



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

Minutes of Westerham Town Partnership Meeting
20 March 2014, Town Council Office

Attendees: James Millard, Malcolm Basing, Stuart Merrylees, Jane Hunter, Yvonne Russell, Marril Gibson, Zoe Colbeck, Gordon Rodgers, Linda Rodgers, Bill Curtis, Nina Cooper, Mark Duerden

Apologies: Kim Jennings, Alan Wesley, Eddie Boyle, Lesley Moore, Jenny Smith, Richard Banister, Debra Edwards, Geoff Tidy

We welcomed Mark Duerden and Nina Cooper of Beyond Local to the meeting. Their new web marketing company is hoping to offer training for talented youngsters and they are keen to find temporary meeting places in Westerham. Nina has been helping to design new signage for visitors to Westerham.

Minutes of Last Meeting. The minutes of 29 Jan 2014 were agreed.

1. Matters Arising

Rotary Dinner: JH and SM gave a short talk about the WTP to the Westerham Rotary on 4th March. Rotary are happy to help with projects in the town but are very keen to find new members.

Defibrillator: No update.

Community Play 2015: MG reported that a Script Research group was making good progress and a Marketing group would meet in Crochkam Hil. Jon working on Arts Council application. Stephanie Dale engaged as scriptwriter.

Christmas Lights: JM reported that James Tyson has missed two meetings. Two other tenders being sought by WTC. Lights on Green dangling and blown into wet gutters and need refixing.

2. Finance

MB reported WTP had roughly £3000 in the bank, after current debts paid.

Council finances: AW had sent apologies as he was working hard on trying to brief solicitors to renegotiate £12K which had been withheld from the Town Precept.

3. Farmers' Market

Back to 2 markets per month from April, as winter weather is too unpredictable. We had new fish man from Lowestoft. GT was working hard to we find other new stallholders, including meat. SM had talked to Richard Hards, who is taking over from Larry. He is keen to attend the market, but lease has not yet been signed.

SM asked MG to enquire about Jo Hardy, who was keen to sell flowers.

4. Darent Flood Alleviation Meetings

SM had been to two meetings with EA, KCC and NWKCP to discuss flooding of 7 properties on Christmas Eve and Jan 17th.

The Darent Catchment Improvement Group (DCIG) was writing a report on whole Darent Catchment which was required by the European Water Framework Directive, but this was largely about ecology and fish. The NWKCP have been asked to initiate a new Darent Flood Alleviation Project (Westerham to Sundridge) and they would have a meeting in Brasted and site visits along the river.

A group called the SE Rivers Trust would be creating a report. SM was acting as the Westerham representative. WTC trying to find out about KCC's drain maintenance schedule.

5. Charmans Farm

JH and SM had written positive recommendations on behalf of WTP. GR written on behalf of WSOC members. All comments available on KCC website Lots of positive comments, but we must await the KCC decision.

6. Parking in Westerham

SDC decision on our parking proposals expected 16th April. All our WTP proposals for parking charges, etc, posted on website.

WTP meeting with Richard Wilson and Gary Connor in Darent CP on Fri 31st Jan. JH, SM, JS, AH, LR to attend.

Darent Car Park extension – slow progress. SM agreed to find site that had used Grassprotecta. John Roe has written a spec for us to approach contractors.

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

Park and Ride: Looks as though this idea has been shelved for 2014.

7. Future events for 2014

28th Mar Bill Curtis talk on Westerham History - Westerham Society

27th April St Georges Day Breakfast Westerham Society Rampant Roosters engaged.

4th May Beating the Bounds Westerham Society. Needs Gas URN

17th May Rotary Fair on the Green Rotary Club of Westerham

20/21 June Squerryes Wine Festival

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

Committee (JH, SM, BC, HO) decided not to pursue lottery application. Larger committee (26 Feb) chaired by YR at George and Dragon involved Jax (Shire Horses), local traders (food on the Green) and music tent, and British Legion who are looking at ideas for recreating a trench in their back garden in Mill Lane.

Procession on Sunday – hire uniforms for weekend.

BC working hard on collecting material for shops to display “the way we were”.

SM proposed that WTP should fund this event and a budget sum of £1000 was agreed, to be allocated by SM and the 1914 committee.

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 which had been drawn up in 2009 from an example from similar group in Hartfield, provided by James Turner. 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. MB proposed each shareholder held £1 or £10 share. We would need to make an annual 1 page return to Companies House.

Agreed to form subcommittee, MB, JM and SM.

10. The WTP 2014 AGM

We decided not to have a public meeting in 2014, like the one in the Grasshopper in 2013. LM, MG and Jon Oram were hoping to engage young people in a youth club meeting, related to play. We would have AGM as part of normal Steering Group meeting.

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

Brisk business as usual...

Louise Wood helping LH with press releases. Alison Burt does great stuff on Home Page. But JH badly needs more volunteers for running facebook and twitter.

AOB

SM We needed local people to monitor blocked drains – and maybe to clean road signs – no one else does
GR He had protested to SDC about plastic bollards outside Costa only to be told they were approved by KCC for our heritage landscape. If we wanted wooden ones, we would have to find the money ourselves.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of WTP steering group will be on Wed 4th June at 6.30 pm at Chartwell.

Thank you Zoe for the invitation.

Minutes by SM completed 20 May 2014