

HALLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the management committee

15 July 2008

Present:

Shirley Boards	Chair, Trenport Investments Ltd
David Simms	Lafarge Cement UK
Jennifer Winters	Valley of Visions
Trevor Reynolds	Halling Parish Council
Quentin Moss	Kent Police
Catherine Smith	Medway Council

1. Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Maisey, Medway Council; R Cottee, Medway Council; M Claydon, Cemex; D Palmer, Halling Parish Council; and I Stuart, Halling Primary School.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record. The following issues were discussed under matters arising from the minutes:
 - (reference minute 1.2) DS confirmed that he was the Lafarge representative currently, until a replacement officer had been recruited into the role previously carried out by Dawn Moore.
 - (reference minute 2.3) TR reported that there had been no progress on the issue of the railway bridge. A traffic management scheme was being trialled on Ferry Road with the removal of the bollards.

3. Budget position

- 3.1 The committee considered the current budget position and confirmed partner contributions for the year.

4. Project update

Multi Use Games Area

- 4.1 TR updated the group on the progress with the MUGA project. He reported that the Medway Youth Opportunity Fund grant had been confirmed at the original offer level of £30,000. A project group had been established involving officers from Halling Parish Council and Medway Council, to keep the project on track. HAGS had held the price of the quote, and Halling Parish Council anticipated placing an order shortly.

The planning application was to be submitted by the end of July. It was hoped that the ballcourt would be installed in October 2008. There would not be lighting at this stage, but it was an option for later works.

- 4.2 There had been some cynicism from local teenagers, but the group noted that MUGAs were well used by younger children and that it was generally hard to engage teenagers. QM felt that it would be good facility for families in the area. The committee discussed operating arrangements for the MUGA, including any need for supervision, possible coaching sessions, and any booking systems that needed to be put in place. **SB offered to gather information from other ballcourt projects. Halling Parish Council was to make contact with local sports groups and interests to involve them in planning the use of the new facility.**

Grounds maintenance

- 4.3 CS reported that the Stake Lane area had become very overgrown and was in need of attention. The Forge Green planting beds were also looking neglected. The committee agreed that the partnership schemes needed to be properly maintained, and that the landscaping work needed to be undertaken as soon as possible, so that the work of the Halling Association retained some respect locally.
- 4.4 TR reported that Total Property, a local contractor, had agreed to clear and maintain the Stake Lane area, in return for a sign publicising their support. The wording and design of the sign was to be agreed with the Halling Association.
- 4.5 **Halling Parish Council agreed to arrange a contractor to clear the Forge Green site as soon as possible.** A maintenance contract for a small number of visits over the year needed to be set up. Additional planting or less demanding maintenance work could be undertaken by a local community group, such as Halling cubs, or the gardening club.

Parish map

- 4.6 The group considered the draft map that had been prepared for the area. Some amendments were suggested, to add images of the river, downs, and the blue lake, and to delete the image of Jubilee Hall. JW advised that the print font needed to be size 14, and labelling needed to be clear. **R Cottee to liaise with Bill Swan regarding the order of the display board for Upper Halling.**

Road safety project

- 4.7 There had been no further information received from Halling Primary School regarding the travel survey. **Ian Stuart to be contacted for update.** DS referred to the proposal for a footbridge funded by Lafarge across the A228, and welcomed information from parents who walked

their children to school, on the best location and option to meet their travel needs. Halling Parish Council to follow up the footbridge issue with Lafarge at liaison meeting.

Small projects

- 4.8 A grant request for the Halling (30th Strood) Cub Group of £250 was agreed.
- 4.9 It was noted that there had been some delay in the payment of the grant to the football club due to awaiting bank account details. **QM to follow up issue.**
- 4.10 A further request had been received from the Jubilee Hall for internal decorations, but no further details had yet been submitted. The committee requested a copy of the hall committee's accounts before deciding on any further funding allocations.

5. Partnership issues

- 5.1 CS reported that Peter Wyatt had formally resigned from the partnership. SB was currently holding the role of chair in his absence. Members elected SB to this position on an independent basis.
- 5.2 CS raised the issue of reviewing the partnership's terms of reference. A number of suggestions were made to more accurately reflect the current membership and work programmes. Members were keen to see increased representation on the partnership, especially from local community groups. **QM was to contact mhs homes to see if a representative could attend the meetings.**
- 5.3 **CS agreed to revise the terms of reference and circulate them to members for approval.** This would include provision for a grant scheme to support youth talent and personal development activities.

6. New projects and partnership activities

- 6.1 JW raised the potential for supporting new projects that may arise from the community involvement work that was planned for the Valley of Visions programme. The group supported the proposal of developing links between Halling and Wouldham. DS regretted the lack of progress on the footbridge proposal across the river.
- 6.2 CS reported on issues raised by residents at the Halling Fun Day, including improvements to the Upper Halling recreation ground, amenity issues and access along the riverside. TR reported that a roundabout was to be installed in Upper Halling. JW confirmed that the Valley of Visions programme was addressing riverside access.

6.3 The committee was keen to gather further ideas for projects from local people. It was agreed that the partnership should ask to attend the Halling school Christmas fayre, and the Halling Community Centre older people's party.

6.4 **CS to draw up criteria for youth challenge/sponsorship scheme and circulate details for approval by the committee.** This would then allow the partnership to support a local teenager who was fundraising for an overseas expedition. TR to forward information on this fundraising request to CS.

7. Update from partners and issues in Halling

- SB – Trenport in negotiation on Peter's Pit village, and the scheme was now due to start in 2009.
- DS – Lafarge was going out to tender for new cement works and planned to start the construction phase Spring 2009. QM raised the issue of site security and DS reported that there would be further discussions with the Police.
- JW – Bishops Palace – the community consultation meeting held in May was well attended and supportive of the proposals. Site investigations are underway, before starting on clearance work and community archaeology.
- Halling Marshes realignment – survey work being carried out.
- TR – Halling Parish Council expressed its concern about the loss of the farm shop at Whitings Farm.

8. Publicity and promotion opportunities

8.1 **CS to prepare an item on the progress of the MUGA project for the next edition of Halling View.**

8.2 The HA had had a stall at the Halling Fun Day. It was noted that the 2009 Fun Day would be the 20th anniversary and it was suggested that the HA could help to support the event.

9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The date of the next meeting of the management committee was arranged **for Wednesday 1 October at 6pm.**

10. Any Other Business

10.1 There were no issues to consider under Any Other Business.