



**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds  
on Tuesday 6 June 2017**

**Present:** Tony Bartlett, John Faulkner, Bryan Hall (part), John Hobbs, Andy Peddle (part) and David Porter.

Apologies were received from Desmond Henley and Evan Thomas.

**Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017**

**i. Approval**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**ii. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

**Item 2: Planning Issues**

**i. Planning applications and outcomes**

It was noted that planning applications had been made for extensions at 389 Sandyhurst Lane and for access to the entire frontage at 174a Sandyhurst Lane. Planning consent had been given for extensions at 62 Sandyhurst Lane, a garage conversion at 395 Sandyhurst Lane and for a double garage and home office at Elvey Cottage, Kingsland Lane.

**ii. Tree applications**

It was noted that permission had been granted to replace a protected birch tree behind 304-316 Sandyhurst Lane.

**iii. Ashford Local Plan to 2030**

**TB** reported that there had been a meeting of the Kent Association for Local Councils (KALC) on 24 May 2017, at which Simon Cole, Planning Policy Manager, Ashford Borough Council (ABC) had advised that, following the publication of the draft Local Plan in June 2016 new household projections had been published, requiring a review of the background evidence supporting the plan. This review had resulted in an increase in the objectively assessed need for housing and therefore a need to find additional land to ensure the Local Plan met the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

It was therefore apparent that sites previously omitted from the draft Plan could be included in the next version. The Council was unlikely to identify the extra land required as a large single development of several thousand houses; sites offering tens or hundreds of dwellings were more likely candidates. In the SLRA area, this meant that sites such as Lenacre Hall Farm and Woodside, Westwell Lane could be back on the agenda.

A new version of the Local Development Scheme, giving a revised timetable for the production of the Local Plan documents, had been adopted by ABC on 19 May 2017. The next draft of the Plan was now to be published in summer 2017, followed by an eight week public consultation. The Plan was then due to be assessed by an independent inspector in December 2017 and adopted by the council by summer 2018.

**Item 3: LGBCE Consultation on Warding Arrangements for Ashford Borough Council**

Publication of the Commission's final recommendations had been scheduled for 6 June 2017, but this had now been postponed until 13 June 2017, after the general election.

**JF** reminded the committee that Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council (BA&E PC) had submitted evidence supporting the creation and naming of Goat Lees ward, ignoring the views of both Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association and the SLRA, as well as those of a number of individual residents, all being opposed to the creation of Goat Lees ward. It was agreed to minute our disappointment that BA&E PC had taken this apparently undemocratic course of action.

#### **Item 4: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan**

**BH** said that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Project Steering Group was scheduled for 18 July 2017 and would include discussion of the Former Sandpit site in Sandyhurst Lane. The delay in the publication of the next draft of the Ashford Local Plan would probably also delay the publication of the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Item 5: Traffic issues**

**M20 noise:** **JF** commented on the very significant noise reduction on short stretches of the M20 northbound which had recently been resurfaced with tarmac. It was noted that representations made a few years ago through the M20 Noise Action Group (M20NAG) had not been successful as there were no plans (and no budget) to resurface the concrete carriageways. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the issue should be 'kept alive' and a letter would be drafted to be sent to the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) urging them to reconsider. [Secretary's note: Since the meeting it has been agreed to write to Highways England, the responsible authority for motorways and trunk roads, with copies to the JTB and its members (KCC and ABC)]. **ACTION DP**

**Lorry parking at Potters Corner:** **TB** said that the meeting scheduled with KCC and ABC on 23 May 2017 had been postponed due to a bereavement. The meeting would be to hear the outcome of the safety review and to look in more detail at the options for eliminating lorry parking and means of funding. It was likely that a scheme would involve reducing the A20 side road by the Hare & Hounds to a single lane and installing means to prevent parking on the opposite side of the A20 around Godinton Lane. **TB** asked whether the committee would consider committing some SLRA funding as a contribution. It was agreed to give this further consideration once the plan and its costs were known. There was agreement in principle, provided the SLRA had some influence on the scheme.

There was also discussion of the problem of several dumped trailers containing old tyres in the A20 side road. These were effectively 'fly tipped' and also represented a serious fire risk. The problem was being addressed by residents living adjacent to the dumped trailers and it was agreed to write to them offering support from the SLRA in lobbying the relevant authorities. **ACTION TB/DP**

#### **Item 6: Proposed extinguishment of footpath AU1**

**DP** said that the formal Order had been made on 11 May to extinguish the footpath AU1. The consultation period runs until 30 June. If no objections are received, the Order will be confirmed.

#### **Item 7: Telephone box**

**DP** had written to Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council on 18 April, seeking their views on the possible removal of the telephone box at the junction of Sandyhurst Lane and Lenacre Street. The Parish Clerk had agreed to put the matter before the Parish Council. A reply was now awaited.

#### **Item 8: Sandyacres Trustee Board**

**TB** said that he and **DP** had now had sight of the Trust Deed. This appeared satisfactory and included a requirement for the Trustees to maintain public liability insurance. It was agreed to seek a representative from the membership to join the Trustees on behalf of the SLRA. **JF** agreed to approach a possible candidate. **AP** also offered to be considered as a representative or alternate. **ACTION JF**

#### **Item 9: Consultations**

Consideration was given to the consultations on the Ashford Borough Playing Pitch Strategy 2017-2030 and the Ashford Borough Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2017-2030, which were open until 30 June 2017. It was agreed to draft a response to the Playing Pitch Strategy, since it featured prominently the development of Sandyacres as a 'sports hub' for activities such as football, rugby and hockey. Careful consideration would be required in respect of the local infrastructure and the management of traffic flows and parking for sports events. A recent football tournament had caused serious traffic problems in Sandyhurst Lane, due to the nature of the access to Sandyacres for vehicular traffic. **ACTION TB/DP**

**Item 10: Membership**

**DP** said that there were now 134 members, 3 of whom had joined since the last committee meeting. 25 subscriptions were due and **DP** would write to those concerned.

**ACTION DP**

**Item 11: Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance stood at approximately £2,250.

**Item 12: Neighbourhood Watch**

The latest database had been issued. The Police volunteers were sending more information than previously and local co-ordinators were ensuring that this was filtered to pass on pertinent alerts.

**Item 13: Other business**

**JF** wished to place on record thanks for the recent excellent work by Medash Signs Ltd in cleaning and restoring signs in Boughton Aluph & Eastwell.

**DP** said that one of his neighbours had suggested the installation of high performance CCTV cameras at each end of Sandyhurst Lane or elsewhere within the area, in order to provide additional peace of mind when episodes of suspicious activity were taking place, as had been the case recently. It was recalled that the committee had discussed a similar scheme in the past year and although it was an excellent proposal, sadly, it had proved unviable as it would require KCC to install and manage the cameras and it was not of sufficient priority to gain their approval. [Secretary's note: The Chairman has subsequently proposed that we should contact the Police Neighbourhood Watch volunteer (Andy Judd) to ask how we could explore a privately funded CCTV scheme in our area.]

**AP** said that a door to door picture salesman, allegedly hard of hearing, was again active in the area; continued vigilance was advisable.

**Item 14: Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 September 2017.

**ACTION DP**