

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
27th JUNE 2005 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mr S Sewell (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M Solman

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood, Cllr Mr M Harris, Cllr Mr A Tremain and Mr G Walsh.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 8th June 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Youth Workers Report

In the absence of the Youth Worker, the Chairman of the Committee reported that the Youth Worker had taken a number of young people on a snow boarding course.

5. Youth Shelter

It was reported that the Youth Shelter had been ordered and that the supplier intends to install the youth shelter within 6 to 8 weeks of receiving the order. The supplier has agreed to move the two benches currently located on the site ear marked for the new youth shelter, to an alternative location on the playing field and will be sited so that they over look the football pitch, facing out towards Woodland Avenue.

It was also reported that Cllr Barnett and the Clerk had met Mr Munday on site to agree the position of the relocated kissing gate. The Amenities and Open Spaces Committee had agreed to move the kissing gate as a result of complaints received from residents of the three detached houses overlooking the recreation ground. The residents had complained about cars parked opposite their properties, which blocked access to their drives creating a nuisance.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that he had met with a number of young people at Woodland Avenue the previous evening and that the young people had expressed their support for the design of the selected youth shelter. The Chairman of the Committee suggested that the young people may wish to devise their own rules relating to the use of the youth shelter, which could be graffitied to the canopy of the shelter. The other Members of the Committee held mixed views on this suggestion.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

6. Youth Activity Day

The Committee considered a report on arrangements for the Youth Activity Day which is to be held on Saturday 17th September 2005 at Manor Field. The event will start at 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. It was reported that 12 clubs/groups/organisations have confirmed their attendance at the event, as set out below:

Longfield and Hartley Scout Group and Girl Guiding Darnley West District, Hartley De Sales FC, St Francis De Sales Youth Group, Ash Green Sports Centre, New Ash Green Rugby Club, Sevenoaks Library, Foxenden Pony Sanctuary, New Ash Green and Hartley Cricket

Club, Hartley Players, Dartford Harriers, Hartley Country Club – Petanque Section and M C Fun.

The Committee agreed a timetabled schedule of events which could take place in a central designated area on the field. This would allow each club participating in the event the opportunity to demonstrate what they had to offer young people and it was suggested that the football club may wish to organise a 5 side football match, whilst the rugby club may wish to organise a tag rugby match. Other activities could still continue outside the central arena area whilst these matches or demonstrations were taking place.

If not already done so, each group would be asked to confirm the space they require and any equipment needed. In addition, each group would be asked to provide details of what their clubs had to offer including such information as when and where they meet, contact details and whether there are any charges to join their club.

It was agreed that the Scout Group would be asked if they would be interested in providing a barbeque, subject to the Scout Group having the relevant food hygiene certificates and adequate insurance cover. The Scouts will be asked whether they would be willing to make available and erect their two marquees. It was suggested that the Rugby Club may wish to provide soft fizzy drinks for sale, whilst the Parish Council could provide squash free of charge.

The Committee agreed the event should be publicised by distributing flyers through the local primary schools (Hartley Primary, Our Lady of Hartley and Langafel) and through the coach companies used to transport young people to secondary schools outside the District. The local primary schools will be asked to design a poster and a prize will be presented to one winning entrant from each school. In addition, a press release giving details of the event will be sent to the Town and Country Post, the Hart, the Catholic Church newsletter, Village Advertiser and the local press representation, Mr C Senneck.

Arrangements will be made for a site plan to be prepared defining the area to be allocated to each participating club. The Committee considered the appointment of a site manager and the car parking arrangements on the field, weather permitting. It was agreed that car park marshalling would not be required.

It was suggested that clarification over the child protection laws be sought from Sevenoaks District Council.

The District Council will be contacted to enquire over the availability of their mini bus to transport young people from the Wellfield area to Manor Field. If the District Council cannot provide a driver, the Community Warden will be asked if he has the necessary qualifications to drive a mini bus.

RESOLVED: That, the Youth Activity Day be arranged as set out in minute item 6 above.

7. KCC – Member Community Grant

It was reported that Park Leisure Ltd had recently acquired a company that manufactures portable skateboard ramps. The units are manufactured from plastic and are therefore much quieter than units manufactured from steel or concrete. Park Leisure Ltd is planning to install a 90' x 50' portable skateboard park on the Isle of Grain at a cost of £20,000. This project will be completed sometime during the summer. It was suggested that Members of the Committee may wish to view the park when it has been completed.

The Committee was reminded that during any consultation exercise undertaken by the youth worker, the young people had consistently requested facilities to ride BMX bikes. In addition to the funding available through the Kent County Council Member Community Grant Scheme, the Committee considered that other grants may be available from Sevenoaks District Council and the Lottery Awards for All Scheme. The Committee felt that Mr Clewes may be able to offer the Council some guidance over other fund providers for skateboard facilities.

The Committee examined a plan of the recreation ground at Woodland Avenue and suggested that by moving the football pitch closer to the ball wall, it may be possible to create sufficient space to install a small skateboard park next to the enclosed play area. By

doing so, this would enable the skateboard park to be located as far away from residential properties as possible and so minimise any nuisance to neighbours.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Council gives consideration to submitting an application for funding of £10,000 through the Kent County Council Member Community Grant Scheme as a contribution towards the provision of skateboarding facilities at the Woodland Avenue recreation ground.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 26th July 2005 at 8.00 p.m. Venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....