

SCENIC Minutes – 5th June 2024

Present:

Cllrs Paddy Riordan (PR), Adele Sharp (AHS), Jose Castro (JC), Mel Alesi (MA) and Ani Martin (AM)

Absent: Cllrs Hotson and Pett

Declarations of Interest:

None

Minutes of previous meeting:

Agreed as a true record – proposed by AHS and seconded by JC

Election of Chair and Note taker:

Cllr Sharp elected as Chair – Proposed by PR, seconded by MA

Cllr Martin elected as note taker – Ditto

AGENDA

1. Beacon Installed:

- There has been some confusion from SCEG about advertising posters for the D-Day event. Parish Council's only involvement has been to provide insurance cover.
- It was resolved that future events require better clarification about responsibilities via a clear email trail.

2. Youth Club

- Due to KCC cuts to Youth Services, Staplehurst will not be getting a replacement Youth Worker following Rob York's redeployment. This would have been the case regardless of the Youth Club's recent closure. A Family Hub system will replace Youth Services.
- We therefore need a plan of action to recruit and train volunteers. Scout leaders have indicated a willingness to be involved. They would already be DBS checked. Also,]discussion re employing a Youth Worker for 2 hours per week.
- **ACTION: JC – arrange a meeting of volunteers/research training courses/contact Rob York informally for advice, research re pay and qualifications needed.**
- **AGREED: To ask SPC for support in employing a Youth Worker, if no volunteers come forward. It is anticipated that there will be a bank of people who have lost their jobs due to cut-backs to Youth Services, who would be available to fill this post.**
- **ACTION: AHS to prepare a report to SPC.**
- **ACTION: In due course, ask Jean Terry to advertise the post on social media, to start in September, 2 x hrs per week to cater for up to 30 young people.**
- **ACTION: PR to contact service provider re possible provision of a suitably qualified YW.**
- Men's Shed have offered to paint inside of Youth Club building, **AGREED; Colour should be magnolia throughout, with white ceiling and paintwork. Allow Men's Shed to purchase materials for a maximum of £500.**
- **ACTION: AHS to prepare report to SPC recommending the above at next PC meeting.**
- PR has met with local resident who is a qualified roofer. He has expressed an interest in carrying out repairs to the YC roof. On inspection, he confirmed that the roof is generally in good condition, with attention only needed to the roof edges. He has offered to complete the work free of charge.
- **ACTION: PR will ask for a guideline cost of re-roofing. PR TO LEAD ON THIS PROJECT.**
- It was noted that the grass needs cutting. **ACTION: PR to ask Deborah Jenkins if this can be actioned.**

- The Greener Staplehurst Group would like to plant beneath the noticeboard.
- 3. Phone Box**
- **ACTION; PR to check with Patrick Blunt re what electrical loading is required to power the defibrillator. Also to ask advice re suitable model and cost.**
 - **ACTION: PR to ask Iden Signs to produce photos of Staplehurst for installation inside box.**
- 4. Surrenden Field Pavilion**
- Permission will be required from MBC to demolish the existing building.
 - Further to Cllr Pett's query re new pavilion design only having one door, AHS has checked and this is sufficient. Rollers to be installed on door and windows re security.
 - Advice will be sought from plumber who installs re suitable drainage.
 - **Agreed: Golden Oak colourway for pavilion + to select insulation upgrade. To be recommended to SPC**
 - **ACTION: AHS to speak to SCEG to explain that all their equipment etc must be removed by the end of the summer.**
 - **ACTION: AHS to check with Hanson how long their quote will remain valid.**
- 5. King's Head – Community Asset**
- Aim: to establish the King's Head Public House as an Asset of Community Value. If Shepherd Neame were ever to wish to sell the property, the community would have a grace period of 6 months to effect a purchase for Staplehurst.
 - There is an official process. The relevant forms have already been completed.
 - **ACTION; AHS to report to SPC. Contact to be made with Shepherd Neame.**
 - Consideration to be given to other buildings in the parish that might be considered a community asset. AHS suggested possibly the Library.
- 6. AOB**
- AM noted that in Andrew Watkins recently emailed agenda for next week's SPPG, he is recommending that, in his opinion, the PC should take over the running of the SPPG. **ACTION: AHS will contact Andrew to explain that this is not an option.**
 - PR is attending the Police Cluster Meeting next week. He will try to ascertain whether the Community Warden is still in post.
 - PR would like to organise a series of Volunteering Days; there are several painting and weeding jobs needing action. The date of 13th July from 9am till 2pm, was mooted as a possibility. The PC would lead on this. Advertising required. £100 suggested cost of materials.
 - Several parishioners have complained about the No Mow May initiative, which has left the churchyard looking seriously unkempt. **ACTION: This will be referred to the Churchyard Liaison Committee. AM will contact Val Wallis to arrange a group meeting.**
- 7. Future Scenic dates**
3rd July 2024, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December
8th January 2025