

# WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Mr P Stevens  
Mrs L Javens  
Ms S Margetts  
Miss G Barkham

**Co-opted members:**

Rev David Green  
Mr J Musker  
Ms I Macdonald

**Two Residents of West Malling**

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
23/158	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> : Mrs L Miles ,Mrs Y Smyth, Ms M Stacpoole and Mr M Doyle			
23/159	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> – none other than routinely declared.			
23/160	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b> – of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 2023 were approved and signed.			
23/161	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p><b><u>[23/97] – Allotments</u></b></p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that a previous allotment tenant had found two artefacts on the plot which had been sent to the local finds office. They have been identified as part of a silver bracelet and a copper alloy dress hook. The dress hook dates back to the 1700's and has been recorded but they are not considered as items of treasure. As they were found on parish council land they are the owners of the finds. The ex tenant has asked if the parish council wish to keep them and if not she asked if they could be returned to her. It was agreed that The Malling Society be asked if they are of interest to them and if not they can be returned.</p> <p>It was noted that the tenant of plot 19A wishes to site a shed on the allotment. It was agreed subject to the usual conditions.</p>	SH	√	
		SH	√	
23/162	<p><b><u>CHURCHYARD</u></b></p> <p>Rev Green thanked the Parish Council for its help with the trees on the boundary with Churchfields and its continued support of the churchyard as a community space.</p> <p>Grounds maintenance contract has started and the wildflower meadow area to be marked out.</p> <p>The taps are broken and should be fixed this month.</p> <p>He expressed concern about the rate of which they are burying. The south-side currently in use has filled up quicker than anticipated. The Covid Pandemic has been a major factor. There are other areas of the Churchyard that can be used once this area is full.</p> <p>Additional tree planting was discussed and the Church are agreeable but such planting</p>			

	will need to be carefully thought out in light of limited burial space.			
	Representatives from the church left the meeting at 7.51p.m.			
	Comment was made at how lovely the garden around the war memorial looked. The gentleman that carried out the maintenance to be thanked.	SH	√	
<b>23/163</b>	<b><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></b>			
<b>163.1</b>	Ms Margetts said that a sum of £26.50 will be transferred to the Parish Council after the climate change meeting on Sunday, being £20.00 donations and £6.50 honey sales.  Mr Stevens said following the death of Tim Macey the family have asked that donations be made to Macey's Meadow.			
<b>163.2</b>	<b><u>Metal Detecting</u></b>  Following a request to metal detect on the meadow a draft Metal Detecting Policy had been prepared. Members agreed the document, to be referred to Macey's Meadow committee for approval and then Full Council for adoption.	SH	√	
<b>23/164</b>	<b><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></b>			
<b>164.1</b>	<b><u>S106 – Tennis Courts</u></b>  All additional comments and references have been received from four contractors. Members considered the specifications and it was agreed that Sovereign Sport be instructed to carry out the refurbishment for the sum of £47150.00 + VAT. They are a local contractor which is in line with the Parish Council's aim to reduce their carbon footprint. Work to commence in September 2023	SH	√	
<b>164.2</b>	<b><u>Great British Clean Up</u></b>  A draft risk assessment was circulated and agreed.  Meeting at the village hall at 10am and finishing at the parish office at approximately 12pm.  It was noted that a request had been received from a resident of West Malling to litter pick around the town. As the resident is over 16yrs they are able to litter pick at their own leisure. He has been made aware of the litter picking event.	SH	√	
<b>164.3</b>	<b><u>Play Area Signage</u></b>  Discussion took place regarding additional signage on the play equipment showing age range. ROSPA suggest signage stating an age limitation. Zurich Insurance do not give advice. It was felt that the zipwire requires a sign stating 'this equipment is to be used by children Under 16 only'. Costs to be obtained from RBLI. The Assistant Clerk to also speak with play equipment companies who supply zipwires for any advice.  In conjunction with an annual ROSPA play equipment inspection they offer a weekly routine inspection template, tailored to the play area. This is a one of cost of £30.00 + VAT. It was agreed to accept this.	SH	√	
<b>164.4</b>	<b><u>Football – Use of Pitch</u></b>  Discussion took place regarding football clubs pitch play for next season. Issues are still arising with Leybourne City. Members agreed that Leybourne City be given notice to quit due to anti social behaviour, late payment, late fixture dates and lack of correspondence with the office.  Barming Blues would like to continue next season and have requested Sunday afternoon	SH	√	

	<p>play for their ladies team. There would be a maximum of 7 games, for the ladies, over the season. This was agreed.</p> <p>Castle Colts have also requested use of the pitch on a Sunday morning and would not clash with Barming Blues. This was agreed.</p>			
<b>23/165</b>	<p><b><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></b></p> <p>There was not anything to report.</p>			
<b>23/166</b>	<p><b><u>BALL PARK</u></b></p> <p>There was not anything to report.</p>			
<b>23/167</b>	<p><b><u>VILLAGE GREEN</u></b></p> <p>There was not anything to report.</p>			
<b>23/168</b>	<p><b><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></b></p>			
<b>168.1</b>	<p><b><u>Report by Parish Council Representative</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Javens reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Stacpoole had attended the last meeting to talk about electric charging points</li> <li>• The Parish Council was thanked for the £2000.00 contribution</li> <li>• Thanks were expressed to the litter picker for keeping the car park clean</li> <li>• Financial situation is improving</li> <li>• The electric supply for the replaced water heater in the disabled toilet was taken from a spur that was already certificated</li> <li>• A new waste collector is being considered as the existing contractor is costly and irregular</li> <li>• There is a water leak either under the hall or under the car park. The waste water inspection cover has been located in the right hand corner at the entrance to the car park</li> <li>• The next meeting is Monday 24 April 2023.</li> </ul>			
<b>168.2</b>	<p><b><u>Smallville Nursery and Rent of Garage</u></b></p> <p>Details of use of outside space has not been received. Assistant Clerk to chase.</p>	<b>SH</b>		
<b>23/169</b>	<p><b><u>WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES</u></b></p> <p>Miss Barkham reported that she had received a reply from Paul Boxal who has confirmed that the new fleet of vehicles will have baskets for collection of small electrical items.</p>			
<b>23/170</b>	<p><b><u>FINANCE</u></b></p>			
	<p><b><u>Budget Statements</u></b></p> <p>The monthly budget statements were noted.</p> <p>The following safeguarded sums were agreed:</p> <p><b><u>Allotments</u></b> Water rates £750.00</p> <p><b><u>Amenities</u></b> Grounds maintenance £407.83 New signage £200.00 Play inspections £385.00 Twitch Inn £97.36</p>			

	New play equipment	£1963.00			
	Tree guard	£289.00			
	<b>Churchyard</b>				
	Wall repairs	£2000.00			
<b>23/171</b>	<b><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></b>				
	There were no questions.				
	<b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b> – Thursday 13 April 2023 (concentrating on Allotments)				
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.01p.m.				
	Signed.....		Date.....		