

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Community Enhancement Group

Meeting Date & Venue: 25th March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

Present were: AS, PR, CB, SM, EH (guest speaker County Councillor).

Apologies: JP

* The minutes of 25th February 2021 were accepted.

* Matters arising not on the agenda – none

1. Parade disabled public toilet –

Tasks to do.

a. The lease / rental of disabled toilet site – KCC – we do not foresee a major financial burden. Even the legal cost should be straightforward and minimal.

MBC - Lucy Stroud. " we have no objection to the toilet block being reopened, and my team can advise on what needs to be done to get them back up and running. I need to check whether our Lease with KCC allows us to sublet, and if so there shouldn't be any issue. However if it doesn't we may need to see if the Parish Council could enter into a lease directly with KCC. I'll check the lease and get back to you."

Update - Can't sub lease from MBC till 2022.

Action: Ask Alison / clerk to start conversations with KCC about taking over the lease. Please copy E. Hotson into the letter. Also ask if we can just go ahead with getting the painting and repairs done for such a small building toilet. No need for red tape surely?

b. Ready to install radar lock to be able to use a Radar key – Ironmonger direct quote £203 for a set plus the installation cost. Poyntell quotation for installation of one radar lock £259.90 +VAT).

Action: None - ready to install when given go ahead.

c. The external decoration / repairs will be done when PR supervises the library decoration / repairs - needs to be done at an urgent because looks quite dilapidated now - in the Spring (April / May time). There are some small internal repairs to do as well, (hopefully also by volunteers), which we know more about when 1a has been actioned.

Note - no cost to us for the £5 key, as disabled users possess their own.

Action: see 1a

d. Cleaning. Financial implication - Note - £3000 legal and maintenance costs are in the budget for next year. PR – possible to ask the VC cleaners?

Action: AS will ask 1- 3 days a week M W F? Or what a call out would cost AS

2. Planters – Two at Railway bridge in place – 2 more will go in at the weekend. Southern end of the village will be put in when gateway works are completed as the entrance sign may move a bit.

Action: None – in hand

3. Wimpy Field - We now have 3 quotations, but we still need approval from HML management co. Alison has written to them and we await their reply / approval - potentially we may then need to consult with residents. Will then put to council.

Action: Alison please send the quotations info to CEG group to look at.

4. Surrenden Field Updates for the meeting.

Research has been slow due to our other commitments. Reiterated that the intention would be to completely replace the existing pavilion. A brick build would be preferable as more aesthetically pleasing, permanent and vandal proof. It was discussed however, that a brick built pavilion would need an architect to design, planning permission and be far more expensive.

There was also some discussion about concerns of any pavilion becoming a storage facility for SCEG – it should be a pavilion for the use of Staplehurst at large and not thought of as the SCEG pavilion.

a - Pavilion –

Previous ideas: brick build (expensive), Wooden (creates maintenance issues), container/ prefab style building with kitchen toilets windows etc (preferred) with separate toilet block (£12,000) – PR provided the below visual and is getting quotations.

Action: discuss at next meeting when we have more information.



b - Paths – Lucy Stroud at MBC - *In principle I have no objection to the proposal of a new path. I will ask our Legal Team to advise what formal documentation is needed, but I think we have all the information required.*

Suggestion also to have some hardstanding at the area around the gate (informally known as Barrets Gate / Manning Gate).

Quotes obtained, but still awaiting response from MBC legal team. Last chase on the 16th March, still waiting. Will chase again next week.

Action: Recommend that we ask SPC to apply for the 106 money.

c - Adult outdoor gym /exercise eqpt.

Action: CB looking into funding / site (Jubilee Field) – in hand. He has contacted suppliers of gym equipment and costing it out and will then go back to grant chasing. Suggested to try Sport England. Recommended we all look at the Redrow play park as it seems to be an adult gym and not for children!

d – WW1 commemorative bench. –

The bench, currently stored in the pavilion, will be installed by the SCEG (Heidi & Bob Ham) at the Northern end, in the middle (Thatcher Road end). They will let us know before they put it in so we can agree the position and let the public know.

Action: AS to arrange a time to meet them there and confirm the spot together.

4. Telephone box – delayed due to Covid. Still in lock down at time of meeting but we may be able to get Community payback to do this as soon as possible.

Ready to do as soon as restrictions permit (Telephone sign changed to welcome and repaint). Still need to decide what will go in there. Ideas so far are to offer to local groups – WI, Horticultural – and businesses – Made in Kent – to take over for a week or two. Plant exchange as in Biddenden where green fingered folk put their surplus seeds and seedlings to exchange. Books may be dodgy as it may become a dumping ground!

5. Salt bins Brad – In the process of marking on maps provided by clerk where the current ones are exactly which will show where the gaps are. This will then be collated back to the office. Possible we could get local businesses to sponsor a bin! Felt we need some on Market street and Lodge Road.

5. A.O.B.

The meeting ended at 7:55pm.

Date & Venue of next meeting: 7pm Thursday 6th May 2021, zoom

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp

PR Paddy Riordan

JP John Perry

CB Colin Bowden

SM Simon McNeill

SLR Sam Lain-Rose