

Goudhurst Parish Council



YOUTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a virtual meeting held via Zoom Conference call on Thursday 19 November 2020 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Phil Kirkby (Chairman), Antony Harris, David Knight and Mrs Jayne Russell. Claire Reed, Clerk. Caroline Turvey.

It was **agreed** that Clerk would email the three advisors to ask if they would like to remain on the Committee.

- 1. APOLOGIES:** There were none.
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:** There were none.

3. YOUTH

3.1 - Issues arising at Back Lane Play Area

It was **noted** that new matting had been laid at the entrance and exit gates of the Play Area to prevent slipping following a number of complaints.

Cllr Jayne Russel reported that there were concerns over the safety of the large drop on the south side of the multi-play unit. It was **agreed** that a quote should be sought from Wicksteed for an additional ladder. *Post meeting note: this has been raised on the November safety inspection, Clerk will contact Wicksteed.* **Action: Clerk**

Covid-19

It was noted that they Play Area gets busy, especially after school collection, and that social distancing is difficult to maintain. It was **agreed** that additional signage should be placed on the entrance gate specifying the maximum number of people who can safely be in the Play Area at any one time. It was further **agreed** that the Primary School and Pre-School would be asked to send a message to parents reminding them of need for social distancing and other hygiene measures to prevent the spreads of Coronavirus. **Action: Clerk**

3.2 - Proposals for the next project

Community Garden/ allotment

Caroline Turvey, lay minister from St Mary's, briefed the Committee on a proposal to establish a Community Garden (based on work by Hands of Hope in Hawkhurst). This would not be a church initiative but a whole community project which aims to break down the barriers between different sections of the community. It is hoped that food produced on the land would be able to be shared via the Community Cupboard and that those accessing the service may also be able to grow their own food. Caroline would also like to establish a small shed on the land as a base for Youth Outreach and Mission. An area of land at the bottom of Lurkins Rise, shown as hatched on the attached map, was identified as a possible location. It was **agreed** to recommend to Council that the area as shown on the map be approved for use as a Community Garden. It was further **agreed** that Caroline and Cllr Jayne Russell would attempt to generate interest in the project and encourage volunteers to come forward. **Action: CT and JR to recruit volunteers.**

Other suggestions

Shelter on the Green, a Space Net (adult climbing frame), natural Outdoor Gym, Skate Park.

It was agreed that budget provision needed to be made over the next 2 years for a new project and that once agreed, grant funding should be investigated to assist with funding. **Action: PK, RFO to budget for project.**

4. HOUSING

4.1 Mary Days Garages

It was **noted** that a Zoom meeting had taken place between Clls Antony Harris and David Knight and Colin Lissenden, Executive Director of Development, from Town & Country Housing Group. It was confirmed by Colin Lissenden that the garages were to be sold by auction on 15 December 2020 in order to 'offload' these economically unviable assets and to generate revenue to support the Carbon 50 initiative. After a robust discussion, Colin Lissenden agreed to draft a covenant that would be included in the sale pack for the auction restricting development of the site.

4.2 Update on Fibre Broadband Project

It was noted that the Goudhurst demand led project is currently awaiting approval from the DCMS. The contract for the Kilndown project needs to be signed by a 'legal entity'. It has been established that the Parish Council do not have the necessary powers to sign the contract and Cllrs David Knight and Guy Sutton are investigating the feasibility of establishing a Community Interest Company to sign the contract on behalf of the community. **Action: DK**

The next Youth Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 09 February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.