



Westerham Town Partnership
1 Squerryes Park Cottages
Goodley Stock Rd
WESTERHAM
KENT TN16 1RD

Minutes of Westerham Town Partnership Meeting
4th June 2014, at Chartwell

Attendees: Alan Wesley, Eddie Boyle, Malcolm Basing, Stuart Merrylees, Jane Hunter, Bill Curtis, Zoe Colbeck, Richard Banister, Nina Cooper, June Ingram, Lynne Proudfoot, Neil Proudfoot, Nina Cooper, Kelly Innes

Apologies: Kim Jennings, James Millard, Yvonne Russell, Lesley Moore, Jenny Smith, Debra Edwards, Geoff Tidy, Marril Gibson, Gordon Rodgers

Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of 20th March 2014 were agreed.

1. Matters Arising

Defibrillator: EB reported that WTC has the device, paid for by Rotary. Phone boxes being painted.

Rotary Fair on the Green: SM had deployed parking signs on London Rd/ Flyers Way

Darent Flood alleviation: SM reported frustration with KCC drain clearance policy. AW reported that there was no routine drain clearance anywhere in Kent. SM reported on recent visit of SE Rivers Trust and NW Kent Countryside Partnership. SM suggested we need local people to monitor blocked drains – and maybe to clean road signs – no one else does.

Christmas Lights: EB reported that other quotes had been obtained but James Tyson still cheaper than any alternative contractors. JT promises that plugs will all be fixed and more rigid wires used to fix lights to gutters.

Community Play 2015: BC to meet Jon Oram and playwright Stephanie Dale. AW to act as referee for financial competence. Jon working on Arts Council application.

2. Finance

MB reported WTP had roughly £3400 in the bank, after current debts paid. Alan Jennings was working on annual audit.

3. Farmers' Market

Geoff Tidy running 2 markets/month, SM or GR acting as holiday relief. Worry over Lowestoft fish man. GT was working hard to we find other new stallholders, including meat. Richard Hards hopes to take over from Larry shortly. Jo Hardy now selling flowers outside Entre Nous at weekends and at market.

5. Charmans Farm

We believe KCC permission now granted.

6. Parking and Signage in Westerham

SDC accepted our proposals for new parking charges, except to 15 mins of free parking, which would now cost 10p.

Darent Car Park extension – SDC had agreed the 28 day usage rule applied and we all hoped that the field could be made available by end of July for Summer of 1914 event. AW said that SDC needed to take on the lease for the field from Henry Warde so it would be coterminous with their existing lease for the main car park. We had a quote for works from Steve Mercer. SM suggested that basic requirements were to lay Type 1 on the approach road, drop the kerbs and install a height restrictor with a security chain. In good weather we did not need Grassprotecta.

AW agreed to try to negotiate with all the parties and make his best efforts for opening by the end of July.

Signage: June Ingram explained that her late brother had left £900 in his will to be spent on a new sign for Westerham. We discussed how best to design a site and where it should go, but no conclusions. Nina, June, Jane and Lynne agreed to meet and form a subcommittee. LP would try to find out who had made the Sundridge signs.

Nina described her ideas and will develop some more examples of “themed signs”

Park and Ride: This idea was not part of the Charman’s application has been shelved for 2014.

7. Future events for 2014

20/21 June Squerryes Wine Festival. WTP had been asked to have an exhibit. MB and KI offered to put it together if others provided the material for A boards.

4th July American Independence Evening on the Green Westerham Society

30th Aug British Fayre at Squerryes Bradshaw Family

15th Nov WW1 commem: London Welsh Male Voice Choir at St Mary’s Westerham Society

8. Summer of 1914 event 26/27 July

BC working hard on collecting material for shops to display “the way we were”. Two day event with procession and service on the Green on Sunday. SM reported that he, YR, JH and BC were working with the British Legion and with Tudor Rose and Courtyard. There would be Lyons Corner House tent on the Green, music tent, funfair, Punch and Judy and Jax Shire Horses had lots of ideas for local traders (food on the Green) and music tent, and British Legion are building a trench above ground in their back garden in Mill Lane. Roger Stiles will hire 4 or 5 uniforms for weekend, cost around £250.

JH and BC were raising sponsorship from businesses in the town. It had been agreed at previous meeting that that WTP should fund up to £1000 of expenses.

David Boston working with Squerryes on WW1 exhibition in Church, based on David Bateman book, to start after 4th August.

9. WTP constitution : MB had previously raised the issue of our potential liabilities under the current WTP constitution. It had served to define our aims, but our auditor had not been happy that there was no proper definition of members, which meant that voting for the officers was purely from within the steering committee. Moreover, if we were involved in commissioning works which resulted in some sort of a legal claim, the officers might find themselves financially liable. We should look into registering ourselves as a company limited by guarantee, or a Community Interest Company. MB was asked to proceed via his contact Joel Kelly at Thomson Snell and Passmore. Each director to hold a simple £1 share. MB, SM and AW offered to be directors, but we need another. The company would need to make a simple annual one page annual return to Companies House.

The WTP image: We all agreed that we needed to promote general awareness of what the WTP does.

10. King George’s Field

LM, DE and Deborah Rogers and Martin discussing ideas for developing pavilion at KGF. LM and DE had held public consultation at market. Football club now had 500 members. New football pitches would be formally opened on 14th Sept.

11. Communications, website, Gazette, papers, social media

JB reported brisk business as usual... Alison B working hard on local news. KI doing some stuff on twitter. We now have 2000 friends on facebook and 800 followers on Twitter
But JH still needs more volunteers, esp for updating our events on other local websites .

AOB

MB said there would be a meeting about Gatwick expansion and air traffic plans on 16/17 July in Westerham.

RB reported that all the broadband boxes should be live by 1st June.

RB said he had looked at an alternative to Flickr called smugmug, which cost about 40USD. We asked him to find out more.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of WTP steering group will be on Thursday 13th November at 6.30 pm in the Council offices.

Minutes by SM completed 01 Nov 2014