

**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds
on Tuesday 9 July 2019**

Present: Tony Bartlett, Bryan Biggs, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Hall, John Hobbs, Andy Peddle and David Porter.

Apologies were received from Desmond Henley and Evan Thomas.

Item 1: Howard Preston

The committee noted with deep regret the passing of Howard Preston on 23 May 2019. Howard had been a founder member of the SLRA and its Chairman for 13 years, from 1999 to 2012. He was greatly respected in the community and would be sadly missed. Several committee members had attended his funeral earlier in the day. It was agreed to make an SLRA donation of £25.00 to the British Heart Foundation in Howard's memory. **ACTION DP**

Item 2: Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2019

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

BH said that he had contacted the member who had raised the issue of the poor and declining state of the hedgerows along Sandyhurst Lane. The member was busy at present but would contact BH again in due course.

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

Item 3: Planning Issues

It was noted that no change in status had occurred for the applications for 21 dwellings at Lenacre Hall Farm, 79 dwellings (hybrid application) at Lenacre Hall Farm or for 18 dwellings at the former Sand Pit. It was also noted that planning permission had been granted for a new single storey garage at Old Orchard House, 400 Sandyhurst Lane.

With reference to the Ashford Local Plan, **TB** said that the Council was planning to review it in 2021 and would again be inviting landowners and others to submit potential development sites.

Item 4: Traffic issues

With reference to the lorry overnight parking ban, it was noted that the SLRA had submitted a response to the consultation on a proposed traffic regulation order (TRO) on 13 May 2019 and that the Joint Transportation Board approved the TRO on 11 June 2019. It now remained for Council Officers to meet with the Department for Transport to discuss changes in legislation to enable offenders to be fined on the first offence and to increase the wheel clamp release fee from £150 to £225, in order to cover costs.

TB said that, following a request from Hothfield Parish Council, it was now proposed to reduce the speed limit on the A20 through parts of Hothfield from 60 mph to 50 mph. Westwell Parish Council was in favour of similar measures being introduced in the vicinity of Potters Corner. **DP** said that an initial examination of the road accident data for the past ten years showed a greater number of serious and fatal road accidents on the A20 in the vicinity of Potters Corner than in the vicinity of Station Road and Cades Road, Hothfield. **TB** also pointed out that the present A20 speed limit at Potters Corner was 70 mph, that lorries frequently turned across the road into the A20 side road and that bus passengers had to cross the road to access the Maidstone-bound bus service. It was agreed to develop a case for a 50 mph speed limit on the A20 in the vicinity of Potters Corner, using both RTC crash data and the SLRA arguments which successfully led to the installation of "Slow Down" signs. **ACTION DP/TB**

Item 5: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that the SLRA had submitted a response to the recent Neighbourhood Plan consultation. **BH** said that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had now disbanded and that the Parish Council was responsible for taking the Plan forward. The Plan would be amended to reflect the responses received in the recent public consultation. The amended Plan will be subject to further public consultation and independent examination and the final version will be put to a parish referendum.

Item 6 Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that it was intended to appoint two new Trustees. **TB** said that, following the boundary changes and local elections in May, Ashford Borough Council had appointed Cllr Larry Krause as their new representative on the Trustee Board. In a wide ranging discussion, it was hoped that the affairs of the Trustee Board would in future enjoy greater transparency. The SLRA would continue a watching brief through its appointed Trustee (**FD**).

Item 7: Consultations

There were no current consultations relevant to the SLRA.

Item 8: Membership

DP said that there were now 149 members. There were now 15 subscriptions overdue for 2019. [Secretary's note: reduced to 13 after the meeting].

Item 9: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance stood at £1,737.84.

Item 10: Herbicide drift

An email from a member had raised the issue of herbicide drift into domestic properties from nearby fields, allegedly causing damage to plants and having other undesirable effects. **TB** had raised the issue with Westwell Parish Council (WPC) at their meeting on 1 July. The Council was very supportive and concerned about possible health hazards, environmental issues, etc. In the first instance, WPC is finding out more about the issue by contacting the National Farmers' Union to see what advice they may offer (eg whether they publish a good practice guide, etc). **TB** will report back in due course and action will be taken by WPC or SLRA, as appropriate.

ACTION TB

Item 12: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest database, containing several updates, had been issued.

Item 13: Other business

FD said that he had asked the manager of Sandyacres to provide SLRA with a list of forthcoming events, so that members could be informed as appropriate. **FD** also said that the public footpath between Sandyacres and Goat Lees had become very overgrown. The Secretary agreed to report this to the parish clerk.

ACTION DP

TB said that WPC intended to erect a notice board in the area which had recently become part of the parish. Possibilities included the green area at the entrance to Hoads Wood Gardens, the entrance to the Golf Club and the entrance to the footpath to Sandhurst Farm.

TB also raised the issue of litter picking. After some discussion, it was agreed that, given that the SLRA has no public liability insurance, the SLRA position should be to support fully initiatives such as those of local parishes, but not to organise directly any litter picking events. The parish council was to publish information on litter picking in the Westwell Eye and this would be reviewed to see if it was appropriate for sending to SLRA members.

Item 14: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 July 2019.

ACTION DP