

Notes on SCENIC meeting – 13th November 2025

1. **Present:** Cllrs Sharp (AHS), Castro (JC), Alesi (MA), Melville (JM) and Martin (AM)
2. **Apologies:** None received
3. **Last notes:** Agreed as a true reflection of the meeting, with one amendment date change (next meeting 13th November not October.)
4. **Display Boards:** This is an ongoing project, with nothing more to report currently.
5. **Youth Club:**
 - Replacement heater to be fitted shortly
 - Re new YMCA sessions – attendance is being monitored. A 2nd session has been added. So now offering 3.30pm – 5pm for Y6 children and 5pm – 6.30pm for Y7 +
 - Need to ensure more advertising is in place. (ACTION)
6. **Surrenden Field:**
 - Playground metal bench is now stored inside the pavilion for safe-keeping. Caretaker will attempt to re-fix.
 - Resident consultation underway re playground equipment. Discussed responses to date (34).
 - Noted that further to RoSPA report, replacement matting is required. Previous notes from this group asked for extra quotes be researched, as cost of matting will determine how much money is left for replacement play equipment. (ACTION)
 - Resident consultation underway re uses/development for new pavilion. Discussed responses to date (35).
 - Planning permission submitted for a slightly larger building than originally considered: 10.3m x 5m, 2.1m to eaves. Preferred building contractor (Hanson) has provided an updated quotation of £20,960 + VAT. Concrete base will be extra, with other costs dependant on selections trims and finishes.
 - Noted that one tree close to the site will need to be reduced.
 - The group's recommended intention is to have planning permission in place and be ready to go ahead with the project once the 3G build is underway, subject to affordability.
 - JM to prepare a report to go to council on 8th December if possible.
 - Discussion in consideration of potential hire fees and costs. Noted similar fees charged by Hawkhurst PC. Further research required.
7. **Parade Toilets:**
 - The Clerk has received the radar key code
 - However, a survey by KCC is still required before we can move forward. Consider seeking help from KCC Councillor. (ACTION)
8. **Christmas Lights:**
 - School children to make 'wish motifs' to be added to the tree.

- JM has ordered the tree stand and will install prior to delivery of tree from Kingswood on 29th Nov. JM to organise a working party to add tree lights. Everything has been ordered, including rechargeable batteries and charger for battery operated lights. Streetlights booked to install lamp-post motifs. All well within budget.

9. Bus shelters: Noted that inspection of bus shelters has been added to the Strategic Plan as the responsibility of SCENIC. AHS stated that this should be the responsibility of RSG.

10. Churchyard Budget:

- Liaison Group deals with this. However, new budget request has significant uplift, due to price increase from Living Forest. This group has discussed costs, which have risen from £7,583 in 2021/22 to £16,757 in 2025/6. Historically, the grounds were tended by a gentleman who worked more as a hobby and didn't charge the market rate. Hence the huge increase once he retired.
- New budget request for 2026/7 has risen to £17,465.22, with a request for an extra mow costing £1767.
- Question asked: does the PCC pay anything towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard? Noted that the agreement (last updated in 2014) states that SPC will make 'an appropriate donation.'
- **It was also noted that the agreement states that the PCC works on the financial year April to March. Currently, the PCC works on Jan to December for finances and this causes our RFO a lot of extra work. Check with RFO.**
- This group feels that more volunteers should be recruited to tend the churchyard. This has been discussed at Liaison meetings. The current PCC Chair is averse to volunteers carrying out work unless she manages the work. Insurance has also been a concern. **However, it has also been noted that the agreement stipulates that the PCC must include Public Liability in their overall insurance.**
- Concern is that budget continues to rise exponentially and is becoming unaffordable.
- Cllr Perry has written a report to go to council in December.

11. AOB: None

12. Next meeting: 18th December if required.

ACTIONS:

1. **Need to advertise the new Youth Club sessions more, including bring to attention of schools. Ask PSO to action.**
2. **Get extra quotes for playground matting Ask RFO to action**
3. **Chase KCC survey re Parade Toilets. Contact Cllr Black. Ask Clerk to chase.**