

Notes on SCENIC Meeting – Thursday 22nd May 2025

Present:

Cllrs Sharp (AHS), Castro (JC), Melville (JM), Alesi (MA) and Martin (AM)

Apologies:

None received

Agenda

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Sharp proposed by MA, seconded by JM. All in favour.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed as a true reflection

Discussion of Merit Awards and recommendation that children's award be more appropriate to the age of the winner in future.

Group award section to be recommended to full council.

Next time give consideration to gluten free food selection, as well as vegetarian.

Have meet and greet person on door to ensure all attendees are recorded accurately.

More information be available re the winners – possibly as a PP slide.

Ask our MP to speak if she/he attends in future. Further feedback was discussed, some of which was irrelevant.

3. Youth Club

AM and Clerk attended Teams meeting with Helen Smith and Natalie Penfold to research Youth Service providers. A further meeting is planned for 4th June.

Headcorn PC runs a traveller women's literacy class once a month, which is very well attended. Discussion re SPC engagement with the traveller community in the future, especially in relation to youth misbehaviour in the village.

MA reported that we have a new area PCSO (Becky).

ACTION: AM to enquire who runs Cranbrook Youth Club.

Re YC roof: 2 quotes have been received (£20K for whole roof and £14K for part repairs), both of which deemed too expensive. MA has spoken to Chris Price about quoting for the work. **ACTION: Request Clerk to make contact with Chris Price.**

4. Disabled Toilet at Parade

Site survey likely to cost £500. It was agreed that KCC needs to pay for a survey and repair, complete a services check and ensure the building is in a usable condition before SPC takes it over. **ACTION: AHS to chase KCC re survey and associated work.**

5. Christmas tree at Parade

JM has secured a sponsor for a 12ft rooted Xmas tree, but it was explained that this would not be suitable for the Parade. We will research an alternative site for this kind proposed donation.

Recommendation to research local growers and purchase a 12ft tree and appropriate permanent stand.

ACTION: JM will contact Cranbrook Business Association re cost to local shops/businesses of them paying for their own tree/lights. Once costs are established, this group will create a letter to go to local Staplehurst businesses on Parade and High Street to gauge interest in doing the same or sponsoring the lights. It has already been agreed to ask Streetlights to use their cherry-picker to attach tree lights to supply mast outside Jumeira, when they install this year's motifs on the lamp posts.

6. Surrenden Field

SCEG have requested to store equipment overnight in the pavilion for the 5K/10K run. **Recommend approval.**

SCEG have cleared much of the pavilion, as requested, but need to tell SPC formally whether the remaining articles are junk to be disposed of.

ACTION: Request Clerk to ask SCEG or the running group for documentation re MBC road use.

ACTION: Group needs to create, with advice from the Clerk, an appropriate booking form for future users wishing to hold an event on Surrenden Field.

7. Disabled access play equipment

A parent has asked whether disabled play equipment could be made available within the village. It was noted that most of the play areas are sited on the new developments and as such are the responsibility of the developer. However, the group feels that this is a very valid suggestion and would like to support it.

ACTION: Ask Clerk's advice. Is it possible to put in a request to MBC and developers, that when they upgrade the playgrounds, they consider installing suitable equipment for disabled and wheelchair users?

8. Display boards

JM has offered to build a prototype small display board, which could be sited at the Community Centre. This would be an economical way of providing boards, as he would only charge for the materials, some of which he has already.

9. Allotment letters

It was felt that an amended letter would allow a tenant, in breach of conditions, a less harsh way of explaining extenuating circumstances. AHS to amend and circulate.

Update: the Clerk has advised that this is an official template and cannot be altered. It also transpired that the tenant in breach of regulations had already tidied up his plot. The letters were for information purposes only.

A letter has been received from a resident asking if her garden could be used as an extra allotment space, as she can no longer maintain it herself. The group felt that this was not appropriate and would possibly have repercussions for SPC.

10. Fete – 30th August

This will be discussed shortly with Cllrs Alesi and Melville and Ruth Holdaway at a de-brief meeting on VE Day Celebration. This is because there is a short deadline to notify MBC of the proposed fete.

11. AOB

- Discussion re tax on councillor allowances.
- MA reported that she will, subject to approval, hold the key (in a key safe) to the manning gate to be provided to HEMS, following a situation which arose when the air ambulance tried to land on Surrenden Field recently. It was noted that once the new pavilion is built, a key safe could be installed there. MA was thanked for her assistance in this regard.

12. Next meeting: 26th June 2025