

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
26TH APRIL 2005 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr A Tremain (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs H Gilder (Assistant Clerk)
Graham Clewes (Chief Executive of Kent Youth)
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

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

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 15th March 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Kent Youth

The Committee welcomed Graham Clewes, Chief Executive of Kent Youth, to the meeting.

Graham explained that his charity devotes a significant amount of time to supporting Parish Councils and offered to take members of the Committee to visit other Parishes that Kent Youth has worked with to get some idea of the type of projects that have been successful.

The Chairman thanked Graham for this offer and it was agreed that it would be helpful to the Committee to see what has been achieved in other Parishes.

Cllr Mrs Burns asked what projects Graham considered to be most successful and he replied that it varied depending on the particular groups that the project is aimed at. In general, Graham felt that youth shelters and skateboard parks are the most popular projects at the present time.

Graham explained that half of Kent Youth's work was supporting local organisations such as Parish Councils by offering support, advice and training for organisations working with young people. The other half of their work is actually working with the young people in various ways. Kent Youth also has close links with Kent County Council and local Councils.

The Chairman thanked Graham Clewes for his offer of support and it was generally agreed that further input from Graham would be very useful.

5. Youth Workers Report

a) There was no report from the Youth Worker as he was not present at the meeting.

b) The Youth Worker recently arranged a 2 day graffiti project at Hartley Primary School which had proved very popular. The Committee was requested to consider a request for financial support for the employment of the services of an artist at a cost of £140.00.

RESOLVED: On the motion of Cllr Tremain, seconded by Cllr Harris that a sum of £140 be made available to the Youth Worker for the employment of a professional artist for the graffiti project.

6. Youth Questionnaire

The Committee considered the responses received from the consultation exercise undertaken with residents and young people seeking their views and comments on youth projects and initiatives within the Parish.

The Committee expressed its disappointment with the low number of responses received but acknowledged that the questionnaire had been a worthwhile exercise and had provided the Committee with some useful feedback to work on.

It was generally agreed that the strategies to be employed as a result of this feedback should be discussed at a later date.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) the Clerk be requested to write a letter of acknowledgement and thanks to those respondents who provided their names and addresses and replied that they were prepared to support the Parish Council in providing new facilities for the youth or who stated that they were prepared to help with the Youth Committee at the Parish Council.
- 2) The Clerk be requested to include a copy of the questionnaire responses and the date of the Youth Activity Day in the acknowledgement letters.
- 3) A general acknowledgement and thanks be included in the next edition of the Hartley Herald for those respondents who did not wish to provide their names and addresses.
- 4) The Clerk be asked to contact Cllr Harris once the acknowledgement letters have been prepared in order that the prize draw winners may be picked and the winners notified.

7. Youth Shelter

The Committee received a report on progress achieved since the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that as part of West Kent Housing Association's Neighbourhood Action Plan, a meeting had been scheduled to take place earlier in the evening involving West Kent Housing Association, the Youth Worker and young people of Hartley. Details of the various youth shelters available had been provided to the Youth Worker and it was hoped that a report on the feedback received would be available in time for this Youth Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) The report on progress achieved since the last meeting be noted.
- 2) In light of the fact that the Youth Worker was unable to attend this meeting, a decision on a further course of action to be taken be deferred until the next meeting of the Youth Committee to enable feedback from the Youth Worker to be considered.

8. West Kent Extra – Community Chest Grant

The Committee NOTED that the Parish Council's application for a Community Chest Grant from West Kent Extra for the sum of £1500.00 towards the youth shelter project has been agreed.

9. Youth Zone Summer Programme 2005

The Summer programme organised by Sevenoaks District Council in 2004 was a great success with over 1100 children and young people attending over the 5 weeks.

The Youth Zone provides a wide range of equipment and resources for children and young people aged 8 and above and is staffed by Sevenoaks District Council.

The District Council is currently planning the summer programme for this year and has set aside Friday 26th August for the Youth Van to visit Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground. The booking is given with the condition that the Parish Council will provide toilet facilities as last year.

The District Council requested that the reply slip be returned by 22nd April and, as this date was prior to this meeting, the Clerk authorised the use of Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground on 26th August and has made arrangement to hire a portable toilet from Castle Marquees at a cost of £60.00 + VAT under the same arrangement as last year whereby the toilet was delivered in the morning and removed the same afternoon.

The Committee was requested to confirm the Clerk's actions.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's actions of authorising the use of Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground on 26th August and arranging for the hire of a portable toilet from Castle Marquees at a cost of £60.00 + VAT under the same arrangement as last year, be confirmed.

10. Youth Activity Day

The Clerk reported that letters have been sent to all the groups/organisations that expressed an interest in last year, informing them of the date of this year's Youth Activity Day.

Mrs Sharp offered to donate a banner which could be used to advertise the Youth Activity Day and the Committee gratefully accepted her offer.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Clerk be requested to contact members of the Youth Committee not present at the meeting to ask whether they would be willing to be part of a working group to be set up to plan the Youth Activity Day and to report back to the Youth Committee.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 8th June 2005 at 8.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.03p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....