

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM

MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Present: Mr P Stevens (Chairman)
Miss G Barkham
Ms S Margetts
Mrs Y Smyth

Mr J Collins - Resident
Mr K Mann - Resident

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
21/156	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Ms M Stacpoole, Mrs L Javens, Mr M Doyle, Ms I Macdonald, Rev D Green and Mr J Musker.			
21/157	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr Stevens declared an interest in {21/162} as relatives live close to the playing fields.			
21/158	MINUTES –The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 08 February 2021 were approved and signed.			
21/159	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.			
21/160	ALLOTMENTS			
	Bonfires at the Allotments It was noted that a complaint had been received, from a tenant, that several bonfires had been left unattended. It was agreed to send, to all tenants, 9e of the allotment management plant which gives advice for bonfires. Ms Margetts asked if the water tank had arrived. Delivery is expected. Mr Moon has turned the water back on and taken meter readings. It is possible there is a leak at Macey's Meadow and this should be monitored. Ms Margetts asked if the previous tenant of plot 4A was to remove the guttering structure from the plot. The Assistant Clerk said that as this was originally a full plot, and had been for many years, the deposit of £25.00 will be held over to plot 4B. The previous tenant had been asked to clear what they wanted. It may be that they thought it might be of help to the new tenant. The plot has been re-let and no comment has been made. Comment was made about the pond on plot 29A. The Assistant Clerk said she had spoken with the new tenant and they are happy for the pond to remain. Having young children they are aware of the safety aspect.	SH	✓	
21/161	MACEY'S MEADOW			
161.1	Request for Memorial Bench			

	<p>The Assistant Clerk reported that an agreement had been reached, by the MMAC, that there would not be any further benches in the meadow. Mr Stevens suggested a formalised policy be drawn up.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to respond to the request.</p> <p>The Malling Society had kindly donated £500.00 to be used for hedging in the Meadow. They will not be planting until the Autumn.</p> <p>Ms Margetts said about the possibility of obtaining some hedging plants through someone that she knows.</p>	SH	✓	
161.2	<p><u>Donation</u></p> <p>It was noted that a donation has been received towards the running costs of the meadow. The donators have made great use of the meadow and consider it an asset to the local community. They ask if some of the money be spent on purchasing and planting some Morello cherry trees.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk said that due to the loss of several cherry trees it may be possible to carry out their wish.</p> <p>A thank you letter to be sent to the residents.</p>	SH	✓	
21/162	<u>PLAYING FIELD</u>			
162.1	<p><u>Security Fencing – Woodland Close</u></p> <p>It was noted that a letter had been sent to the resident but to date no response has been received.</p>			
162.2	<p><u>Risk Assessment</u></p> <p>Subject to a few amendments it was agreed that the risk assessment be referred to Full Council for approval.</p>	SH	✓	
162.3	<p><u>Additional Waste Bin</u></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk had provided members with a link showing two types of bins, suitable for the play area. It was agreed that the bin for £139.99 be purchased and Mr Carr to be asked for a cost to install. The agreed location was near the picnic benches.</p>	SH	✓	
162.4	<p><u>Football Pitch Hire</u></p> <p>It was noted that a request had been received, from Barming Youth, requesting use of the pitch to the end of June. The season has been extended in accordance with Government guidelines.</p> <p>The use was agreed subject to the usual conditions.</p>	SH	✓	
162.5	<p><u>Football Pitch Hire</u></p> <p>It was noted that a request had been received, from K Sports, for use of the pitch for 2021/2022 season. They would play alternate Sundays to our existing club, should Invicta Rangers wish to continue.</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk to contact Invicta Rangers for clarification. Response to be received by end of March. They should be reminded of the conditions of hire. Fixture list in advance and prompt payment of invoices.</p>	SH	✓	
21/163	<u>CRICKET MEADOW</u>			

	There was not anything to report			
21/164	<u>BALL PARK</u> The school to be asked if they are still using the ball park as access to the school.	SH	✓	
21/165	<u>VILLAGE HALL</u> Following the government's new rulings, they are pleased to announce that the hall will be re-opening, but only on the following guideline dates. From 12th April. All indoor children's activities can open, including dance classes, musical activities, scouts, cubs and brownies. From 17th May. Exercise classes will be permitted to resume. From 21st June. Everyone will be permitted back in the hall. They will continue to follow the government guidelines, if and when they change. Mr Stevens said that there had been a request for a beer festival, August bank holiday, in the hall. The booking secretary had sought the Parish Council's advice. After consideration the VHMC refused the request.			
21/166	<u>WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES</u> Miss Barkham reported that she had been contacted by a resident of King Street requesting that the street and connecting alleys, up to the High Street, be regularly swept. The Assistant Clerk reported that an email had been received and the matter has been reported to Waste Services.			
21/167	<u>FINANCE</u>			
167.1	<u>Budget Statements</u> The monthly budget statements were noted.			
167.2	<u>Safeguarded Sums</u> Consideration was given to safeguarded sums. It was agreed that the following be safeguarded: £2715.60 – Allotment fencing £732.35 – Churchyard grounds maintenance underspend £500.00 – Macey's Meadow marketing. To be referred to F&GP.	SH	✓	
21/168	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u> Mr Mann asked about the Parish Council's responsibility to carry out the grounds maintenance of the Churchyard. Mr Stevens outlined the reasons why we took on/shared the maintenance. There could have been a possibility the Churchyard would be closed to future burials. More information is available in the management plan. A copy of this, and the allotments management plan, to be sent to Mr Mann. Mr Collins asked if the bin in the Ball Park is to be replaced. This is the responsibility of the Borough Council. The Assistant Clerk said she had reminded them several times, before Covid, but due to restraints it is unlikely it will be replaced soon. She will contact them again after June.	SH SH	✓	

	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> - Monday 19 April 2021 (concentrating on Churchyard)</p>		
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.23 p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>		