



**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds  
on Monday 11 April 2016**

**Present:** Tony Bartlett, Bryan Hall, Doug Harman, Desmond Henley, Andy Peddle and David Porter

Apologies were received from Joanna Clarkson, John Faulkner, John Hobbs, Howard Preston and Evan Thomas.

**Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2016**

**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: Review of AGM, 9 March 2016**

It was felt that, whilst the AGM had been a successful event, improvements could be made. In particular, the time allocated to the invited speakers had been significantly over-run, resulting in insufficient time to allow members to debate fully issues of concern or interest.

It was agreed that, in planning next year's event, consideration would be given to reducing the number of invited speakers from three to two (one on a serious issue, one more light-hearted).

**DP** reported that the management of Sandyacres had accepted full responsibility for serving tea and coffee at the beginning of the event, rather than at the end, as had been requested.

**Item 3: Planning Issues**

**i. Planning applications and outcomes**

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for extensions at Tudor Cottage, Lenacre Street and at 49 & 98 Sandyhurst Lane.

Applications had also been made for the erection of extensions at 178 & 332 Sandyhurst Lane and 22 Hoads Wood Gardens.

**ii. Ashford Local Plan to 2030**

It was noted that the publication of the draft Local Plan, including the shortlist of 'submitted sites' was now likely to be in June 2016, following its consideration by Ashford Borough Council's Cabinet on 9 June.

It had recently been announced by the Chair of Westwell Parish Council that the Beechbrook site for 3,500 dwellings would not be included. Indications from various sources suggested the following outcomes for the remaining sites in the SLRA area, but all are subject to confirmation or otherwise when the draft Plan is published:

*Likely not to be included:* Lenacre Hall Farm and Ashford Golf Club

*Likely to be included:* Eureka Park/Trinity Road (ABC are being lobbied for access to be from Trinity Road, not Sandyhurst Lane).

*Unknown:* Woodside, Westwell Lane and the Former Sandpit, Sandyhurst Lane.

**Item 4: Traffic issues**

**TB** reported that a public meeting, hosted by Westwell Parish Council, had been held on 2 March to discuss the lorry parking issue. Representatives were present from Highways England and Kent County Council. The

key issue was lorry parking on the A20 in the vicinity of Potters Corner; this was being aggravated by successes in displacing lorries parking elsewhere in the borough, notably on business parks. Further decisions were awaited following the recent Highways England consultation on the proposed lorry waiting area at Stanford.

There was further discussion on the traffic issues in Sandyhurst Lane, following the refusal of KCC Highways to introduce any traffic calming measures on the grounds that the safety record did not merit it. Suggestions included a day of parking on the Lane to form a 'continuous chicane' and a mass walk along the Lane. Any actions would have to be carefully organised to ensure that no liability fell on the SLRA, which carries no insurance protection. It was agreed to seek further ideas on possible actions aimed to improve road safety in the Lane.

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

**BH** said that the Neighbourhood Plan survey had been delivered to all residential and business premises in the Parish (1,200 in total). Parishioners were also being encouraged to make their returns online, to facilitate easier analysis. So far, 136 replies had been received. Consideration was being given to extending the current deadline of 17 April to 24 April.

#### **Item 6: Consultations**

It was noted that Hothfield PC had now been given authority to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and that Charing PC had applied to do so; the relevant consultation was open but it was not considered appropriate for the SLRA to respond. There were no other relevant consultations open at present.

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

Following very successful efforts by **DHe** in persuading a number of ex-members to renew their subscriptions, **DP** said that there were now 133 members, compared with 134 in 2015. Of the 133 members, 31 cash subscriptions remained to be collected.

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

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance stood at £1760.84. A further £105.00 in cash and cheque receipts was due to be paid in and expenses of £84.00, for website hosting and road sign cleaning, were to be paid.

#### **Item 9: Neighbourhood Watch**

**TB** said that the scheme to be introduced in Westwell Parish would be called Westwell Community Watch and would aim to include more information than that normally received from the police in the form of Neighbourhood Watch alerts. Information about the scheme would shortly be sent to Westwell parish residents and would appear in the Westwell Eye. It was not felt that there would be a conflict with the existing SLRA Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

#### **Item 10: Review of SLRA Constitution**

The SLRA Constitution was reviewed and a number of amendments proposed, to bring it up to date. These proposed amendments are shown in the attached draft revised Constitution. It was agreed to put these to the membership at the beginning of July, so that it could be included in the quarterly bulletin to non-email members. Members would be asked to respond only if they did not support the amendments, with assent being otherwise assumed.

**ACTION DP**

#### **Item 11: Other business**

**TB** suggested that a letter of thanks should be written to Jason Matthews, who is to stand down in May 2016 as Chairman of Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council. This was agreed.

**ACTION DP**

#### **Item 12: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be arranged in June, preferably after publication of the draft Ashford Local Plan to 2030.

**ACTION DP**