

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
26th JANUARY 2006 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Mr G Walsh (Youth Worker)

1. Apologies for absence

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

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 9th November 2005 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Youth Worker's Report

The Youth Worker reported that he had successfully secured funding for a snowboarding project for the benefit of a group of young people from New Ash Green. However, half the group had failed to show up and as a result, the Youth Worker had offered these places to four young people from Hartley. The Youth Worker informed the Committee that the first mixed visit, (i.e. four young people from New Ash Green and four young people from Hartley), to the dry ski slope at Capstone Park had taken place the evening before and had been very successful.

The Youth Worker informed the Committee that the snowboarding course cost £12.00 per person per night and after six weeks tuition the young people qualified to use the ski slope without an instructor. The Youth Worker intended to offer this opportunity to as many young people as possible and hoped, at some time in the future, he would be able to take groups of young people to the dry ski slope so that they could use the ski slope without an instructor. He was seeking funding for further snow boarding courses through Kent County Council's "Things for Young People To Do" grant and through the Local Network Fund. He also hoped to secure funding for the provision of 2 pool tables and a graffiti project through Kent County Council's "Things for Young People To Do" grant.

The Youth Worker reported that, in conjunction with the YMCA, an MC competition was being organised at the New Ash Green Youth Centre on 10th February 2006 and that the winners of the competition would go forward to the next round to be held at the Mick Jagger Centre in Dartford on 9th March 2006. The winning entrants from the Mick Jagger Centre would then go forward to the final round to be held 22nd July 2006 at Canterbury. This would be followed by a competition entitled the "Battle of the Bands" on 23rd July 2006, also in Canterbury. The competition would be advertised by means of a leaflet and word of mouth. Entry to the competition was £2.00 and all proceeds would be donated to charity.

The Committee briefly considered whether it would be possible to arrange visits for young people in Hartley to skateboard parks outside the Parish. The Youth Worker confirmed that

it would not be advisable to take Hartley young people to the skateboard park at West Kingsdown. It was suggested that it may be possible to take a group to the skateboard park at Edenbridge. The Youth Worker updated the Committee with the current position regarding plans to provide a skateboard park on the sports ground at New Ash Green. The Committee briefly considered which open spaces or recreation grounds would be suitable in Hartley for the provision of a skateboard park.

RESOLVED: That, the provision of a skateboard park in Hartley be deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

5. Youth Activity Day

The Committee felt that due to the limited success of the Youth Activity Day held during September 2005, another such event should not be organised. It was suggested that a Family Fun Day may be better supported and that young people could be encouraged to get involved in designing and organising the activities. The Youth Worker informed the Committee that young people from Hartley prefer to get involved in activities outside the Parish, such as bowling, swimming and paint balling.

It was suggested that a musical event aimed at young people could be organised at Manor Field, possibly a rock band and/or a base and drum competition. The YMCA and Chief Executive from Kent Youth could be contacted to ask whether they would be able to offer any assistance in organising such an event.

RESOLVED: That, the suggestion of organising a musical event at Manor Field be deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

6. West Kent Housings 8-12's Project

The Committee considered a report explaining that the use of the Wellfield communal lounge had been discounted as a suitable venue for the 8 -12 project. Residents of the adjoining sheltered accommodation had strongly opposed the use the lounge and had contacted the local Member of Parliament on the matter. There was also the added difficulty of temporarily storing the furniture in the communal lounge, which belonged to the residents of the sheltered accommodation, during the 8 – 12 sessions. The Managing Director of West Kent Extra had asked whether there was any other suitable accommodation for the project in the area. The Committee considered the other halls in the area which could provide suitable accommodation, including All Saints Church Centre, WI Hall, the local schools and the meeting room at St Francis De Sales RC Church, but concluded that none were totally satisfactory. It was reported that the future of the United Reformed Church on Ash Road was under some debate and that the regular users of the facilities at the church had been given notice that they would have to find alternative accommodation from June 2006. Some discussion ensued over the possible future use of the building.

It was suggested that the Pavilion at Manor Field could be offered to West Kent Housing as a venue for the 8 -12 project on a trial basis. It was reported that the referee's changing room contained a lot of rubbish and redundant office equipment and if cleared could be made available to the project for storage. It was confirmed the hourly rate for the hire of the Pavilion was £7.50 per hour but in the past regular hirers had been offered the use of the hall at a reduced hourly rate of £6.50.

RECOMMENDED: That, West Kent Housing be asked whether the Pavilion at Manor Field would be a suitable venue for the 8 -12 project and if so, the facilities be offered for such use on a trial basis.

7. Date of next meeting

Thursday 23rd February 2006 at 8.00p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....