

HALLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee

9 October 2006

Present:

Andy Ballantyne	HA Chair, Halling Parish Council
Lynne Overett	Lafarge Cement UK
Roy Underdown	Halling Parish Council
Peter Wyatt	Halling Parish Council
Maurice Claydon	Cemex
Shirley Boards	Trenport
Ian Stuart	Halling Primary School
Catherine Smith	Medway Council

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 It was noted that Richard Cottee was unable to attend the meeting due to sick leave.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

2.2 Under matters arising from the minutes, the committee discussed progress on installing a noticeboard at the community centre. Halling Parish Council had an available board that could be used. **CS to speak to Bill Swan to confirm arrangements for installation.**

3. Forge Green project

3.1 CS reported that the hard elements of the landscaping project had been carried out over the summer and that there had been a positive response to the works. The planting works were due to be completed by the end of October. CS was awaiting information from Groundwork on the contract arrangements. The Halling cubs group had shown an interest in being involved with the planting works. **CS to speak to Groundwork to confirm arrangements.**

3.2 The committee discussed publicity for the scheme. It was suggested that a photocall involving the cubs in the planting work would be a good opportunity for press interest. This could be the basis for a wider celebration or official opening. **CS, LO and SB to meet as a sub-group to plan arrangements for the launch event and publicity. RU to contact Bill Calder from Methodist Church to discuss possible use of the new war memorial as a focus for commemorations on Remembrance Sunday. IS suggested that**

there should be a plaque on site acknowledging the work as a HA project. **CS to organise sign.**

- 3.3 AB updated the committee on the installation of CCTV at Forge Green. He had arranged meetings with specialist contractors, but there had been technical problems with achieving 'line of sight' to the community centre. It was possible that the recording equipment could be stored in a secure unit on the garage forecourt. The estimated cost of the system was £4-5000. **CS to check if power could be supplied through existing street furniture/ infrastructure installations.** It was noted that there had been no increase in anti-social behaviour in the area since the installation of the new scheme.
- 3.4 The committee discussed the replacement of the existing bus shelter as part of the wider environmental improvements. CS stated that there was the possibility of using a rural transport grant to replace the existing shelter, up to a maximum of £5000. It had been suggested that a model with an improved design could be installed on the site, but that this would need a contribution from the HA to cover costs. The committee agreed to the installation of a more basic model, and not to contribute any partnership funding to the new shelter.

4. Summer play scheme

- 4.1 CS reported that the summer scheme had run for 6 days in the summer holidays, involving swimming and outdoor sports and games at Halling Primary School, an ice-skating trip, and indoor games and arts sessions at Halling Community Centre. There had been positive feedback from participants and their families. Photos of the activities were to be placed on the Halling website. CS was awaiting the final project report and costings from Groundwork. The committee queried the project's value for money. **CS to circulate budget and project evaluation information once received from Groundwork.**

5. Heritage Lottery Fund Valley of Visions bid

- 5.1 CS reported that the partnership had committed £25,000 to the HLF programme over 3 years. The £2000 previously allocated by the HA to the feasibility study at Bishops Palace would not be needed at this stage. LO outlined the content of the programme bid to the rest of the committee. There were a number of environmental and community based projects that could benefit the local area, including improved access by the riverside and marshes; securing the downs against illegal access; and environmental enhancements and interpretation at Bishops Palace. A decision was expected in December 2006 or April 2007. Work would start on site 6 months

after the decision was announced. The project staff would be based at Lafarge's offices at The Cedars.

6. Budget position

6.1 The committee considered information on the current budget position and anticipated income and committed expenditure over the next few years. It was noted that there was an error in the projected 'carry over' to 2007/08 – the figure should be £36,786.

6.2 **AB asked MC to look at concrete bases for installation of basketball hoops. CS to contact St John's Church PCC for an update on the window guards work.**

7. Small grant fund

7.1 There were no new applications to consider. There was a standard item publicising the fund in Halling View and Town Talk. **It was suggested that CS contact local groups, such as the Community Centre and Jubilee Hall publicising the grant scheme in the run up to Christmas.** Posters publicising the fund should also be placed in the two community halls.

7.2 New glass recycling bins may be a possible new project.

8. Publicity

8.1 Items had been placed in the latest editions of Town Talk and Halling View. The HA pages on the Medway Council website were to be updated shortly with new images of Forge Green. The new noticeboard at Halling Community Centre could help to raise awareness of the partnership and its work.

9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The date of the next meeting of the management committee was arranged for **Monday 8th January 2007 at 4.00pm** at Lafarge's offices at The Cedars.

10. Any other business

10.1 It was noted that there was a shortage of new projects for the partnership. It was agreed to review community surveys carried out in the village. CS to produce a list of issues/proposals that had emerged from consultation work carried out by the partnership since its inception. IS suggested road safety works around the school could be a suitable project for the HA. A new annotated/illustrated village map outside the community centre was also proposed.

- 10.2 **All partners to consider possible project ideas and respond to CS by 3 November.** CS would then produce a report of proposals to circulate to the partnership that could provide a basis for a discussion of the work programme at the next meeting of the partnership.
- 10.3 SB reported that Trenport was publishing a newsletter and launching a website shortly that would contain information on the details and timetable for the development of Peter's Pit.
- 10.4 MC reported that Cemex had invested in development at Tilbury. There have been problems on site in Halling with the theft of copper and a security guard had recently been attacked.