

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
9th NOVEMBER 2005 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

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

In attendance: Mrs H Gilder (Assistant Clerk)
Mr G Walsh (Youth Worker)
Ms K Craig (Youth Worker)

1. Apologies for absence

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

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 1st September 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Youth Workers Report

The Youth Workers reported that they had recently taken a group of 9 young people from Hartley on a trip to Thorpe Park. The Committee was informed that the trip had been very successful with impeccable behaviour from the Hartley youth despite provocation from other young people accompanying them on the trip.

Following the recent success of the course of snowboarding lessons, the Committee discussed the possibility of subsidising future visits and asked the Youth Workers to provide costings for the Committee to consider.

The Youth Workers informed the Committee that a series of talent competitions called the 'Y Factor', have been organised for the young people, funded by the YMCA with the first one taking place in December.

The Youth Workers reported that feedback from the young people on the youth shelter has been very positive and a number of them have expressed their gratitude to the Council over the provision of the shelter.

The Youth Workers informed the Committee that the shelter is being well used but that a number of young people have mentioned that it cannot be comfortably used in bad weather due to the absence of full side panels.

The Youth Workers informed the Committee that a group of young people have expressed an interest in going horse riding and a facility in Maidstone has been identified as a possible venue. The Committee agreed that this could be a project that could be subsidised by the Council and asked the Youth Workers to provide costings for the Committee to consider.

5. West Kent Housings 8-12's Project

Cllr Sewell informed the Committee that his recent visit to West Kent Housing's 8-12's Project in Swanley had been very successful. The Project appeared to be very well organised and was well attended by the local young people.

6. Youth Activity Day

(a) The Committee considered feedback forms received from participants in the event. Many of the participants had been disappointed that attendance had been poor and suggested that perhaps not enough had been done to publicise the event. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that flyers had been sent to local schools and distributed to the school coach companies, posters had been displayed throughout Hartley and advertisements had been placed in local publications including the Parish Council's newsletter. The Committee agreed that the event had been well publicised and considered whether the timing of the event, just after the school holidays could have contributed to the low attendance.

(b) The Committee discussed the possibility of organising a similar event in the future.

RESOLVED: That,
a decision on whether a Youth Activity Day or similar event should be arranged in the future be deferred until the next meeting of the Youth Committee.

7. Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground

(a) The Committee considered a letter from a resident in respect of problems associated with the recreation ground at Woodland Avenue, in particular, youths parking on the road adjacent to the recreation ground.

RESOLVED: That,
the Assistant Clerk be requested to write to the resident advising that the Parish Council has no authority to prevent youths from parking outside the recreation ground and suggesting that any further problems be reported to the Police or the Community Warden.

(b) Cllr Sewell reported that litter and vandalism continued to be a problem at Woodland Avenue recreation ground but that the Youth Workers, Police and the Community Warden were aware of the problems and the situation appeared to have improved slightly recently.

8. Skate Parks

The Committee considered information received from Park Leisure Ltd on skate park ramps.

RESOLVED: That,
the information received from Park Leisure on skate park ramps be received and noted.

9. Sevenoaks Area Youth Forum Weekend

The Committee considered a letter received from the Area Youth and Community Worker regarding the Sevenoaks Area Youth Forum Weekend taking place on 2nd - 4th December 2005.

RESOLVED: That,
the letter received from the Area Youth and Community Worker regarding the Sevenoaks Area Youth Forum weekend taking place on 2nd – 4th December 2005 be received and noted.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 19th January 2006 at 8.00p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....