

HALLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee

8 October 2007

Present:

Peter Wyatt	Halling Parish Council (Chair)
Cllr Ray Maisey	Medway Council
Maurice Claydon	Cemex
Ian Stuart	Halling Primary School
Roy Underdown	Halling Parish Council
PCSO Quentin Moss	Kent Police
Dawn Moore	Lafarge Cement UK
Catherine Smith	Medway Council
Richard Cottee	Medway Council

1. Apologies for absence and introductions

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Shirley Boards and Trevor Reynolds.
- 1.2 Dawn Moore and Quentin Moss were welcomed to the committee as new members representing their organisations.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting of the management committee were agreed as a correct record. Under matters arising from the minutes, it was reported that the project officer, Ian Patterson, from the Medway Valley Line community rail partnership had been contacted. He confirmed that the line had now received official designation from the Department for Transport. IP would attend the next HA committee meeting in January 2008.

3. Project Update

Multi-use games area

- 3.1 RC updated the committee on progress with the ball court project. An application had been submitted to the Comma fund in August, and a decision was anticipated by mid October. An application made to the Medway Youth Opportunities Fund for £30,000 had been successful. It was reported that Lauren Ware, the young woman who had made the application had been very competent and was now interested in further youth development work on behalf of young people in Halling. She was also organising some local fundraising to support the project. **It was**

agreed that the HA management committee should write to Lauren to thank her for her work.

- 3.2 The total project costs would be c £65,000. The ball court would be located near the youth shelter in the lower recreation ground. Consultation had been carried out with local residents over the summer. There were some outstanding issues regarding lighting. The solar powered option would not provide sufficient light to allow ball games to be played in the evening. Installation of conventional lighting would involve increased costs and engineering work to supply the site. QM reported that there may be plans to repaint the youth shelter and a joint lighting scheme may be considered.

Forge Green

- 3.3 CS presented an update on the Forge Green project. There were a number of outstanding issues:

- **Memorial plaque** – the committee had been concerned at the level of costs involved in replacement of the plaques. It was agreed to split the names across two plaques and to varnish the plaques. Halling Parish Council to investigate alternative companies for arranging the installation, that may be a lower cost to the administration fees quoted by Groundwork.
- **Landscaping works** – the softworks contract would expire on 26 October. It was agreed to fund additional and replacement planting to restore parts of the scheme that had been vandalised. A number of plants would be replaced at the contractors' own cost, where plants had failed. It was agreed to support the Halling scout group in planting additional bulbs. The HA would meet the costs of the bulbs. IS offered the supply of materials from the school if needed. Photographs would be taken of the scouts' planting work to use in publicity material.
- **Maintenance** – Halling Parish Council would take on responsibility for maintaining the site. It was seeking possible sponsorship from a local company, Total Solutions, in maintaining the site.
- **Bus shelter** – PW reported that the bus shelter had been damaged and queried if it could be repaired/replaced. **CS to contact MC Highways/Transport sections to investigate repairs.**

Planting and environmental works

- 3.4 The committee considered a number of sites in village:

- **Stake Lane** - In addition to the landscaping works at Forge Green, the parish council's maintenance works would include Stake Lane. The committee thanked MC for organising a clean up on the Stake Lane site. MC offered to help with site maintenance whilst the parish council was making arrangements for ongoing maintenance works.
- **Hanging baskets** - RC reported that it would not be possible to affix hanging baskets to lamp columns in the village, due to safety risks.

- **Verge maintenance** - RU queried the verge maintenance work near the parish boundary at the new roundabout. It was agreed that the roundabout would benefit from some landscaping enhancements.

Parish map

- 3.4 Draft designs had been prepared for the parish map. Two copies would be produced – one to be placed outside the community centre, and one in Upper Halling. IS to provide RC with information on noticeboards. PW to secure permission to install the map on land at Jubilee Hall. It was suggested that the HA logo could be incorporated into the header of the noticeboard.

Basketball hoop

- 3.5 MC was awaiting instructions on siting and installation specification of basketball post in Upper Halling recreation ground. Cemex to cover costs of installation.

Road safety scheme

- 3.6 Initial discussions had taken place regarding possible works around the school. **RC to set up meeting involving MC road safety, and Halling Primary School.** It may be necessary to conduct further survey work at the school.

Small projects

- 3.7 The committee was updated on the current position on small grant requests from community groups:
- **Halling Rainbows** – start up grant of £250 offered. Awaiting further details of spend.
 - **Halling Football Club** – start up grant of £250 offered. Awaiting further details of spend and bank account.
 - **Jubilee Hall garage** – quotes being sought on replacement garage door. Committee to consider project once it understood the scale of costs involved.
 - **Halling Community Centre Christmas Party for older people** – a £50 prize of a meat voucher from Court Farm butchers was agreed. A representative of the Halling Association would attend the party to present the prize, allowing for a photo opportunity to be used in future publicity.
 - **Foot care for older people** – CS reported that she had been contacted by a resident following up on the article that had been placed in Halling View some months ago. The resident queried if the HA was to provide some chiropodist service to residents. **CS to contact Age Concern to assess options for providing a limited service in the village** – it was suggested that the services of a foot hygienist may be easier to obtain, as chiropodists were in great demand.

Valley of Visions

- 3.8 CS reported that the programme team had been recruited, but officers were not yet in place. The project manager should be in post by late autumn, and work would then start on developing projects. It was queried if the team would be involved in wider countryside management issues, such as illegal access onto marshes.

4. Issues in Halling

- 4.1 The committee discussed issues of illegal access and problems caused by scrambler and mini-quod bikes. QM reported an ongoing problem with scrambler bikes. It was suggested that he contact Shirley Boards, to reinforce fencing on Trenport land. There was also biking activity around the Bishops Palace site.

5. Budget position

- 5.1 The committee considered the budget position and stated its satisfaction with the level of anticipated spend this year, and the balance available to support new projects. This was felt to be a very healthy position for the partnership.

6. Publicity

- 6.1 Items had been placed in the latest editions of Halling View and Town Talk. The website information was to be updated.

7. Date of next meeting

- 7.1 The date of the next meeting of the management committee was arranged for **2pm on Monday 14 January 2008** at The Cedars, Holborough.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 MC reported that Cemex would be submitting a planning application for the redevelopment of its site in November. Public exhibitions of the proposals would be held in the Cemex offices prior to submission of the planning application. Members of the HA committee would be invited to attend.