

SCENIC NOTES – 4th December 2024

Present: Cllrs. Alesi (MA), Castro (JC), Pett (AP), Martin (AM), Sharp (AHS) (Chair)

Apologies: Cllr Riordan

Last minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.

Matters Arising: None

1. Youth Club Building

- Washbasin taps in men's toilet to be capped, so it can become a cleaning store cupboard.
- Disabled toilet currently non-compliant – requires handrail - sink to be moved – door to open other way to accommodate wheelchairs. Paper towel dispenser to be fitted.
- Query whether funding has been identified - £1K. **ACTION: JC to check with Clerk**
- Re roof leak – 3 quotes being obtained to trace cause and properly rectify.
- Pinboards to be installed – sites previously selected.
- Wooden bridge by fence – discussion re best remedial action. Men's shed do not want to do the work at present. PR has spoken to Pay Back Team boss. Question whether it should be closed off temporarily for safety reasons?

2. Rural Youth Worker

- Marden PC no longer wish to be part of the shared Youth Worker project. Coxheath PC may want 2 evenings per week, which would mean SPC would have to pay 1/3 of cost, which equates to circa £11k and rising. Group very disappointed that we are having to pay for this because of KCC cuts. **ACTION: Decision to go to SPC.**

3. Christmas Lights

- These have been installed and look very festive. This will be an agenda item from January, to ensure more timely organisation in future.

4. Christmas Tree

- Thanks to all volunteers who recently installed the tree holder at the Parade. A tree has been donated by Jason Wood, which JC, AP, MA and other volunteers will attempt to install on Saturday 7th. If the forecast bad weather materialises, this may have to be postponed to Sunday or next weekend.
- Discussion re lights – these will need connecting to Parade sockets, which are high up on a lamppost outside the fish and chip shop. **ACTION: JC to ask PR if he knows best place to hire a cherrypicker for this job, as it is too high for untrained personnel to access.**
- Tree will be delivered to the Parade at 10am on Saturday. Volunteers to meet at 9.15am. MA has key to air raid shelter to collect lights. decorations and leads etc.

5. Surrenden Field

- Re new pavilion, pre-planning application has been submitted to MBC

6. SCEG

- SCEG have posted more positively on Facebook and we believe plan to undertake the summer fair. Photos of the inside of the pavilion appear to show that some contents have been removed. However, the question of storage still remains a problem.
- Group is still trying to find alternative storage solutions prior to disposal deadline. **ACTION: AHS to ask Clerk to enquire whether Big Ben shop owner could hire out/lend some storage space. AHS to provide copy. Ask PC if they would agree to purchasing and erecting a shed, to be sited possibly on land behind Youth Club. Potentially, this could provide temporary storage for SCEG and SEHT equipment, while Parade Toilets conversion is being investigated.**

7. Display Boards

- This is to be a joint project with Communications Group, All Saints PCC and Staplehurst Society.
- A meeting will be set up in the new year for all parties to move project forward.

8. ACV

- ACVs for both the King's Head and the Library have been lodged with MBC and will have to be renewed annually.

9. Parade Toilets

- Still awaiting a reply from KCC

10. AOB

- A complaint has been received about motor bikes frequently being ridden onto Wimpey Field at 7pm. AHS has reported this to local beat officers, since SPC has no power to stop culprits. **ACTION: AHS to ask Clerk to reply by email to complainant (she will provide copy), advising them that they should report this directly to the police, as SPC has no power to intervene.**
- MA asked about merit awards and invitations sent out.

Next meeting: Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm in VC upstairs office.