



**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds
on Tuesday 12 September 2017**

Present: Tony Bartlett, Bryan Hall, Andy Peddle (part), Evan Thomas and David Porter.
Apologies were received from Desmond Henley and John Hobbs.

Item 1: Committee membership

It was noted with regret that John Faulkner had resigned from membership of the committee on 31 July 2017. It was agreed that he would be welcomed back, should he choose to re-join the committee.

It was also noted that Bryan Biggs had kindly agreed to join the committee as a co-opted member. Unfortunately, he was unable to join the present meeting, but would be invited to future meetings.

Further committee members were still to be sought, particularly female members as currently none is on the committee. **ACTION ALL**

Item 2: Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

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

Item 3: Results of elections held on 8 June 2017

It was noted that, on 8 June 2017, Damian Green had been returned as MP for Ashford in the general election and Simon Howard-Smith had been elected borough councillor for Bockhanger in a by-election.

A letter had been sent to Damian Green MP on 14 June 2017, congratulating him on being appointed First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet Office. In this letter, the opportunity had been taken to raise two issues: motorway noise and overnight lorry parking. A reply, dated 22 June 2017, had been received from Damian Green, offering support both in lobbying Highways England on the noise issue and progressing the overnight lorry parking issue.

TB said that he had met Simon Howard-Smith at a recent event and it was agreed to write him a welcome letter introducing him to the SLRA. **ACTION DP**

Item 4: Planning Issues

i. Planning applications and outcomes

It was noted that a planning application had been made for extensions at 64 Sandyhurst Lane. Planning consent had been granted for access to the entire frontage at 174a Sandyhurst Lane and for extensions at 389 Sandyhurst Lane. Ashford Borough Council had also decided that no Environmental Impact Assessment would be required for a future planning application for the development of the site at Lenacre Hall Farm. Following a recent exhibition at Sandyacres by the developers, Millwood Designer Homes, some residents had raised objections to the proposed development and these had been aired in a letter published in the Kentish Express. The SLRA would respond whenever a formal planning application was to be made.

ii. Ashford Local Plan to 2030

Ashford Borough Council had published proposed Main Changes to the Local Plan 2030 on 7 July 2017 and held a public consultation which closed on 31 August 2017. The SLRA had submitted three responses on:

- MC90: Policy S47 - Land East of Hothfield Mill, A20
- MC26: Policy S20 - Eureka Park
- MC85: Policy SP7 - Separation of Settlements

The Plan is now due to be assessed by an independent inspector in December 2017 and adopted by the council by summer 2018.

Item 5: LGBCE Consultation on Warding Arrangements for Ashford Borough Council

Publication of the Commission's final recommendations had taken place on 13 June 2017. The SLRA had lobbied against the draft proposals, arguing that our community should not be divided by transferring a large part of it into a new 'urban' Goat Lees ward. The Boundary Commission had accepted these arguments and moved the boundary so that all properties in the SLRA area (except 5 properties in Faversham Road) will be included in the Downs West ward. Furthermore, the properties which were proposed to be moved from the Boughton Aluph parish ward to the Goat Lees parish ward will remain in the Boughton Aluph parish ward (which will not, as previously proposed, be re-named Boughton Lees ward). These final recommendations, which will take effect on 2 May 2019, were welcomed by the committee.

Item 6: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan

BH said that the next meeting of the Parish Council was on 14 September 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan was now actively under development, having been largely 'on hold' whilst the Local Plan consultation was taking place. No decision had yet been taken on the inclusion or otherwise of the proposed development at the Former Sandpit, Sandyhurst Lane. There were likely to be issues concerning the proposed access on to Sandyhurst Lane on Mole Hill.

The proposed development at Lenacre Hall Farm would not be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, following a very high level of opposition in the public survey held by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Parish Council would also be likely to oppose any future planning application.

BH hoped to attend the Parish Council meeting on 14 September as a member of the public.

Item 7: Traffic issues

Lorry parking at Potters Corner: **TB** said that a paper prepared for the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board, taking place concurrently with this committee meeting, released into the public domain details of an 18 month trial scheme which was to ban overnight lorry parking on the A20 and adjacent roads between Charing and the Drivers roundabout. The trial will start on Monday 30 October 2017 and lorries will be prohibited from parking between 20.00 and 07.00. Enforcement will be by clamping on the first issue of a parking charge notice (previous schemes have not permitted clamping until 3 unpaid parking tickets had accumulated). The scheme will be widely advertised by KCC and at ports, Eurotunnel and nearby truck stops, etc and will be subsidised by KCC, because the current parking charge and release fees are insufficient to cover costs. Legislation would eventually be required to raise the clamping release fee to £250 to cover costs (the current release fee is £90). It was agreed to publicise this information on the SLRA website and via a members' email bulletin.

ACTION DP

M20 noise: Following discussion at the previous committee meeting on 6 June 2017, a letter had been drafted to Highways England and Damian Green MP had offered support with such an approach. It was agreed to finalise and send the letter to Highways England, with copies to local councillors and the Joint Transportation Board.

ACTION TB/DP

Item 8: Extinguishment of footpath AU1

DP said that the formal Order had been confirmed on 4 July 2017, so that the footpath AU1 was now extinguished.

Item 9: Telephone box

DP had written to Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council (BA&E PC) on 18 April 2017, 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. **DP** had written again on 10 June 2017, but no reply had been received. **BH** offered to raise the matter at the BA&E PC meeting on 14 September 2017, if he attended as a member of the public. **ACTION BH**

Item 10: Sandyacres Trustee Board

An SLRA member had now been identified as a proposed representative on the Sandyacres Trustee Board. **TB** had written to the Trustees on 16 June 2017 asking to progress the issue and **DP** had sent a follow-up email on 22 August 2017, but no reply had been received. It was agreed to send a further letter. **ACTION DP**

Item 11: Consultations

It was noted that, in addition to the three responses to the consultation on the Main Changes to the Local Plan 2030, SLRA responses had also been made to the consultations on Playing Pitch Strategy and the Ashford Heritage Strategy. It was agreed that SLRA would not respond to the current consultations on the draft Open Space Strategy or the KCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Item 12: Membership

DP said that there were now 137 members, 4 of whom had joined since the last committee meeting. Thanks largely to the efforts of **DHe**, the number of overdue subscriptions had now been reduced from 25 to 8.

Item 13: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance stood at £2,348.41.

Item 14: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest database had been issued.

Item 15: Other business

TB said that the Heads of Agreement had been prepared for the new owner of The Wheel, which was currently closed. When the pub re-opened it would be "food led". It was also proposed to build two pairs of semi-detached dwellings on the site. Information would be published in the next edition of the Westwell Eye.

DP said that a member had raised the issue of water meters, which are due to be fitted in all properties which do not yet have them. The member asked if the SLRA should address concerns such as disruption to traffic, possible increased household bills and conflict over the siting of meter boxes. After discussion it was agreed that this was not an appropriate issue for collective representation by the SLRA because the meters were to be fitted statutorily and compulsorily and their siting and effect on household bills were individual matters for each property.

ET said that the Westwell church "loo" project was making good progress. Funds had been raised and plans prepared for the installation of toilets at the Church of St Mary.

Item 16: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 November 2017. **ACTION DP**