossom and the sunshine and blue skies on the day encouraged many families to come out and enjoy a picnic in the Meadow. There was folk music, arts and crafts for the children and a cake stall (raised over £90 in cake sales) which included some interesting Japanese delicacies. Guided wildlife walks took in a talk and demonstration on bee-keeping and the opportunity to spot reptiles under the specially laid mats dotted around the Meadow. Information was also on hand about the exciting project to attract Little Owls to the Meadow which includes the provision of purpose-built nesting boxes.</p> <p>The next major event in the Meadow will be the popular Applefest which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 22 September.</p> <p>Forthcoming working party dates, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5, 19 May • 2, 16, 30 June • 14, 28 July • 11, 25 August <p>It was noted that a request had been received from a local resident who enjoys looking into local history and would like permission to go over Macey's Meadow with a metal detector. He is a member of the NCMD which has strict guide line to follow with reference to metal detecting and also gives public liability insurance. If permission is granted he will show all finds to the Parish Council and any scrap metal, rubbish will be disposed of and any small holes will be carefully filled and turf replaced. It was agreed to refer to the next Macey's Meadow meeting.</p> <p>Comment was made regarding the proposed bench. The Assistant Clerk to speak with Mr Doyle.</p>	SH		
18/281	<p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p> <p><u>Tennis Coaching</u></p> <p>A request has been received from the tennis coach to use both courts on a Sunday morning as he is now running a six week children's coaching club. Permission was granted subject to any residents wishing to play on one court at the same time.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk was asked to obtain a recent set of accounts.</p>	SH		
18/282	<p><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></p>			

282.1	<u>Fence on boundary of Cricket Meadow/18 Norman Road</u> It was noted that a request had been received by the resident of 18 Norman Road to remove the Hornbeam stump which is on the boundary of his fence and the Cricket Meadow. A quotation has been received from Day Tree Fellers for the sum of £180.00 inc VAT. It was agreed to refer this to Full Council for acceptance.			
282.2	<u>Relocation of dog waste bin</u> The Assistant Clerk reported that she had met with waste services and they will relocate the bin to the entrance of Macey's Meadow for the sum of £89.09. It was agreed to refer this to Full Council for acceptance.			
18/283	<u>BALL PARK</u> Mr Stevens reported that the two trees and scrub on the entrance to the ball park to be removed, a new bin to be installed by TMBC and the bench to be replaced. The Assistant Clerk to obtain updated quotes for the trees and bench. TMBC to confirm that they will empty the bin.	SH		
18/284	<u>VILLAGE HALL</u>			
284.1	<u>Additional Security of Car Park</u> Mr Stevens reported that an unauthorised encampment had set up on the playing field on the evening of Friday 18 May. Forced entry via the field gate. Mr Merchant to be thanked for all his help on that evening. The process for removing is established and TMBC have been contacted to issue the eviction order. Social services need to enter the encampment to check the general health and wellbeing of the travellers. A court order will be obtained on the morning of Thursday 24 May and they will be issued with the order. They have 24 hours to leave the site. The village hall, playing field and children's play area will remain closed until clearance of the site has been carried out. Mr Stevens said that a small working group to be set up between parish councillors, two local residents and a representative of the VHMC to look at suggestions for additional security following a letter to residents from Mrs Dean. Mr Stevens proposed that any resident who had replied to the letter be contacted with a view to them being part of the working party, seconded by Mrs Javens.	SH	✓	
284.2	<u>Replacement Wooden Troughs</u> It was agreed to discuss this at the June meeting.	SH	✓	
18/285	<u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</u>			
	<u>Diversion of MR116(Part)</u> It was noted that the temporary diversion order for the above footpath had been received.			
18/286	<u>FINANCE</u>			
	<u>Budget Statement</u> The statement of receipts and payments to the date of the meeting was received.			
18/287	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u> Mr J Collins said that dog fouling signs were need at the Cricket Meadow. The Assistant Clerk to order some.	SH		
	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Monday 11 June 2018 (concentrating on Churchyard)			

	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			