

**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds
on Tuesday 7 July 2015**

Present: Tony Bartlett, John Faulkner, John Hobbs and David Porter.

Apologies for absence were received from Joanna Clarkson, Bryan Hall, Andy Peddle and Evan Thomas.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2015**i. Approval**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

ii. Matters Arising

Item 7: The Secretary had written to Southern Water and received an acknowledgement. A reply was awaited. There were no other 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 a first floor extension and erection of a front porch at Mayfield, 31 Sandyhurst Lane. It was also noted that applications had been made for extensions at Elden, 61 Sandyhurst Lane and at 178 Sandyhurst Lane.

ii. Site Submissions for Ashford Local Plan to 2030

The Secretary had written to the Planning Policy Manager at Ashford Borough Council seeking more information, in view of the 'planning blight' being suffered by many residents in the vicinity of candidate sites. The Chairman and Secretary had also discussed the issue with Cllr Luke Powell (Bockhanger). It was clear that the timescale for publication of the short list of submitted sites, within the draft Local Plan, had been delayed until at least the end of 2015 and this could slip further.

It was agreed to send a further letter to the relevant Ashford Borough Councillors, copied to the Planning portfolio holder (Cllr M Bennett) and Leader (Cllr G Clarkson), urging the Council to ensure that publication was expedited as soon as possible and emphasising the issue of planning blight affecting our members. **ACTION DP/TB**

It was noted that the decisions on sites entirely within Boughton Aluph & Eastwell had now been devolved to the Neighbourhood Plan group led by Cllr Winston Michael.

Item 3: Community Governance Review

The draft response, considered at the meeting held on 29 April, had been finalised and submitted to Ashford Borough Council on 24 May, with copies to all relevant Borough and County Councillors and the two Community Forums. It had also been sent to Westwell Parish Council as an official 'incoming communication'.

[Note: The draft and final recommendations are scheduled for publication on 1 August 2015 and in December 2015 respectively. The final Council resolution is scheduled for February 2016].

As the county division boundary is congruent with the ward and parish boundary at the A20 end of Sandyhurst Lane, a response was also made, on 3 July 2015, to the KCC Electoral Review consultation.

[Note: Final recommendations are scheduled for publication on 29 September 2015 and implementation for the elections in 2017].

Item 4: Traffic issues

The committee discussed the extreme traffic problems in Sandyhurst Lane and elsewhere caused by the recent use of 'Operation Stack' on the M20. It was decided to seek a meeting with Damian Green MP and to prepare a document setting out the effects of Operation Stack and some possible solutions.

TB said he had prepared some notes and would circulate these to committee members as an initial draft.

ACTION TB/DP

Following discussion of a possible traffic survey in Sandyhurst Lane, the Secretary had sought advice from the Police Community Safety Unit. It would be necessary for KCC to conduct the survey using their own equipment for them to then accept and consider the survey results. This might be achieved through the local Kent Councillors, who each have a 'Highway Member Fund' which might finance such a survey by KCC.

It was agreed to write to the Councillors to request such assistance.

ACTION TB/DP

The purpose of the survey would be to gather evidence for a lobby on (i) speeding and (ii) discouraging unsuitable vehicles using Sandyhurst Lane, eg large commercial vehicles, cars using the Lane as a 'rat run'. Possible traffic calming measures were discussed.

Item 5: Membership

DP said that one new member had joined in May, two had moved away and a few others had renewed their subscriptions in response to an email and a reminder on the News Update delivered to those without email. There were now 136 members, of which 26 were yet to pay their subscriptions for 2015. **DP** would send a further email inviting the 19 of these members with email to renew.

ACTION DP

Item 6: Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not present and no report was available.

Item 7: Neighbourhood Watch

JF gave a resumé of the Kent Police Awareness Conference for Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, which he had attended on 20 June. [see members' email bulletin of 25 June]. Faced with severe budget cuts, the police were turning to technology, other agencies and the public to increase the efficiency of their operations. They were very keen on Neighbourhood Watch and new initiatives such as Country Eye. [see members' email bulletin of 6 July].

The Chairman said that Westwell Parish Council had asked him, as a Councillor, to bring forward proposals for a parish-wide Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Boughton Aluph & Eastwell RA had also recently launched a scheme. There was a wide-ranging discussion about how these schemes might integrate with the SLRA scheme. The Chairman said he would draft a paper to explore various possible options and circulate it to the committee.

ACTION TB

A new Neighbourhood Watch 'No Doorstep Callers' sticker had been produced and the Secretary confirmed that he had ordered a supply for distribution to all members as soon as bulk supplies were available.

ACTION DP

Item 8: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan

JF said that the development of the Neighbourhood Plan was a well organised activity, led by Cllr Winston Michael. A new website had been established (www.parishplan.uk), which provided a wealth of information and allowed people to contribute views and comments.

Item 9: Other business

JF raised the issue of a new concrete painted fence which had been erected at 388 Sandyhurst Lane. A number of neighbouring residents had complained about the appearance of the new fence and **JF** had referred the matter to the planning enforcement department at Ashford Borough council as it was thought that the fence may be in breach of planning regulations. He requested that SLRA should raise an objection. However, as the matter had already been referred to the appropriate authority, it was decided to reserve comment for a planning application, should one result from the present referral.

JF raised the issue of dirty road signs and litter in Sandyhurst Lane. After discussion it was decided that it would not be prudent to invite children to help tidy the Lane, as it would be too dangerous. It was also not felt prudent to suggest to residents that they should clear their own part of the Lane. Safety concerns were also expressed on the issue of cleaning signs. This was the responsibility of KCC, but budgetary issues meant that it was unlikely that they would clean signs in the Lane. **JH** offered to look into the cost of cleaning the signs professionally.

ACTION JH

Item 10: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in September, on a date to be decided.

ACTION DP