

SCENIC MINUTES – 7th August 2024

Present:

Cllrs: Sharp (AHS)(Chair), Alesi (MA), Pett (AP) and Martin (AM)

Apologies:

Cllrs: Riordan and Castro

1. Minutes of 3rd July 2024 were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising:

- Beacon event went well, despite the lighting and extinguishing of the beacon taking longer than expected.
- If MBC agrees, the beacon could remain in situ ready for next year's VE Day commemoration.
ACTION: Ask Clerk to check with MBC

3. Volunteer Days

- Clean-up day was successful in terms of the work completed and the areas covered are now much improved. Wood chip should last a while. Extra cost (£300 v planned £100) was due to extra weed suppressant material purchased to cover both sides of the Parade. Extra cost was agreed by SPC.
- Of the 20 volunteers attending, it was noted that the majority were councillors and members of the Greener Staplehurst Group. It was suggested that more advertising would be beneficial in future.
- Re Litter Pick dates for the future, AP suggested more appropriate dates to coincide with being able to access litter more effectively. The next date has already been agreed in council as 26th October 2024. **ACTION: Suggest to PC 15th February 2025 as the one after next.**

4. Youth Club

- Thanks go to the Men's Shed, who are making good progress with decorating the building interior

5. Youth Services Pilot Scheme

- There are no updates on LPR's pilot endeavour to provide one Youth Worker shared between Staplehurst, Marden and Coxheath.
- In which case and in an effort to get nearer to reopening the YC, should we return to our initial suggestion, that we try to organise a shared scheme, employing our own YW?
- **ACTION: To chase up LPR to see how far the pilot scheme has progressed.**
- In the interim, should we contact Bill Best, who has already volunteered himself and some of the Scout Leaders, to ask if he would be prepared to take on this role initially. MA is willing to volunteer too. All would already have DBS checks in place.
- **ACTION: Ask Bill Best if he and other volunteers would be prepared to produce a programme and take on running the YC initially, subject to SPC approval of this initiative.**
- **ACTION: Look at any funding available. Ask Office to research.**
- **ACTION: Cllr Castro to continue accessing advice from Rob York.**
- **ACTION: AHS to write report to PC for 27th August.**

6. Phone Box

- SPC has already approved the purchase of a defibrillator. Backdrop also agreed.
- **ACTION: AHS to ask Clerk if this has been purchased and when installation can take place. Also to check with PR about backdrop from Iden Signs.**

7. Loudhailer/loudspeaker

- SPC agreed. Purchase is in hand. **ACTION: Clerk**

8. Surrenden Field Pavilion

- Still awaiting confirmation from MBC that current pavilion can be demolished and replaced. Clerk has been chasing MBC.
- MA asked whether it was possible for the disabled toilet in the new building to be made accessible to disabled persons Radar key holders from the outside, when the building was closed. **ACTION: AHS to research possibility.**
- SCEG have still not responded to request to remove their items from the current pavilion. **ACTION: AHS to chase.**

9. Remembrance Day

- AHS reminded members that the Remembrance Day parade will take place on 10th November this year. She also outlined the schedule.

10. Christmas Lights

- Imperative that research is undertaken asap to find a contractor to set up and take down the lights, preferably for a cheaper price than hitherto.
- It was noted that only 11 motifs were working last year.
- As the load bearing test remains valid for a further 2 years, it was agreed that replacement motifs (2 - 4) should be purchased in readiness for this year's display.
- **ACTION: Ask Office to research cost of replacement motifs + contractor to install and remove. (Christmas Time UK have some suitable designs at a reasonable cost) + obtain requisite licences.**
- It was suggested that local businesses should be contacted to sponsor the lights, especially Churchill Homes. **ACTION: Clerk to be asked to make enquiries.**
- If possible, we would like a larger Christmas tree for the Parade, to make more of a feature. **ACTION: AHS to write report for next PC meeting asking if we can purchase a larger tree.**

11. Community Assets Update

- Paperwork has been completed for King's Head and the Library to be listed as community assets. KCC have no objection to library being listed. However, we have noted that this might render the library more vulnerable to closure by KCC.
- **ACTION: AHS to write report for next PC meeting.**

12. AOB

- Skatepark Jam went well, organised by Team Rubicon, who provided ideas for improvements in the future. AHS suggested a noticeboard of tips for safety etc for parents and other users re protective equipment, should be sited somewhere. Also, a notice of historic information

would also be of interest. **It was agreed to do a site walk of the skate park shortly, to check state of repair.**

- Clerk has informed that recent RoSPA report on the children's playground at Surrenden, has highlighted some repairs needed. Some of these can be carried out by the Caretaker, but other minor repairs will need to be purchased/undertaken. **AHS to ask Clerk for specifics.**
- MA asked where SEHT could store their equipment. The store facility would need to have 24hr access for the team. **MA will ask Clerk for advice. However, the idea was mooted of reopening the obsolete toilets in the Parade – the ladies/gents to be used for SEHT storage, with the possibility of reinstating the disabled toilet for use by RADAR key holders.**

Date of next meetings: Wednesday 4th September and Tuesday 1st October both at 7pm instead of 7.30pm if this is convenient for JC and PR.