

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
20th JANUARY 2005 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr V Sewell (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M Solman
Cllr Mr A Tremain

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Mr G Walsh (Youth Worker)
Ms K Craig (Youth Worker)
3 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood and Cllr Mrs J Burns.

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 2nd December 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Financial Report

The Committee considered a report indicating the current net position of the Youth Committee as at 14th January 2005.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

5. Youth Workers report

The Youth Worker reported that funds had been secured from the Police to facilitate a course of snow boarding lessons for a group of Hartley youth, but that the original group of youngsters earmarked to benefit from the project had failed to attend a meeting arranged at the end of last year. This group will be offered the opportunity to get involved with the project once more, but should they let the Youth Worker down again, the places will be offered to another group already identified by the Youth Worker.

The Youth Worker reported that he had received a letter from a local resident suggesting the names of other youths, who may be interested in attending the snowboarding course. The Youth Worker informed the Committee that the funding had been secured to benefit youth who are socially excluded and therefore the youth put forward by a local resident were not eligible for the project. He stressed that by providing opportunities to youths who are socially excluded does not reward bad behaviour. The Youth Worker suggested that those youths put forward by the local resident may wish to get involved with the summer scheme, which is being funded by Sevenoaks District Council and will offer opportunities to go on trips such as to the "London Duck" and ice skating.

The Youth Worker had informed the Committee at the last meeting that the Youth Worker from the Longfield Youth Centre had left his post and to date a replacement has not been secured. As a result, the Longfield Youth Centre is only open one evening per week.

The Youth Worker reported that MC Fun had joined the HAWK staff.

The Youth Worker explained the difficulties encountered by the fact that geographically the Longfield Youth Centre is located outside the Sevenoaks District area and strictly beyond the bounds of where he is permitted to work. However, Hartley youth regularly attend the Longfield Youth Centre. The Committee expressed its frustration with the boundary issues, which affected the areas where the Youth Worker was able to work.

An alternative site for the graffiti project has been identified. Hartley Primary School has recently employed the services of a contractor to paint games on the surface of the playground and in addition, would like the graffiti project extended to include two other walls within the school grounds. It has been suggested that the Hartley youths could be invited to design a suitable mural for consideration by the School and that the Hartley schoolchildren may wish to judge the designs put forward to the School. The Youth Worker explained that he has the funding in place to provide the paint, has carried out all necessary risk assessments and has all the necessary equipment. He also knows of a professional artist who would be able to assist the young people with their designs and finished project. There would be a charge to employ his services: £70 per evening based on 3 hours or £140 per day. Evidence of his work can be seen at New Ash Green Youth Centre and the skateboard park at West Kingsdown. The Youth Worker will liaise with the School's Deputy Headteacher to progress the project.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

6. Youth Questionnaire

The two draft youth questionnaires, one directed at residents and one directed at Hartley youth, were circulated to the Committee for comment. The printing and distribution of the questionnaires were considered.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the two questionnaires be amended to incorporate the comments expressed by the Committee and,

(2) a special edition of the Council's newsletter be published incorporating the two youth questionnaires and that the newsletter be distributed to each household by the usual means, i.e. through the Village Advertiser and by post, at the beginning of March, provided the cost of printing and delivery does not exceed that paid for the printing and distribution of the Council's regular edition of its newsletter.

7. Youth Shelter

The Committee considered a report on the progress achieved since the last meeting. The Clerk reported that since drafting the report a second letter in respect of the provision of a youth shelter on Woodland Avenue had been received. Both letters were circulated amongst Members of the Committee.

Both residents highlighted a number issues relating to cars parked in Woodland Avenue next to the central kissing gate. These cars obstruct access to the drives of the houses located opposite the recreation ground and cause a disturbance due to the level of music played from the cars. They have suggested that the Council may wish to consider the provision of bollards and moving the kissing gate to a position opposite the recycling centre. The residents believed that these measures would encourage the cars to park away from the residential properties. The Committee considered the Highways Authority would be reluctant to support the provision of bollards, but favoured the proposal to relocate the kissing gate opposite the recycling centre.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.10 p.m. to hear the views of a local resident on the Council's proposal to provide a youth shelter on Woodland Avenue.

The meeting resumed at 9.20 p.m.

RESOLVED: That, the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee be asked to consider re siting the central kissing gate to a position opposite the recycling centre.

RECOMMENDED: That, a planning application be submitted to the Planning Authority for the provision of a purpose built youth shelter fitted with solar lighting at the Woodland Avenue recreation ground, to replace the two benches at Woodland Avenue.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 2nd March 2005 at 8.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....