

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM
WEST MALLING VILLAGE HALL, NORMAN ROAD, WEST MALLING

Present: Cllr Peter Stevens
Cllr Gwyneth Barkham
Cllr Lorna Miles
Cllr Min Stacpoole
Cllr Sara Margetts
Co-Opted Members:
Mr Malcolm Doyle
Rev David Green
Ms Isobel McDonald
Mrs Linda Javens

One member of the public

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
24/309	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> : Cllr Y Smyth, Mr P Yeomans			
24/310	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none other than routinely declared.			
24/311	<u>ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR</u> Cllr Stacpoole proposed that Cllr Stevens serve as Chair, seconded by Cllr Miles. There being no other nominations Cllr Stevens was duly elected. Cllr Stevens proposed that Cllr Miles serve as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Stacpoole. There being no other nominations Cllr Miles was duly elected.			
24/312	<u>MINUTES</u> –the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 April 2024 were approved and signed.			
24/313	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> [22/257] Cllr Barkham asked if the barbed wire had been removed. Capel Groundcare have been asked to provide a quote for removal. Mr Doyle said that the volunteers would take a look on Saturday to see if they are able to remove.			
24/314	<u>CHURCHYARD</u> <u>Report by Rev David Green</u> Space for burials in the current location is getting low. A tap and a grave stone have been damaged by a vehicle turning round in the access road by the vicarage. No details were left. The wildflower meadow is looking good. Grow 19, vocational training for people with learning difficulties, help in the churchyard each week.			

	<p>A small hole in the wall to be repaired.</p> <p>Faculty have granted permission for a memorial tree and bench.</p> <p>Rev Green announced he will be leaving the parish to be a vicar in Tunbridge Wells. Rev Green was thanked for working with the Parish Council.</p>			
	Churchyard representatives left the meeting at 7.43p.m.			
24/315	<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>			
	<p><u>Allotment Inspection Reports</u></p> <p>It was noted that an inspection had been carried out by the allotment society.</p> <p>2 – first letter 3A – overhanging tree 7 – first letter re: top end 12B – tenant is giving up 17A – first letter 19A – first letter 28B – first letter 29A – monitor 30A – new tenant 30B – this plot will not be let out at present</p> <p>It was agreed that a letter be sent to all tenants asking that the top area be kept clear and tidy and remind tenants that it is a shared responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens reported that an asbestos roof had been removed from an old shed for the sum of £395.00 + VAT. This action was ratified.</p>	SH	√	
24/316	<u>TOILETS</u>			
316.1	<p><u>Money/Energy Saving Improvements</u></p> <p>Awaiting further quotes.</p>			
316.2	<p><u>Electrical Repairs as per Inspection Report</u></p> <p>It was agreed to carry out the remedial works as per the electrical inspection report.</p>	SH	√	
316.3	<p><u>Cleaning Contract</u></p> <p>It was agreed to that the cleaning contract go out to Tender in the Autumn.</p>			
24/317	<u>MACEY'S MEADOW</u>			
	<p><u>Tree Inspection Report</u></p> <p>The trees highlighted as urgent have been dealt with. The Norman Road tree work to be carried out in September due to birds nesting.</p> <p>Mr Doyle said the new wildflower meadow had been sown.</p> <p>The Kissing gate to be delivered on Friday 24 May 2024 and to be installed soon.</p> <p>The Great Big Green week event to be held in the meadow on Saturday 8 June 2024, between 1-4pm.</p>			

