

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

EGM COUNCIL MEETING

20TH MAY 2024

MINUTES

Public Forum

Note as the meeting was on one subject it was agreed that we would close the meeting to allow the public to ask questions after each section of the meeting.

These minutes are not verbatim, at the meeting some points were raised outside the order of the agenda – i.e. queries about the design when discussing the business plan. Therefore in these minutes the questions and answers have been put into the structure of the meeting agenda.

Note Kent online filmed the meeting

Present: Cllrs Riordan, Hotson, Arger, Alesi, Pett, Perry, Martin, Sharp, Castro, and Ash Plus the Clerk

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Mclaughlin

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

- 2.1. Declarations of Lobbying
- 2.2. Changes to the Register of Interests.
- 2.3. Interests in Items on the Agenda
- 2.4. Requests for Dispensation

3 PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION and DECISION

3.1 3G Multi-Sport pitch presentation – presentation is available on www.staplehurst-pc.uk

Following the presentation Councillors asked a number of questions;

Cllr Hotson raised a number of points;

1. Concerns regarding the guaranteed income.

Hawkhurst Utd FC confirmed and signed SLA, finalisation of SLA's Staplehurst Monarchs FC and YFC. Note the Girl Guides seeking a letter of support

2. Cranbrook Rugby Club – no certainty

Correct their preferred usage clashes with SMYFC, but still supportive.

3. How much is the Council putting in.

£30,000

4. Can we clarify legal cost – mis match?

Will do.

5. Are KCC a key partner

No – but will be seeking funding if planning permission granted

6. Cllr Pett felt that the Business case still needed to be firmed up and is currently weak

This is a working draft, can not be firmed up until after planning permission

7. Cllr Ash asked about insurance?

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

Currently with Parish Council, but depends how the management contract specification is written

8. Cllr Martin asked the figures are fine but what happens with the management fee? Again this depends on how the management contract is written could be a fee for the Council, or income to the Council

9. Cllr Pett what would happen if after say 5 / 6 years it went pear shaped The Football Foundation will only grant aid if the application stacks up and will then work hard to support the project. This is a draft and still room for extra income.

10. Cllr Hotson asked about capital funding – are the key partners contributing? Yes it is expected- Hawkhurst Utd FC said they are doing fund raising, SMYFC have some funds put aside.

The Chairman Closed the meeting to allow Public questions

1. What about inclusivity – some provision of free sessions
2. What about personal liability for Cllrs – lack of capital / revenue.
3. A resident confirmed that SMYFC are committed to a significant portion of the revenue income
4. A resident raised a number of points about Consultation – incorrect to say overwhelming support – It was explained that the Village Update were to every household and of those returned @60% were supportive
5. The residents’ own consultation was not supportive – another resident raised the point that their consultation was just one section of the village and not representative

Meeting reopened

Note the meeting had considered the 3G Multi-Sport pitch draft Business plan

3.2 3G Multi-Sport pitch design – discussion

Following the presentation Cllrs asked some questions

The Chairman Closed the meeting to allow members of the public raise questions

Cllr Hotson raised concerns about the public access around the site.

1. Can the fencing at the end of the overflow car parking allow pedestrians to walk through
2. Access into the main pitch area – clarify the gate issue
3. Will the security gate allow pedestrian access
4. Concerns about car parking

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public questions

1. Can you clarify where the drainage goes from the pitch – drainage into culvert and in discussion with the Internal Drainage Board
2. Car parking – being designed to Kent Vehicle Car parking standards – advice from KCC and MBC preapplication meetings
3. Can you form a footpath onto the Headcorn Road at North Eastern corner – could consider it
4. A Number of environmental, social issues, limiting public access – note the Frequently Answered Questions answers the points raised
5. Will there be a gate into the man pitch area - yes

Meeting reopened

Consider- the 3G Multi-Sport pitch design

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

3.3 3G Options report

Cllr Perry raised the point that issues such as the gate into the main pitch area or a footpath onto the Headcorn Road at North Eastern corner, although not part of the planning application, could be considered as informative information.

Cllr Riordan emphasised that due to the Football Foundation timescales a deferral is not really an option, the following motions were brought forward.

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Sharp seconded to ensure the overflow car parking fencing to be low rail / bollards to allow pedestrian access – agreed majority 9 for, 0 against and 1 abstained

Cllr Hotson proposed and Cllr Riordan seconded for the whole application is circulated to Councillors before a planning application is submitted – agreed majority 8 for, 0 against, 2 abstained.

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Sharp seconded the resolution below

Resolution: To

- a) ensure the overflow car parking fencing to be low rail / bollards to allow pedestrian access
- b) the whole application is circulated to Councillors before a planning application is submitted
- c) proceed to the next stage of the 3G Multi-Sport pitch project – submission of planning application

Agreed by Majority – 9 for, 2 against and 0 Abstained.

Cllr Riordan noted that all residents are welcome to put comments onto the MBC Planning portal.

***These minutes are not verbatim but a summary of the discussion at the meeting.
The decisions are accurate.***

Meeting closed at ...9.15pm.....

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....