

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2008 AT 10.00 a.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present : Cllr Mr C Alford
Cllr Mr A Barnett
Cllr Mr J Gaywood (Chairman)
Cllr Mr M Harris
Cllr Mr B Ramsay
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby (*arrived at 10.02 a.m.*)

In attendance : Mrs H Gilder (Assistant Clerk)
Cllr Mr J Minns
3 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr L Abraham.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby declared a personal interest under minute item 4, Hartley Wood – Village Green application, as her private residence bordered Hartley Wood. She considered her interest only to be personal as the discussions under minute item 4 did not refer to any land immediately adjacent to her property.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on 21st November 2007, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby arrived at the meeting at 10.02 a.m.

4. Hartley Wood

a) The Committee received a report on a meeting with the Regulation Committee Member Panel held on 29th November 2007.

The Committee expressed its disappointment that it had been necessary for the Panel to defer its decision.

RESOLVED: That, the report be received and noted.

The Committee noted that the date of the Regulation Committee Member Panel meeting has been set for Thursday 21st February 2008.

RECOMMENDED: That, the attendance of Members of the Parish Council and the Clerk at the Regulation Committee Panel of Members on 21st February 2008 to speak in support of the Parish Council's Village Green application in Hartley Wood be confirmed.

The Committee considered letters dated 21st and 27th November 2007, submitted by Southwark Council in respect of the Village Green application, and the Clerk's responses dated 27th November and 19th December 2007.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk's response to the letters submitted by Southwark Council, be confirmed.

b) The Committee considered a report on a meeting with representatives from Southwark Council held on 4th February 2008.

RESOLVED: That, the report be received and noted.

5. Hartley WI

The Committee considered a report on a meeting with representatives of the Hartley WI held on 30th January 2008.

RECOMMENDED: That,

- (1) assurances be given to the Hartley WI that the Parish Council intends to manage and maintain the hall for the benefit of the community,
- (2) an article be placed in the Council's newsletter and the Hart informing residents of the offer made by the Hartley WI to donate the WI hall to the Parish Council,
- (3) Hartley WI be offered any assistance it may require in organising and undertaking minor repairs to the hall, as identified in the building inspection report.
- (4) the report on the meeting with the Hartley WI held on 30th January 2008 be received and adopted.

The Chairman asked whether a response had been received from the District Valuer regarding the valuation of the hall. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that a response is still awaited.

6. Affordable Housing

In November 2007, Fawkham Parish Council invited Hartley Parish Council and Longfield and New Barn Parish Council to attend a meeting to initiate discussions over a possible joint venture to provide housing to meet local needs.

At the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th December 2007 it was resolved that,

“(1) the report on a meeting with representatives from Fawkham Parish Council and Longfield and New Barn Parish Council held on 8th November 2007 be received and noted and (2) the matter be referred to the Special Projects Committee for further investigation and the findings of such investigation be reported to Council.”

The Committee was requested to consider how it wishes to progress the matter.

RECOMMENDED: That, 1) Hartley Parish Council support the idea of a joint venture to provide affordable housing and 2) Fawkham Parish Council be requested to invite a representative from the Rural Housing Trust to attend a meeting with the three Parish Council's to provide advice on how to progress the matter.

7. Gorse Wood

At the meeting of the Special Projects Committee held on 22nd June 2007 it was reported that Mr K Mandy had left the employment of West Kent Housing Association and that enquiries were being made to ascertain who had taken over responsibility for his project work.

The Committee noted that no response has been forthcoming from West Kent Housing Association.

Cllr Ramsay reported that he had recently received an email from West Kent Housing Association confirming that a representative would be in contact with the Parish Council within the next couple of months.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk be requested to write to West Kent Housing Association confirming receipt of Cllr Ramsay's email and requesting that a formal meeting be arranged as soon as possible to discuss the matter further.

8. Exclusion of the press and public

RESOLVED: That, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of minute item 6, "New Burial Ground", on the grounds that the likely disclosure of exempt information would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Members of the public left the meeting at 10.40 a.m.

9. New Burial Ground

The Committee considered a verbal report on progress to modify the covenants on Manor Field, and a letter received from the Council's solicitor.

RESOLVED: That, the report, and letter from the Council's solicitor be received and noted.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the application to modify the covenants through the Lands Tribunal.

10. Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11.05 a.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

