

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM
WEST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Mr P Stevens
Ms S Margetts
Mrs L Miles

Co-opted Member:
Rev David Green
Ms I Macdonald

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
23/501	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> : Mrs Y Smyth, Miss G Barkham, Mr M Doyle, Mrs L Javens and Mr P Yeoman.			
23/502	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none other than routinely declared			
23/503	<u>MINUTES</u> – the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 August 2023 were approved and signed.			
23/504	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> There were no matters arising.			
23/505	<u>CHURCHYARD</u>			
505.1	<u>Report by Rev David Green</u> Rev Green reported that the Yew tree by the north porch has become overgrown and will require a trim. Day Tree Fellers have been approached for costs which will be met by PCC. A wasp nest in the wildflower meadow area has been removed. Two allotments may become available due to non working. There has also been bees on the allotment site but these are not harmful. Dates to be obtained for grounds maintenance work. Volunteers have started on clearing the wildflower meadow area.	SH	√	
505.2	<u>Specification for Tender re: Grass Cutting</u> Members had been issued with a copy of the specification. There being no amendments it was agreed to put out to tender. A plan of the wildflower meadow area to be sent out with the tender.	SH	√	
	Churchyard representatives left the meeting at 7.40p.m.			
23/506	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
506.1	<u>Allotment Inspection Report</u>	SH	√	

	<p>It was noted that inspection reports were not available this month. The Assistant Clerk said she had been a had a quick look at the plots and had identified the following plots:</p> <p>6 – gentle first letter and make comment about mining bees on the plot 18A – first letter 24A – tenant has mobility issues and is unable to fully tend the plot. The allotment society to be asked if they are able to offer any assistance. 29B – gentle first letter and ask to remove self seeded trees 30A – monitor 30B – gentle first letter and ask to remove self seeded trees</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that the contractor had strimmed the weeds along the footpath.</p> <p>Comment was made about the removal of the rabbit proof fencing adjacent to the boundary fence along the footpath. Costs to be obtained.</p>			
506.2	<p><u>Safe Use and Disposal of Chemicals</u></p> <p>Members were given a copy of the above leaflet which is a joint initiative between The Crop Protection Association, The National Allotment Society and Water UK aimed at helping allotment tenants understand how to use and dispose of garden chemicals safely. To be sent out with the allotment renewals.</p>			
506.3	<p><u>Specification for Tender re: Hedge Cutting</u></p> <p>Members had been issued with a copy of the specification. There being no amendments it was agreed to put out to tender.</p>	SH	√	
23/507	<p><u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u></p>			
	<p><u>Specification for Tender – Hedge Cutting</u></p> <p>Members had been issued with a copy of the specification. Subject to the additional amendments it was agreed to refer to MMAC for agreement.</p> <p>Ms Margetts said that the Apple Fest will be taking place on Saturday 30 September, 1-4pm.</p> <p>£38.00 was raised in cobnut sales.</p> <p>The bee hotel has been vandalised but remains structurally sound. Repairs will be made.</p>	SH	√	
23/508	<p><u>PLAYING FIELD</u></p>			
508.1	<p><u>Tennis Courts</u></p> <p>Due to a delay works on the tennis courts will start on Monday 25 September. A meeting with the contractor will take place on Tuesday 19 September for an update.</p> <p>The site is now registered with LTA for the keypad access system.</p>			
508.2	<p><u>Specification for Tender re: Grounds Maintenance</u></p> <p>Members had been issued with a copy of the specification. Subject to an additional amendment it was agreed to put out to tender.</p>	SH	√	
23/509	<p><u>CRICKET MEADOW</u></p>			
	<p><u>Specification for Tender re:Strimming</u></p> <p>Members had been issued with a copy of the specification. There being no amendments it was agreed to put out to tender.</p>			

	<p><u>Use of Cricket Meadow for Exercise Classes</u></p> <p>Comment was made about the use of the cricket meadow for various exercise classes. The cricket club to be made aware of this as they may wish to charge a fee for use.</p>	SH	√	
23/510	<p><u>BALL PARK</u></p> <p>There was not anything to report.</p>			
23/511	<p><u>VILLAGE GREEN</u></p> <p><u>Specification for Tender re:Strimming</u></p> <p>Members were issued with a copy of the specification. There being no amendments it was agreed to put out to tender.</p> <p>It was noted that the village sign has been oiled.</p>	SH	√	
23/512	<p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p><u>Report by Village Hall Representative</u></p> <p>In the absence of Mrs Javens the Assistant Clerk reported on her behalf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water leak and new water costs have left the financial situation rather low • The aircon switches need to be replaced but general maintenance is on hold until the finances have improved • It was decided not to go ahead with the installation of a smart meter • Bookings are going well 			
23/513	<p><u>WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>Litter Pick</u></p> <p>It was agreed to send Saturday dates in October, avoiding 21 October, to all members to agree a date.</p>			
23/514	<p><u>FINANCE</u></p> <p><u>Budget Statements</u></p> <p>The monthly budget statements were noted.</p>			
23/515	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Monday 9 October 2023 (concentrating on Allotments)</p> <p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.07p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>			