

Meeting on Tuesday 11th February 2020, 7.30pm @ SPC Office

Members present: P. Riordan, H. Miller, A Sharp.

Apologies: J. Buller, J. Perry, S. Lain-Rose, Z. Rawlinson, L. Brice, C. Bowden.

- Minutes Agreed

- Matters arising not already on the agenda:-

* Parade Planters – installed on chemist side and now planted up with bulbs. Aim is to put two on the library side as well. Funding received via donations so ‘parade pot’ will pay for it £210 (soil).

Sand bags as temporary gap fill for some areas £60 - £100 at most.

* Round planters in village

Suggested to offer local businesses to sponsor a planter – For information they cost @£690 per annum. Up to 3 businesses per planter and have a sign “Sponsored by Staplehurst Butcher”.

Uniform sign that’s tasteful!

* Christmas Tree at the parade

The lights sponsored by the fireworks committee are now turned off but ready to go for next year.

They were very well received. Smaller sponsored Christmas trees (instigated by Made by Kent) were also well received. They created a really nice community event. **Recommended for 2020.**

Village update article.

The Parade was completely brightened up for the Christmas period with the family fireworks group providing colourful lighting on one of the large trees. Made by Kent engaged with local shops and businesses to sponsor Christmas trees throughout the large planter areas. The trees were brightly decorated by children.

A community event was created where we had an official turning on of the lights, carols were sung by the primary school choir, Murcatto supplied mulled wine and the Staplehurst community events group even managed to get Father Christmas to attend.

It was a thoroughly pleasant event enjoyed by all who attended and everyone will be looking forward to it again this year.

1. Telephone box

- We recommend to SPC that **we take on the telephone box and take on the restoration of it***.
- We suggest that we don’t go with a defibrillator as we already have this covered elsewhere in the village and it would become a closed cupboard.
- Suggest that we go down the community use route which can be decided later by the community. It may be that we can use it for all sorts of ‘things’

* book exchange

* information centre – walking routes, Wimpey field, local information and so on

* different groups can do a monthly show off - Horti plant sale or display one month, Knit and natter yarn bomb another month etc

**** Clerk’s Note: further information on the subject is set out in the briefing note given to CEG. If the recommendation is approved, Councillors need to agree that SPC enter into the required contractual agreement with BT, which sets out the post-contractual obligations SPC would have (clause 5). SPC would also need to decide whether it wished to ask BT to continue to be responsible for the electricity supply or whether it would bear such cost itself (including new account charge) – see clause 5.5(i).***

Community Enhancement Group

2. Market street Station Road planter

All in hand – KCC have put in bollards and left spaces for planters to go in. Planters are being built and about to go in situ.

3. Memorial Bench

We suggest that the Community Events Group decide where they would like to put it and whether they need SPC involvement. We can't make decisions about McCabe Close or the Station if that is their preferred spot.

4. Chestnut Avenue hedge + Wimpey Field

After the same rate for the past 3 years, we propose that **SPC pay Contrast Garden Maintenance (Brad Hawkins) £25 an hour** (was £20 an hour) for mowing and strimming at the Wimpey field. 41 hours a year = an additional £205 per annum.

We recommend that **SPC accept the quote from Contrast Garden Maintenance (Brad Hawkins) £200.00 to cut the Chestnut Avenue hedge.**

5. Surrenden Field Hedge (residents of Crowther Close)

We recommend that a **survey is made involving the residents living on the west side of Crowther Close whose gardens back onto the Surrenden Field about whether they would like it cut lower than the current 16 foot, and how low!**

6. Bell Lane Toilets

As only one plumber responded, we **recommend that the new basin, percussion tap etc. be undertaken by Cooper and Co plumbing, £348.00 +VAT.**

7. Chapel Lane Street Light

This will be outside the chapel and it was decided to **choose c) @ £1082.50 +VAT plus dawn 'til dusk light sensor £41.25 + VAT (10-year guarantee).**

Not b) as dangly light bit with potential for going wrong / falling off; although a) is very similar to b), with the extra height and weight of c), we hope it will be more robust and long lasting.

8. Wimpey Field - access

Gate access required for SPC to be able to maintain the site.

PR AS HM agreed to discuss as a working team about how to move forward with this.

To assist this could the clerk provide whatever diagrams and information available (various public and private paths and roads).

9. Jubilee Field

Funding application to achieve next standard of football provision.

There has had to be a fine balance between getting work done to ensure getting funding from various sources as follows *(and ...?)*.

We had confirmation from MBC of the section 106 money £13,000 and money secured by Louise Brice £36,000. We have that.

This enables the Jubilee Field to get major funding £67,981.00 from Football Stadium Improvement Fund.

We recommend that SPC confirm that the Football club/ Jubilee committee have fulfilled the required conditions (minutes 1743) so that works on fencing, dugout and pitch surround (done) can go ahead.

Community Enhancement Group

* Planning consent – done

* Management and maintenance arrangement in place – done (with the clerk) ***Clerk's Note: the Football Club has confirmed that it will be responsible for the maintenance of the fence and dugouts. In order to address all aspects of management and maintenance of all the facilities, the Clerk proposed a set of responsibilities for discussion and agreement at a meeting of all Jubilee Field stakeholders (SPC, JFMC, Football Club, Guides). If a consensus on the responsibilities is reached, the Clerk's further recommendation is that SPC engages solicitors to draft a suitable agreement to which all parties can sign up and which will serve as the basis for future management and maintenance of all field facilities.***

* The aforementioned £49,000 has been acquired.

Due to time constraints and recent storm weather, it was agreed for fencing work to begin as at the worst it can be taken down again!

Main funding for floodlights etc. £67,981.00 from Football Stadium Improvement Fund in June, will be addressed after this work has been carried out.

A.O.B.

Fun Fair – relations have failed between Staplehurst and the funfair operator that has provided rides up to 2018. Due to the Showmen's Guild the Community Events Group is unable to tender for another 'group' until 2023. The Community Events Group seems reluctant to continue with organising having a big funfair at the fete, only 4 small rides. The idea of an event later with a big funfair seems unlikely until 2023 because the Group would have to engage the previous operator, unless the event is held at another site with another group. This could create potential for dispute between the two groups. It was commented by many that were at the fete what a lovely atmosphere there was. PR email sent to clerk

Meeting finished at 10.10 pm

Next meeting Tuesday 3rd March 2020 @7.30pm, SPC Office