

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
19th OCTOBER 2004 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mr V Sewell (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M Solman
Cllr Mr A Tremain

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mr A Barnett, Cllr Mr J Gaywood, Cllr Mr M Harris and Kathy Craig (part time youth worker).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 16th September 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Youth workers report

It was reported that Kathy Craig had hoped to be at the meeting, but due to personal reasons had not been able to attend.

In her absence, the Chairman reported that the Youth Worker had secured funding of £1,000 through the Local Network Fund to take a group of Hartley youth to Gillingham Snow Bowl for a 6 week course of snow boarding lessons.

5. Youth Projects

(a) It was reported that the Council had received notice of a successful application to the Kent People's Trust for a sum of £2,500 for the purpose of providing play equipment for the under 18's in Hartley.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

(b) The Committee reviewed the current position with regard to the availability of funding for youth projects. It had been reported at the previous meeting that the Chairman of the Wellfield and Hartley Community Association had informed the Council that a sum of approximately £2,000 was held in its account. It was understood that the Association no longer existed and that the Chairman of the now disbanded Association was anxious to dispose of the funds held in its account. It was understood that she wished the funds to be used for the provision of youth equipment on the Woodland Avenue recreation ground.

Advice from KAPC had confirmed that, under section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, local councils are permitted to accept gifts of capital or property, but such gifts are usually donated to councils for a specific purpose. If a gift was accepted for the purposes of providing a youth shelter, the gift would be accepted under Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 and expended under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Where no specific purpose is indicated, the gift must be accepted under Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 and expended under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

KAPC further advise that where there is little history to the gift, the Council should ensure with confidence that the money is available for disposal and that it is not in breach of any other legal restrictions. A letter of intent from the donor would normally suffice.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Chairman of the Wellfield and Hartley Association be asked to write a letter of intent with regard to the disposal of its remaining funds and that subject to the receipt of a satisfactory letter of intent, the funds be gratefully accepted under Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 and expended under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 for the provision of youth equipment on the Woodland Avenue recreation ground.

The Committee was of the opinion that before any funds were expended on youth projects, a questionnaire should be circulated to residents and in particular to young people, asking for ideas as to what facilities they would like to see provided for youth people locally and for suggestions as to how the funds should be allocated. The Committee thought that the Groundwork Trust may be able to offer advice and guidance on the content and nature of the questionnaire. The Committee considered the means by which to circulate the questionnaire and more importantly how residents and young people may be encouraged to return the completed questionnaire. It was suggested that local business may wish to sponsor the questionnaire and that the returned questionnaires could be entered into a prize draw donated by the sponsor.

It was reported that at the recent Parish Plan public meeting, Harrietsham Parish Council had explained that one of the outcomes of its Parish Plan had been the setting up of a Harrietsham Youth Parish Council. The Committee considered this to be an interesting proposition and agreed that young people could be asked to express a view on this matter in the questionnaire.

The Committee was updated of the current position with regard to the proposal to incorporate a children's play area within the housing development at the end of Caxton Close. It would appear that residents immediately opposite the proposed development site are opposed to the provision of a play area, but this matter would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Community Facilities Working Group, to which affected residents will be invited to attend. It was suggested that when Axton Chase School is re-built, the Council should press for the provision of a footbridge over the railway line located at the end of Caxton Close, which would improve access to the new school, youth centre, the proposed new housing, and shopping facilities and health services available in Longfield.

RESOLVED: That, a meeting be arranged with Groundwork Trust to seek its advice and guidance on the production of a questionnaire and the Clerk be asked to investigate the return of the completed questionnaire by means of "Freepost" delivery.

6. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....