

Committee, **Group** or Sub Group : SCENic - formerly Community Enhancement Group

Meeting Date & Venue 25th May 2023 at 6.30pm @ WH, SCC

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

Present were: Adele Sharp (AS), Eric Hotson (EH), Bill McLaughlin (BM),

Apologies: John Perry (JP) Paddy Riordan (PR) planning @ MBC Catherine Farragher (CF)

Matters arising – none

* Last meeting was March, April meeting was cancelled.

* Requests to use Surrenden Field for exercise groups.

It was generally felt encouraging parishioners to use the field for fitness was a good idea.

Resolved to recommend to full council the following:

- We should meet them and ask to see their Public Liability Insurance plus Professional Indemnity - Preferably copy of their qualification to lead the activities
- We do not need to charge but would welcome a donation

1. Bell Lane toilet contract - New cleaners were appointed and have started. So far so good.

2. Bins - Surrenden Field and 4. benches

The new benches and bins have been installed at Surrenden field, the contractor just needed to remove the old bins. Likewise, with the new bin at the entrance to the Wimpey field.



Action: All done

3. Surrenden Field Outdoor gym

We were able to negotiate a disabled piece of equipment and better standing surface for the equipment to go on instead of just grass.

AS went over the paper work for the company Fresh Air Fitness, with Deborah and the deposit for gym equipment paid, no date for installation as yet. 6 week run in so hopefully in time for the summer holidays.

Action: All in hand



5. Surrenden Children’s Field Play area – need to redo painting of ground games images. Plus the playground “snakes and ladders etc” to be redone on the playground surface

Action: agreed AS to send members images to approve and give to full council on 5th June.

6. Parade Bike racks



Action: PR has asked the office to purchase the bicycle rack for the parade area, as soon as it arrives, he will arrange to install it.

7. Parade wall at the edge of the carpark. We need a specification for this to be able to get quotations. Budget @ £10 - 16.000. MBC have agreed but want us to add another project.

Action: PR had someone quote for this, not sure if we have it yet, – **defer to next meeting.**

8. Disabled space

Discussed about the fact we don’t own any of the areas to enable us to put a parking space on.

Action: PR to discuss with land owner. Clerk to ask Kent Highways who owns what?

9. Grave Lane War Memorial

We think the owner is Duckhurst Farm. BM arranged and Ruth Holdaway sorted.



Before



After

The war memorial at Grave Lane has been fully renovated and is once again looking good.

10. Church Green – North Side belongs to Golding Homes, hedges MBC responsibility. South Side is MBC. We previously asked the clerk to write to Golding homes about whether they would gift it to us.

Action: AS will ask office if any progress made

11. Chestnut Avenue Hedge

BM will ask Chestnut resident what they know.

Action: previously asked clerk to investigate whether Spc are responsible for cutting it? Do we own it? We do seem to be cutting the hedge as we are paying the man who cuts it currently.

AS to ask Jean / clerk if any progress made

12. Kings Head Pub – community asset

Previously PR contacted the manager who said she would not object 'not overly bothered'.

Landlord Richard Monks & Owners Shepherd Neame.

We asked the office to write to Shepherd and Neame, as they own the building, about us making the property a village asset. This merely means should the building come up for sale, SPC would have 6 months to raise the money to buy it first.

Action: AS to ask if any progress made

13. Telephone box

All refurbishment done re PR and J Castro. AS has previously sent an email to groups to see if they would like to use it. No bites yet.

Suggestion is that SPC use it to show off the council as an example. SCC could follow, by which time other community groups may be interested.

PR suggested that we ask Iden signs to do a vinyl print for the back wall of the telephone box, with pictures of various areas and buildings in Staplehurst.

Action: Agreed but we would like to see a mock up before the final is sent to print.

14. Pavillion – *to completely redevelop existing pavilion to provide 'café' type facilities, storage and toilets.* For the use of Staplehurst at large.

(£15,000 - £35,000)

CF investigated and found a local company designing wooden pavilions. PR and CF met with the rep from the potential pavilion company. The meeting was quite positive, although no firm quotes at the moment.

Action: Does office have a drawing plan of the current one? AS & CF will look at designs and drawings for community café / shop / etc. **design ideas being discussed by councillors Sat 27th May 2023**



AOB

Grass crete at Surrenden Field by Manning Gate – PR is working with a local building contractor to look into providing a grasscrete area adjacent to Manning gate, as lorries get stuck on a regular basis there when the field is being used. Unfortunately previous quotes were extra ordinarily expensive, so hopefully we will be coming back with some new options.

Action: on agenda for next time.

Date & Venue of next meeting: Th 22nd June, w 19th July 6.30pm WH

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp

EH Eric Hotson

PR Paddy Riordan

CF Catherine Farragher

JP John Perry

BM Bill McLaughlin