

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
23rd FEBRUARY 2006 AT 8.00 p.m. AT THE HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs J Burns, Cllr Mr J Gaywood, Cllr Mr M Harris and Mr G Walsh (Youth Worker).

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 26th January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Youth Worker's Report

The Clerk read a report received from the Youth Worker, who had apologised for not being present at the meeting, due to a previous commitment involving a group of young people competing in the semi finals of a regional music competition in Dartford. The Youth Worker had confirmed that the snowboarding course was going well with the final evening of tuition taking place on 26th February 2006. The course had involved a mixed group of young people from both Hartley and New Ash Green.

The Youth Worker was investigating the possibility of organising of a snowboarding trip overseas. The Committee felt that the young people benefiting from such an experience should be encouraged to put something back into the community and asked whether the Youth Worker could widen the scope of the project to ensure those participating could earn their benefits.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted and, (2) the views of the Committee regarding the proposal to organise an overseas snowboarding trip be made known to the Youth Worker.

5. Big Lottery Fund – Children's Play

The Committee considered a letter dated 30th January 2006 from Sevenoaks District Council informing the Council of a new Big Lottery Fund Initiative called "Children's Play" due to be launched in the Spring. The Big Lottery Fund has allocated funding to local authorities across England based on child protection and the percentage of the population living in deprived areas, and Sevenoaks District has been allocated a sum of £212,082. In order to secure this funding Sevenoaks District Council is required to develop a play strategy and a portfolio of project proposals. Guidance on the production and implementation of play strategies will be produced by the Children's Play Council, which should be available after March 2006.

The Committee considered a number of projects that could be considered suitable for funding through this initiative, which included the provision of a skateboard facility at

Woodland Avenue recreation ground and an extension to or replacement of the play equipment at the playground in Woodland Avenue.

RECOMMENDED: That, the provision of a skateboard facility at Woodland Avenue recreation ground and extension to the playground or replacement of play equipment at Woodland Avenue be registered with Sevenoaks District Council as being possible suitable projects for funding through the Big Lottery Fund initiative “Children’s Play”.

6. Skateboard Park

The Committee had considered the provision of a skateboard facility in the Parish under minute item 5. The Committee considered other possible funding opportunities for the skateboard project including the lottery scheme, “Awards for All” and local businesses such as the Co-operative Society and Waitrose.

RESOLVED: That, (1) a letter be written to the Co-operative Society and Waitrose enquiring whether they had funds available to support local youth projects and (2) the CD Rom entitled “Urban Ramps” be circulated to members of the Committee.

7. Youth Activity Day

It was reported that Chief Executive of Kent Youth had responded to the Committee’s enquiry regarding the organisation of a musical event at Manor Field. He had informed the Committee that he had been involved in organising music and performing arts events in Kent and London, and would be willing to assist the Committee in organising an event at Manor Field where possible.

The Committee considered a letter 17th February 2006 from the Council’s insurers informing that if the Council intended to hold a Youth Activity Day later in the year, they would require a full risk assessment of the event which should be sent to them at least 4 weeks in advance of the event so they could advise the Council of any requirements they may have.

The Committee expressed a number of concerns relating to the organisation of a musical event at Manor Field and felt that the Council did not have the resources at its disposal to ensure the safety of those attending the event. In view of the lack of numbers attending the Youth Activity Day held last year, the Committee was not confident that the young people would support such an event.

The Committee considered at some length what activities young people would be interested in supporting and agreed that some consultation with young people through the Youth Worker may be advisable. The Committee suggested that young people may be interested in paint balling in local woods such as Gorse Wood or Hartley Wood.

RESOLVED: That, (1) no further action be taken regarding the organisation of a musical event at Manor Field and, (2) enquiries be made with paint balling companies to establish the cost of hiring such an activity and whether there were any restrictions regarding the age of those participating.

6. West Kent Housings 8-12’s Project

The Committee considered a report explaining that the Pavilion had been offered to West Kent Xtra as a possible venue for the 8 -12 project and that a meeting had been arranged with the Community Support Manager at West Kent Housing on 2nd March 2006 to assess the suitability of the Pavilion for the project.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

7. Date of next meeting

Thursday 30th March 2006 at 8.00p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....