

Staplehurst Parish Council - Community Enhancement Group

Minutes of the virtual zoom meeting on 25th June 2020 16:00

Members present: Parish Councillors Sharp (AS), Riordan (PR), Buller (JB), Bowden (CB)

Apologies: Parish Councillor Millar (HM).

Previous minutes – 11.2.20 Agreed / no matters arising

1. Terms of reference review

As there is a crossover between items addressed by the Greener Staplehurst Group (GSG), it was felt that it would be advisable to review the Community Enhancement Group (CEG) Terms of reference. The possibility of all being transferred over to SGG was deemed not possible as although there are items of interest to both groups, some aspects will not be a GSG item to manage. This then falls to the CEG.

An example of the crossover is the Wimpey Field 'Nature area'. GSG manage all aspects of the planting and upkeep of the area but do not deal with the access onto the Bartons concern; that is a CEG item.

It was also agreed that there was no need to make recommendations about who SPC should make donations to.

It was agreed by those present that there were some amendments made including that a member of the GSG be on the CEG to enable liaison between the groups – AS and PR are on both groups.

- Wimpey Field – Remains a concern to enable SPC access to complete essential maintenance on site. This has not been made easier by various parties 'muddying the waters' of what 'could' be easily remedied. (Note there is no judgement made to any parties about this as it has been a highly emotional issue for all involved). No Car parking spaces, gates or paths need to be changed. The access gate for vehicles and the pedestrian gate can stay in the same site but become vehicle access only (there is pedestrian access anyway) so this access will become wider. Also set back away from the road a bit more onto the Nature area to enable a larger vehicle to make the 'swing' onto the site without requiring the use of resident's driveways. This would enable all SPC vehicles for maintenance to have onsite parking and not to park on the resident's road at all.

* Action – find clear drawings of the site to show a way forward to Barton residents. Investigate financial cost. Signage "Access only – no parking".

- Surrenden Field – Play area, Pavilion, paths, future plans – CEG remit. Planting - GSG remit. Currently the Play area is closed due to COVID 19. CEG to consider future plans.

- Planters – Creation of the planters has been a CEG item. GSG have agreed to the continuing maintenance of the plants. It was agreed that a continuing seasonal display in the planters by GSG - as shown by the daffodil planting – would be very welcome. A word of caution was expressed at the enthusiasm by all regarding planting, that this should remain suitable within the planters whether they have regular maintenance or not. All present expressed concern should any plants become overgrown and SPC left with the situation of overgrown foliage, a problem of which has only recently been dealt with.

* Action - for CEG members to produce a seasonal planter plan for the Parade planters!

- Parade brick wall / edging – It was suggested that CIL / S106 money could be used to rectify this matter. (Could also be used for CCTV on Surrenden Field / Pavilion, Youth Club building). As JB pointed out, the parade car park is actually privately owned and therefore it's not appropriate to use public CIL money to improve privately owned land.

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PR has asked Borough Councillor Brice to contact the land owner about providing some money towards improving the area.

The plan would be to create a path between the planting area and the car park, also setting the edging bricks further away from the car park side to ensure car bumpers no longer hit them. Quotation for potential work £18,000 G. Lee, we would also need two more quotations. Previous quotation 2-3 yrs ago Yew Tree £24,000.

Telephone Box – SPC insurers are happy with the contract. Certain aspects were discussed. Electrical power sufficient for a light only.

Action – recommend to SPC to accept the ownership of the Telephone Box.

A.O.B.

* Parade toilet- keen desire to re-open the disabled toilet. Could easily be redecorated and reopened via provision of a radar key to be held at the Library and Spar. Disabled public might also have their own they would be able to use.

Action – recommend to SPC to redecorate and reopen the disabled parade toilet.

Next meeting Wednesday 29th July 2020, 7pm

Clarification of current members requested by AS to clerk after meeting and added here for information.

Chair Adele Sharp (AS), Colin Bowden (CS); Joan Buller (JB); Mick Chapman (MC); Sam Lain-Rose (SLR); Helen Millar (HM); John Perry (JP); Zara Rawlinson (ZR); Patrick Riordan (PR).