

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
1st JULY 2004 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mrs J Burns (*left the meeting at 8.35 p.m.*)
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr V Sewell (Chairman)
Cllr Mr A Tremain

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mrs M Solman and J Gaywood.

2. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr V Sewell be elected Chairman of the Youth Committee until the Annual Meeting in May 2005.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr A Tremain be elected Vice Chairman of the Youth Committee until the Annual Meeting in May 2005.

4. Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference as agreed by the Council at its Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2004. No amendments were considered necessary.

RESOLVED: That, the Terms of Reference as agreed by the Council at its Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2004, attached as appendix 1 to these minutes be noted.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 4th May 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Youth Activity Day – 24th April 2004

The Committee considered feedback forms completed and returned to the Parish Office by Girl Guides Darnley West District, Longfield and Hartley Scout Group, Meopham Cricket Club, Foxenden Pony Sanctuary, Ash Green Sports Centre, Kent County Council Libraries and Archive. All comments received back from these organisations had been very positive.

It was suggested that, in order to overcome any potential insurance problems arising out of allowing young people to get involved with any activity, participating organisations may wish to investigate the possibility of allowing temporary memberships to their organisations.

The Committee considered a letter received from Messrs H F & J H Glover informing the Committee that a donation had been made to the Foxenden Pony Sanctuary.

The Committee expressed an interest in organising another Youth Activity Day.

RECOMMENDED: That, a date of Saturday 17th September 2005 be arranged as a provisional date for the next Youth Activity Day.

8. Youth Projects

BMX track

The Committee noted with interest that Longfield and New Barn Parish Council has secured the provision of a new grass BMX track on one its open spaces.

Cllr Mr J Burns left the meeting at 8.35 p.m.

The Committee noted that the young people had previously discussed with the Youth Worker the possibility of designating an area of land for a BMX track, which could be created by digging holes and forming mounds in the ground.

The Committee was keen to progress the provision of a BMX track and identified an area of land in Gorse Wood located immediately adjacent to the rear of the Woodland Avenue recreation ground as a possible site. The Committee acknowledged that the proposal would need to put before the Council's insurers before the matter could be progressed in any further detail. In addition, the position with regard to the bye laws in place on Gorse Wood and Woodland Avenue recreation ground would need to be investigated, to establish whether bicycles were prohibited from being ridden on the ground.

The Committee hoped that by providing such a facility, it would encourage the young people to refrain from creating their own jumps and tracks on the footpaths running through the wood. The Committee examined briefly the work involved to provide a designated area for the provision of a BMX track, which would include the erection of fencing and gates and some ground clearance. The Committee hoped to involve young people with the design of the track.

Youth Shelter

The Committee examined the details of a youth shelter installed with integral solar powered safety lighting within the framework of the shelter. The Committee noted it was unlikely that the street lighting located in Caxton Close would provide sufficient ambient lighting for the youth shelter and that the use of solar lighting to illuminate the shelter may provide a feasible solution to the problem. There were some concerns as to whether the lighting would be vandal proof.

The Committee noted that Parish Councils were not eligible to apply for funding from many fund providers, but that community groups had far greater opportunities to seek such funding. However, despite the best efforts of the Community Facilities Working Group, it would appear that residents on the Wellfield estate were reluctant to commit themselves to joining such a community group. It was reported that the now disbanded Wellfield and Hartley Community Association had a sum of money in their account raised by the proceeds from the Hartley Fete and that the ex Chair of the Community Association was anxious to hand over the funds for a community based project. The Committee felt that if the funds could be gifted to the Council, they could then put towards the provision of a youth project.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk seeks advice from KAPC as to the legal position over the receipt of gifts by the Parish Council.

9. HAWK

Copies of the unapproved minutes of the meeting of the HAWK Youth Partnership Project held on 8th June 2004 were circulated to members of the Youth Committee. The Chairman of the Youth Committee expressed his disappointment that a proposal to rotate the chairmanship of the HAWK Youth Partnership Project between the three parishes had been rejected and expressed his frustration with the direction and focus of the Project. He informed the Committee he intended to challenge the statement contained in the minutes of the meeting referring to Ash-cum-Ridley as the lead authority.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the HAWK Youth Partnership Project held on 8th June 2004 be noted.

RECOMMENDED: That, (1) the Council support the proposal that the position of Chairman for the HAWK Youth Partnership Project be rotated on an annual basis between the three participating Parish Councils and (2) clarification be sought from Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council as to why it sees itself as the lead authority within the Partnership.

10. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 16th September 2004.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

APPENDIX 1

Youth Committee Terms of Reference

1. To work on behalf of all of the youth of Hartley to assist them in taking a full and active roll in the life of the village.
2. To work with any organisation involved with youth work and act to assist them.
3. To enlist any organisation involved with youth work and young people to work with the Council to achieve the above aims.
4. To co-opt persons who have a particular interest in the well being of young persons or have a special knowledge or expertise.

Delegated Powers

To authorise expenditure on those matters that fall within the responsibility of the Committee up to the sums contained in the annual budget approved by the Council, provided that any new schemes shall be subject to prior approval, in principle, by the Council.

Approved by Council at its Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2004