

# WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM  
AT VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

**Present**  
Mr P Stevens  
Mrs L Javens  
Miss G Barkham  
Ms S Margetts (from 7.40p.m.)

**Also in Attendance:**  
One Resident of Norman Road  
Mr P Parrin – English Heritage Volunteer

Minute		Action by	Action	Response
20/21	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> were received from Mrs Y Smyth, Ms M Stacpoole, Rev D Green, Ms I Macdonald, Mr J Musker and Mr M Doyle.			
20/22	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> – none other than those routinely declared.			
20/23	<b>MINUTES</b> – the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 December 2019 were approved and signed.			
20/24	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> – there were no matters arising			
20/25	<p><b>ST LEONARD'S TOWER</b></p> <p>Mr Parrin introduced himself to members.</p> <p>He explained that he had first made contact with English Heritage, over a year ago, regarding the Tower. After copious telephone calls, emails and letters he later met up with the English Heritage Free Sites Partnership Manager.</p> <p>Since the initial meeting in April 2019 the English Heritage representative and himself have met numerous times, and on occasion with the contracted maintenance staff.</p> <p>Mr Parrin's involvement with St Leonard's Tower has resulted in him becoming an English Heritage volunteer and key keeper of the Tower.</p> <p>He has introduced the Manager to Town Malling Council personnel and the relationship between the parties has been re-established.</p> <p>The Tower will be opened in September for Heritage Days out. Before the Heritage weekend the site needs to be made safe to visit. It is hoped that school children will be able to hold classes, in the grounds, during the Spring/Summer.</p> <p>He further intends to ask English Heritage to include a new write up of the Tower, update their website and tourist information guide.</p> <p>English Heritage is a charity and budget constraints on West Malling Parish Council</p>			

	<p>means little or no money is available. He will be asking for volunteers to help in some cleaning, garden maintenance to improve the site surroundings.</p> <p>Branches from the tree, from a neighbouring property, need to be cut as this is causing damage to the wall. This requires action from the Parish Council and English Heritage.</p> <p><u>Where we are to date</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The English Heritage Properties Curators and Building Conservation Manager are very pleased to hear St Leonard's Tower will be opened in September for Heritage Open Days.</li> <li>• The tree on the top of the Tower is going to be removed. Date to be confirmed.</li> <li>• The replacement of the pigeon netting may not happen as the pigeons are under control. However, this will be monitored.</li> <li>• De-vegetation and clearing the tower ready for opening for Heritage Open Days is planned for spring 2020 by the Building Conservation Manager.</li> <li>• New information on English Heritage website states "No access to the interior of the Tower".</li> <li>• New wood supports for entrance steps are being made to specification and will be in place in spring.</li> <li>• Parking restriction sign to stop unauthorised parking at site entrance will be sent.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Parrin has requested a schedule of works with timeframes and will pursue this.</p> <p>Members thanked Mr Parrin for attending the meeting, giving an update and for all his work in the project.</p>			
	Mr Parrin left the meeting at 7.55p.m.			
<b>20/26</b>	<p><b><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></b></p> <p>The volunteer dates are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul> <p>The blossom event incorporating VE day will take place on Friday 8 May 2020.</p> <p>Ms Margetts said she was awaiting a delivery date, from Mr Doyle, for the trees.</p>			
<b>20/27</b>	<p><b><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Quarterly Play Equipment Inspection Report</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that the inspection report had been circulated to members. The Assistant Clerk had obtained quotes for several low risks and one moderate risk. The play surface under the cone spinner requires repair for the sum of £1150.00 + VAT. This has been included in the budget for 2020/2021. Replacement cable protector is required on the cableway for the sum of £215.00 + VAT. Due to there being insufficient funds available in the current budget it was agreed to safeguard any funds left in repairs and carry out the work in April 2020. Mr Carr will quote for repairs to two benches.</p>			
<b>20/28</b>	<p><b><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></b></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that the tree guard had been ordered.</p>			

<p><b>20/29</b></p>	<p><b><u>BALL PARK</u></b></p> <p>Mr Stevens asked if a response had been received from the school regarding replacement backboards. No response had been received as the letter was sent in the new year.</p>	<p><b>SH</b></p>		
<p><b>20/30</b></p>	<p><b><u>WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES</u></b></p>			
<p><b>20/31</b></p>	<p><b><u>Waste Collections</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that TMBC have written to Urbaser Ltd regarding the poor waste service. Financial penalty clauses will now be triggered in the contract in the hope that this focuses minds on this very serious problem. They will continue to impose additional penalties should the situation no improve.</p>			
<p><b>20/31</b></p>	<p><b><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Javens made comment regarding the emergency contact sign. The Assistant Clerk said this was on order.</p> <p>Comment was made regarding the poor heating in the committee room. The radiator is not working and the wall heater throws out very little heat. There is also a broken chair. These to be reported to Mrs Turner.</p>	<p><b>SH</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	
<p><b>20/32</b></p>	<p><b><u>FINANCE</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Budget Statements</u></b></p> <p>Budget statements were circulated to members.</p> <p>It was agreed that the funds for repairs to the ball park be safeguarded.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that all the allotment rents had been received.</p>			
<p><b>20/33</b></p>	<p><b><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></b></p> <p>Mr Stevens said that it maybe necessary to move the August meeting to the week before.</p>			
<p><b>20/33</b></p>	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b> – Monday 10 February 2020 (concentrating on Churchyard)</p>			
<p><b>20/33</b></p>	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.27 p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			