

Meeting Notes

Community Enhancement Group

Notes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2019 from 19:30 to 21:30

Present: **Parish Councillors Joan Buller, Sue Forward, Sam Lain-Rose (Chair), Barrett Manning, Paddy Riordan, Adele Sharp, Gill Smith and Elaine Symes.**

In Attendance: **Resident Phil Simpson** (*until the point indicated*).

1. **Apologies for Absence**

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Parish Councillors Tom Burnham, Paul Kelly, Hannah Pontet and John Reardon. Apologies for absence was also received from Non-Parish Councillor Member Brice.

2. **Councillor Declarations**

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose, Riordan and Smith declared an interest in the Jubilee Field agenda item. Dispensations have already been granted for these Members.

3. **Agreement of the Previous Group Meeting Notes**

Meeting notes of 18 January 2019 were AGREED by Members. Member NOTED the comments raised by Parish Councillor Kelly at the Full Council's meeting on 28 January 2019 regarding the meeting notes.

4. **Matters Arising from the Previous Group Meeting**

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose updated the Group that:

- there had been a meeting with Parish Councillor Silkin regarding the Jubilee Field Management and advice had been sent to the members who attended;
- that a meeting had been scheduled for Thursday 28 February with representatives of the Youth Club to discuss the Management and Maintenance Agreement; and
- that a meeting had been scheduled for Monday 04 March with Maidstone Borough Council representatives to conduct a site visit of The Parade Public Toilets.

5. Community Post Office

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose invited Phil Simpson to present their item on a Community Post Office scheme. Phil Simpson provided hard copies of a report that he had compiled with a number of options and wished for the Group to consider and provide feedback. Parish Councillor Forward thanked Phil for this and requests the Chair of the Group ensures that proposals like this has some background papers, such as the report, sent to Members prior to the meeting, as it would assist in a constructive discussion at the meeting. Members NOTED this comment.

After much discussion by Members, it was AGREED to defer this item to enable Group Members to be sent the report electronically and discuss options of moving this forward at a future meeting.

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose asked Phil Simpson to provide an electronic version of the proposals for circulation to Members.

Phil Simpson left the meeting at this point.

6. Surrenden Field

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose said that the Parish Clerk had a response from Maidstone Borough Council regarding the lease and they had loosened the restrictions on permitted use and made various changes, although there were some errors within the drafted lease. However, has sent the lease to the Council's Solicitors for their input prior to agreeing the lease.

7. Jubilee Field

Parish Councillor Riordan gave an update on the general management of the Jubilee Field explaining that the footballer's have had some success in their recent matches.

8. Wimpey Field

Parish Councillor Forward updated Members on the status of the access gate as it currently stood and progress of the mitigation pond. In addition, she informed Members of the BioBlitz planned dates and would firm these up with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in due course.

Parish Councillor Forward also made reference to requiring to replace two trees on the Wimpey Field, which has already had Council approval by recommendation of the Community Enhancement Group and that this was being progressed with the Parish Office.

9. Allotments

Parish Councillor Forward commented on David Wilson Homes recent communication regarding their S106 Allotment provision. They were floating the idea of a community garden, which would require amendment of the S106 agreement.

Members discussed at length and NOTED the disappointment of many Councillors to the minimal allotment provisions being provided by the developer. However, Members **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to Council that they did not wish to see a Community Garden but eight half-sized allotments.

10. The Parade

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose updated Councillors on communications with the landlords and local businesses. Members **AGREED** that they wished to see an improvement in the area as quickly as possible and discussed at length the ways in which it could achieve the best outcome. It was **AGREED** that the concrete planted bedding wall nearest to the Car Park at the Parade would need to be moved further towards the A229, to minimise it being hit by cars and deteriorating the brickwork.

It also **AGREED** that the bollards that are being knocked over should be removed, rather than being reinstated, as this is continuously causing safety issues in the area and the bollards do not deter situations that they were designed for.

Parish Councillor Lain-Rose will contact the land owners to see if there is any movement on improvements and their intended level of involvement of the Council.

11. Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

12. Confirmation of the Next Meeting

Members CONFIRMED the next meeting of the Group would be Monday 18 March 2019 at 19:30. The meeting will be held at Village Centre, High Street, Staplehurst.