

Notes on SCENIC Meeting - Thursday 6th February 2025

AGENDA

1. **Present: Cllrs Sharp (AHS)(Chair), Alesi (MA), Martin (AM)**
Cllr Alesi declared knowledge of contractors in item 5
2. **Apologies: Cllrs Pett and Castro**
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 8 Jan / Matters Arising**
Minutes accepted as a true record of the meeting
Neighbourhood Development Plan group are dealing with adult homeless situation.
4. **Display Boards**
Val Wallis (All Saints PCC) and Margaret Arger (Staplehurst Society) to attend next Scenic meeting on 5th March to discuss project. Cllr Chris Rhodes will also be invited to the meeting as he has considerable local historical knowledge. **ACTION: AM to invite CR**
ACTION: AS will forward typical designs to VW and MA as previously researched.
ACTION: MA to enquire whether Iden Signs provide display boards.
Discussion re siting of boards and what information might be included. Suggested sites are Jubilee Field, Railway Station, All Saints' Church and Community Centre. Plus, consideration of safety notice at Skatepark. Also discussed board at edge of King's Head carpark + Queen's Walk + possible discussion with railway group.
5. **Youth Club Building**
Quotes received for toilet works: JM Home and Gardens £542.45 (no VAT) with plumbing sub-contracted to Josh Wetherall £220.00 (plus VAT)
Kieran Lehane £1123
Harvey Home £1348.50
Group recommends to council that we employ JM Home and gardens and Josh Wetherall. Grant received from Lottie Parfitt-Reid for this work.
Re roof repairs – still awaiting 3 quotes.
Recommendation from this group to council that urgent patch repairs are carried out, as stated in last minutes.
AHS has contacted Lottie Parfitt-Reid re pilot scheme, but there is no further news at present.
6. **Bell Lane Toilet Door**
Only quote received so far is from Kieran Lehane for £606 to replace door and lock. Situation exacerbated by recent criminal damage of theft of some lead flashing to roof and faeces smeared over internal wall. Clerk has reported this and has crime numbers. Police have asked that cleaners take photos of ASB/damage and all incidents are to be reported.
7. **Christmas Lights/Tree Feedback**
Cllrs Arger and Martin have had a meeting with DJ and JT and have a schedule in place for 2025 lights. (See their report for details)

Discussion re tree – group believes it is better to purchase our own tree rather than rely on donation. Preference for permanent base to be installed, further to obtaining landlord's permission. **ACTION: AHS to ask Clerk to send letter.**

Need to ensure that erection/decoration of tree coincides with Streetlights attaching motifs, so that their cherry-picker is available to plug in lights.

Suggestion that 7 businesses in the Parade be asked if they would consider reinstating the custom of having small trees above their premises. This would be at their own expense. **ACTION: MA to provide sample copy for letter.**

Discussion re current storage of motifs in air raid shelter. Shelter needs clearing.

ACTION: AHS to speak to Clerk re working party to sort shelter and determine what items are unwanted but salvageable and could be given away to the public.

8. Surrenden Field Update

AHS will share planning document to set out envisaged usage of the new pavilion.

Discussion re VAT implications as per EFS VAT advisor meeting on 28th Jan. Group is clear – this is to be a community building for use by community groups, local events, refreshments etc and will not be a business. Users will be able to book the facility through the Office, as and when it is required.

SCEG has intimated that it is still functioning and will be running the 5K/10K run, but will not be organising VE Day event. However, it will support SPC if they choose to organise an event for 8th May.

Suggestion to SPC that Scouts, Guides and other community groups be asked if they would like to take part in a VE Day celebration. It is noted that there is little time left to arrange, so we would have to get started asap.

ACTION: AM to ask Clerk if letter has been sent to SCEG explaining that a skip will be ordered at end of March, which means they must vacate the pavilion prior to that date.

ACTION: AHS to check that Clerk has applied for pre planning advice with MBC.

Re Shayler's request to hold funfair on Surrenden Field – group recommends refusal for 2 reasons:

- 1) £1K is insufficient payment to repair the likely damage to the grass.**
- 2) Social disturbance caused to residents**

9. Phone Box Defibrillator

Completed.

ACTION: AHS to check Office already has replacement pads in store.

10. Disabled Toilet Update

KCC attended today and unlocked the building. It is in remarkably good condition and just needs a deep clean. It is up to specification for disabled use. The Unisex toilet is also in good condition.

Recommendation: Surveyor to ensure building is sound. ACTION: Clerk to be asked to arrange this.

Some works required to roof apex and attention to what appears to be settlement of ground in some places.

Radar key lock is already installed. Water and electricity will need to be switched on. Cllr Arger has taken a meter reading. An emergency pull chord is deemed not to be required, but a disclaimer notice can be displayed. Keypad lock to be checked.

Decision will need to be made as to whether to open the other toilet, or retain for storage only.

11. Assets of Community Value

Library is now confirmed as an ACV and King's Head to be confirmed shortly

12. AOB - None

Dates of next meetings: Wednesday 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May at 7.30pm