



**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds  
on Thursday 7 January 2016**

**Present:** Tony Bartlett, Joanna Clarkson, John Faulkner, Bryan Hall, Desmond Henley, John Hobbs, Andy Peddle, David Porter and Evan Thomas.

**Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2015**

**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 permission had been granted for extensions or conversions at 98 and 178 Sandyhurst Lane, Kingsland Barn and Kingsland Grove, Kingsland Lane and for a boiler installation at 2 Woodside Cottages, Westwell Lane

An application had also been made for planning permission for the erection of a two storey side extension with integral garage with front canopy and single storey rear extension at Holmleigh, 314 Sandyhurst Lane.

**ii. Site Submissions for Ashford Local Plan to 2030**

It was noted with disappointment that it now seems that the Borough Council might not publish a shortlist of sites, and opt instead to just include those selected in the draft local plan expected for consultation in April 2016. The Association had made numerous representations about the delay causing property blight. **TB** said that he would provide any updates available from the next meeting of Westwell Parish Council (scheduled for 25 January 2016).

**ACTION TB**

**Item 3: Community Governance Review**

The Committee welcomed the final Community Governance Review recommendations made by Ashford Borough Council, in particular the adoption of the SLRA proposal to realign the boundary of Westwell Parish so that all the unparished properties in the SLRA area would become part of that parish. The next stage would be consideration by the Boundaries Commission for implementation in May 2019 (next Borough and Parish Council elections). It was thought that the proposals would go to the Boundaries Commission in April/May 2016; **TB** had written to Ashford Borough Council to seek clarification on the timeline.

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

**BH** said that following four successful Neighbourhood Plan public consultation sessions, a lot of analysis had been done and results were available on the website ([www.parishplan.uk](http://www.parishplan.uk)). Further consultations were planned with businesses and landowners, probably in March. The steering committee, now being chaired by Ms Erica Lasparini, was planning a household questionnaire survey to be carried out in the spring, following which there would be further analysis and drafting of the Plan. It was hoped to complete the Plan in time to contribute to the consultation for the Ashford Local Plan to 2030.

**Item 5: Traffic issues**

Since the previous meeting, the Government had announced funding of £250 million for a solution to Operation Stack and Highways England had launched a consultation on proposals for a lorry waiting area near junction 11 of the M20. Members had been encouraged to respond to the consultation and it was agreed to make a collective response from the SLRA. This would support a preferred option of a fully equipped Truckstop (Alternative 4) on the Stanford West site.

**ACTION DP**

**JF** had prepared a letter to lobby others to consider the opportunity, in the solution of Operation Stack, to address at the same time the ongoing problem of widespread overnight lorry parking on public roads, lay-bys, etc in Ashford and elsewhere in Kent. It was agreed that this letter would be sent to all local MPs and Councillors and to the local press. Copies would also be sent to Highways England, the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association.

**ACTION JF/DP**

**DHe** asked about the perceived problem of speeding in Sandyhurst Lane. However, it was currently very difficult to progress this issue, give that KCC Highways refused to provide or sanction any funds on the grounds that there were no "relevant incidents" in the safety statistics for the Lane.

#### **Item 6: Mains drainage**

**DP** reported that a few members continued to press for a lobby on this issue. It was thought, however, that apart from those few properties which were located close to an existing sewer (most of which are already connected), the costs of installing mains drainage would be prohibitive. Also, some members felt that a well-designed and maintained septic tank system was significantly cheaper to run than the costs of mains drainage. One committee member said his most recent annual mains drainage charge (foul water only) was just over £600. [Southern Water currently make a standing charge of £33.60 plus £2.27 per cubic metre].

#### **Item 7: Membership**

**DP** said that there were now 124 members, compared with 134 in 2015. This was because 11 members had not paid their subscriptions in 2015 and had therefore been removed from the database. **DHe** had already recruited one new member in 2016, giving an overall net loss of 10.

**DHe** said he would visit the 11 members who had not paid in 2015.

**ACTION DHe**

#### **Item 8: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance stood at £1670.84, having been boosted by the receipt of £310 from standing order membership renewals at the beginning of the year. A further £10 in cash receipts was yet to be paid in.

#### **Item 9: Planning for AGM on 9 March 2016**

The venue (Sandyacres Sports & Social Centre) had been booked and would be asked to provide tea/coffee at the end of the meeting. The list of invitees would include all local county and borough councillors and the Chairmen of local parish councils.

**ACTION DP**

It was decided to approach potential speakers on town centre regeneration, rural crime and the British Wool Marketing Board. An Ashford historian was another possibility.

**ACTION TB/BH/DP**

All committee members present were willing to stand for a further term.

**AP** volunteered to staff the reception desk, hopefully with **DHa**.

**ACTION AP**

The draft flyer was agreed, subject to appropriate amendments prior to the event, and would be distributed to all residents via Neighbourhood Watch coordinators.

**ACTION ALL (NW)**

#### **Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch**

**TB** and **JC** agreed to swap the areas for which they were the local coordinators.

**ACTION TB/JC/DP**

**AP** asked for his email address to be updated with the police Neighbourhood Watch team.

**ACTION DP**

Further discussion was held on the possible integration of the SLRA scheme with the forthcoming Westwell scheme and the existing BA&ERA scheme. This will be further considered when there is more information on the Westwell scheme.

#### **Item 10: Other business**

**TB** asked that a standing agenda item on current consultations should be included in future meetings. This was agreed.

**ACTION DP**

**ET** reported that the Westwell Parochial Church Council would welcome an SLRA representative at their AGM on 10 April 2016.

**JH** reported that, subject to a few further signs, cleaning of road signs in the area was complete. **DP** said that the invoice was awaited.

**JF** raised the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign which had recently been launched. It was agreed to raise awareness in a future email bulletin and encourage members to keep their house frontage clear of litter.

**ACTION DP**

#### **Item 11: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be arranged after the AGM.

**ACTION DP**