

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON
17th JANUARY 2007 AT 8.00 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mrs J Burns
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr V Sewell (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Mr G Walsh (HAWK Youth Worker)
Ms K Craig (Part time Youth Worker)
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from 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 5th September 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Financial Report

The Youth Worker passed an invoice for payment in respect of the hire of a minibus on 26th October 2006 for a visit to the Edenbridge Centre for the sum of £87.50 and the hire of a minibus on 27th October 2006 for a visit to Thorpe Park for the sum of £161.25. The Committee agreed to place the invoice before the Council at its next meeting seeking authority to make payment to the HAWK project for the aforementioned trips.

The Committee examined the financial report setting out the net financial position of the youth budget as at 11th January 2007 and noted that the report showed a projected total underspend for the current financial year in the region £2,500. The Committee examined the costings of delivering snow boarding lessons to 6 young people over a period of 11 weeks at a group discounted rate of £18.50 per person (£1,221.00), including Duke of Edinburgh Accreditation Booklets (£60.00), transport costs (£275) and an evaluation meal (£50.00). The Committee noted that the total cost of the project would be £1,606.00 and due to the projected underspend in the current budget, felt that the project should be supported, provided the project could be delivered before the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the financial report, as set in appendix 1 attached to these minutes, be noted,

(2) the Finance and General Purposes Committee be asked to consider a proposal to ear mark any surplus funds from the Youth Committee's current annual budget to provide financial support for the provision of a skateboard park at Woodland Avenue and,

(3) the Youth Worker be asked to deliver the snow boarding project to provide lessons for 6 young people over a period of 11 weeks at a total cost of £1,606.00 and that the Youth Worker be asked to deliver the project before the end of the current financial year.

5. Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Programme

The Committee noted that a formal expression of interest form in respect of the provision of a skateboard park at Woodland Avenue had been lodged with the District Council as approved by the Council at its meeting held on 13th March 2006 and that the District Council had informed the Council that Hartley's bid for funding would be included in the portfolio of projects to be submitted to the Big Lottery Fund in March 2007. The Committee considered a number of e mails from the Regeneration and Youth Manager on the matter and noted that whilst Hartley had been successful in being included in the submission, there was no guarantee that the portfolio of projects would be approved. Furthermore the Parish Council was advised that the Big Lottery Fund would expect all projects to have planning permission in place when submitted, but this advice was amended in a subsequent e mail dated 8th January 2007 to the Chairman of the Youth Committee in which the Regeneration and Youth Manager confirmed that planning permission would not have to be in place. However all projects would need to demonstrate that they had considered the planning implications and if necessary, have submitted a planning application.

Advice obtained from the Team Manager of the District Council's Planning Department has confirmed that the provision of skateboard park could be considered as permitted development provided the following criteria was met:

- The work was undertaken on land belonging to or maintained by the Parish Council and used for purposes relating to the function of the Parish Council.
- The equipment should not exceed 4 metres in height and should not have a cubic volume greater than 200 cubic metres.

If the above criteria could not be met, a full planning application for the proposed development would be required. An outline planning application could not be submitted for this type of development.

The Committee considered that the provision of a skateboard park would fall within the above criteria and therefore would not require the benefit of planning permission.

The Committee discussed at length how residents should be consulted and where the skateboard park should be sited on Woodland Avenue. The Clerk was asked to obtain copies of the consultation documents circulated by Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council to its residents and young people in respect of the proposed skateboard park in New Ash Green. The Clerk was asked to seek advice from the Council's insurers on its requirements for the provision of a skateboard facility. It was suggested that further investigation on the siting of a skateboard park on the recreation ground be undertaken and arrangements were made for a site meeting to be held on 23rd January 2007 at 9.30 a.m. Furthermore the Clerk was asked to seek advice and guidance from GBH Engineering on the design of a skateboard park.

RECOMMENDED: That, a consultation exercise be undertaken with residents on the provision of a skateboard park to be sited on the Council's recreation ground at Woodland Avenue.

6. West Kent Xtra

The Committee considered a report from Keith Rowell the Youth and Community Worker from West Kent Xtra on a meeting with young people held on 14th December 2006. The young people were asked to give their views on what activities they would like to see in Hartley and were given the opportunity to express their concerns, which were summarised as set out below:

- There was nothing to do and no where to go
- Nowhere to play football that was lit
- No local youth club or anywhere to meet

- Youth shelter was too near the wood and had no lights
- No nets in the football goals

The young people would like to see the following activities:

- Paint balling
- Snowboarding/skiing
- Football tournament
- Sponsored parachute jump
- Go to a premiership football match
- Get involved with Charlton Community Football Programme

The Committee noted that a number of the activities requested by the young people had already been delivered. The Committee discussed at length the means by which the Parish Council could provide a subsidised swimming scheme at the White Oak Leisure Centre in Swanley, including transportation arrangements, for the young people of Hartley. The Committee felt that the subsidised mini bus scheme provided the District Council was too expensive and too restrictive, inasmuch as the subsidised scheme was only available to the Council on three occasions after which the mini bus could only be hired at the full rate. The Committee felt that it would be cheaper to hire taxis to transport young people to the White Oak Leisure and the Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of hiring a 7-seater taxi for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

7. Youth Worker and Community Warden

The Committee considered a report on the meeting with Youth Worker and the Community Warden held on 13th December 2006.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

8. HAWK

The Committee considered a letter dated 28th November 2006 from the Clerk to Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council informing that a review of the actual costs incurred by Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council to provide the Youth Worker with office space and certain administrative costs had been carried out. In the past a sundry amount of £1,000 had been deducted from the HAWK accounts, but following a review the actual costs had been estimated to amount to £3,657. A breakdown of these costs were examined by the Committee. As a result the Council was informed that Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council proposed to make a charge of £3,600 to the HAWK accounts for 2007/08 to cover the actual cost of providing the Youth Worker with office accommodation and administration support, but in spite of this increase, Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council did not consider it would be necessary to increase the contributions from any of the partners and confirmed Hartley Parish Council's contribution for 2007/08 would remain unchanged at £1,350. Furthermore Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council informed Hartley that it would be requesting partners' contributions in May each year rather than waiting to November/December.

RESOLVED: That, the letter be noted.

9. Sevenoaks District Play Strategy

The Committee considered the Sevenoaks District Play Strategy Consultation Document.

RESOLVED: That, the Sevenoaks District Play Strategy Consultation Document be noted.

10. Kent County Council Members' Community Grant Scheme

The Committee felt that the proposed skateboard park at Woodland Avenue may be a suitable project for funding through the Kent County Council Members Community Grant Scheme.

RESOLVED: That, further consideration of a suitable project for funding through the Kent County Council Members' Community Scheme be deferred.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21st February 2007 at 8.00 p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 10.02 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Hartley Parish Council
Summary of Receipts and Payments
Cost Centre 9 Youth Services

	Receipts		Payments		Net Position
HAWK			1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
Misc expenses			1,450.00	60.00	1,390.00
Grants			0.00	0.00	0.00
8-12 Project			1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Net total	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	1,410.00	2,590.00
VAT		0.00		10.50	
Gross Total		0.00		1,420.00	