	Cllr Stevens said that rubbish is being dumped just inside of the kissing gate, container end of the meadow			
	Member of the public left the meeting at 8.09p.m.			
24/318	<u>PLAYING FIELD</u>			
318.1	<p><u>Tennis Courts</u></p> <p>The courts have been sprayed and look good. Access to the courts was through the emergency gate. This is to be reported to Sovereign Tennis.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding opening times for the courts. It was agreed that the courts are available from 8am.</p> <p>The LTA are promoting Park Tennis which involves them providing equipment and coaching at the courts. They are currently looking for coaches in this area.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the opening ceremony. To be held on a Friday afternoon. The developer, TMBC, Jimmy's Tennis to be invited.</p>	SH	√	
318.2	<p><u>Outdoor Adult Gym</u></p> <p>Cllr Stevens reported TMBC had rejected the proposal for the outdoor gym on the grounds of cost. A meeting with the planning obligations officer has taken place and options were discussed. It may be possible to reduce the size of the gym. A questionnaire to be arranged to gather data on what residents want. It was also suggested that a Facebook poll take place.</p>	SH		
318.3	<p><u>Play Equipment Inspection</u></p> <p>It was noted that a routine play equipment inspection has taken place. No high risk faults identified. The pole of the main sign is rough. To be sanded down.</p>			
318.4	<p><u>Grow 19</u></p> <p>Grow 19 group are looking for additional work within the parish. Ideally, litter picks or similar. It was felt that we would be unable to help at this stage but it was suggested that they contact elderly groups, for help in gardens, and Leybourne Parish Council as they have a lot of open space.</p>	SH	√	
318.5	<p><u>Garage</u></p> <p>The key to the garage has not been returned by Smallville Nursery. It was agreed that the lock is changed.</p>			
24/319	<u>CRICKET MEADOW</u>			
319.1	<p><u>Plastic Wicket</u></p> <p>It was noted that a request had been made to replace the current plastic pitch, within the cricket square, with a new non turf pitch. A planning application has been submitted prior to the Parish Council being consulted.</p> <p>Members were very disappointed that an application has already been submitted to TMBC before the Parish Council, as landowners, has had the opportunity to discuss the proposal in full.</p> <p>Members ask for additional information on the NTP to be replaced. A specification and details of proposed turf and details of any environmental impact.</p> <p>Upon receipt of the information the Parish Council will consider this further.</p>	SH	√	

	It will also be considered at the planning meeting.			
319.2	<p><u>Grounds Maintenance</u></p> <p>It was noted that the strimming of the staples and mowing of the village green had not been carried out by the grounds maintenance team. The Assistant Clerk said she had spoken with them on several occasions and sent several emails to chase them. The contract should have commenced in March. They have strimmed the benches on one occasion.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens proposed that the contract be terminated, seconded by Cllr Barkham.</p> <p>Recommendation to be made to Full Council that the contract be terminated due to the contractor's failure to fulfil the terms of the contract.</p>	SH	√	
24/320	<p><u>BALL PARK</u></p> <p>There was not anything to report.</p>			
24/321	<p><u>VILLAGE GREEN</u></p> <p><u>Grounds Maintenance</u></p> <p>This item was discussed under cricket meadow grounds maintenance.</p>			
24/322	<p><u>Land West of Age Concern</u></p> <p><u>Bench Repairs – Land West of Age Concern</u></p> <p>It was noted that repairs had to be made to a bench for the sum of £188.48. This action was Ratified.</p>			
24/323	<p><u>VILLAGE HALL</u></p> <p><u>Report by Village Hall Representative</u></p> <p>Mrs Javens reported that the village hall finances are good and that bookings are increasing. The AGM to be held on Monday 19 August 2024.</p>			
323.2	<p><u>EV Charging Points</u></p> <p>Notes from the village hall management committee are awaited.</p>			
323.3	<p><u>WMVH Water Pipes</u></p> <p>It was noted that the costs relating to the water pipe replacement/leakage at the village hall had been received.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss this further when a copy of the village hall accounts have been received.</p>			
24/324	<p><u>WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>Free Standing Cigarette Bins in the Town</u></p> <p>It was noted that a reply had been received. It is a trial project facilitated by Keep Britain Tidy. There was no consultation as a minor project, with a time limit trial period of 4 to 6 weeks. Businesses were approached and those that agreed to have bins have been responsible for their management and emptying.</p> <p>The Parish Council are very disappointed with the response. It is quite obvious that they are not being managed or emptied. Many are full of water and rubbish. We strongly ask that they be removed.</p>	SH	√	

324.2	<p><u>Litter Pick – Saturday 15 June 2024</u></p> <p>As part of the Great Big Green Week a litter pick will be taking place on Saturday 15 June 2024. To be advertised.</p>	SH	
24/325	<p><u>FINANCE</u></p>		
	<p><u>Budget Statements</u></p> <p>The monthly budget statements were noted.</p>		
24/326	<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 10 June 2024 (concentrating on Allotments)</p>		
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.16p.m.</p> <p>Signed..... Date.....</p>		