



**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Google Meet)
on Tuesday 19 January 2021**

[This meeting was held online because of the restrictions of the Covid-19 virus pandemic]

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

Apologies were received from John Hobbs, who had attempted to join the meeting but was prevented from doing so by technical issues.

It was noted that Evan Thomas had now resigned from the committee, as he was leaving Sandyhurst Lane.

Item 1: Record of meeting held on 7 October 2020

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

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

Item 2: Planning for the Virtual AGM

i. Date, time and virtual platform

It was agreed to hold the AGM at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 17 March 2021.

The pros and cons of Zoom and Google Meet were discussed. **DP** agreed to investigate further, with particular reference to voting and presentations, then liaise with **TB** and decide on the best platform to use. **ACTION DP/TB**

ii. Agenda

The draft agenda was amended as follows:

The Open forum will be replaced by a managed session of contributions "From the Floor". Contributions will be notified in advance and the Chair will invite participants to speak. Attendees will be asked to mute their microphones except when contributing. The formal AGM will follow with the usual reports and election of the committee.

iii. Committee members for re-election (and call for nominations)

All committee members present agreed to stand for re-election; those absent will be contacted for confirmation. **ACTION DP**

The calling notice will contain the usual call for nominations; in addition, it was suggested that specific members could be approached as potential committee members. **ACTION TB**

iv. Invitees

The suggested list of invitees was agreed. **ACTION DP**

v. Speaker

It was agreed to have one presentation from an invited speaker, following the formal AGM. It was agreed to invite a speaker from KCC Highways suggested by **TB**. **ACTION TB**

vi. Flyer

It was recognised that a hard-copy flyer would not be possible under present pandemic conditions, except as a poster for the SLRA notice board. The parish councils would also be asked to display the flyer poster in their notice boards on/near Sandyhurst Lane. An article would also be submitted to the March edition of the Westwell Eye (though this is also not currently issued in hard copy). **ACTION DP**

Item 3: Planning Issues

It was noted that the application for 9 dwellings at the Sand Pit, Sandyhurst Lane had been withdrawn by the applicant. It was also noted that there was an ongoing delay to the promised consultation on the proposals for Eureka Park. This was believed to be due to the emerging requirements for nutrient discharge measures.

Following consultation of all committee members, the SLRA had submitted objection comments on the retrospective application for amendment to the design and the size of the garage/home office previously approved in 2017 for Elvey Cottage, Kingsland Lane. The outcome was awaited.

It was noted that permission had been refused to allow 4 members of staff, not being part of the main household, to be employed in the approved building at Downsway, 35 Sandyhurst Lane. It was also noted that permission had been granted for extensions at Wide View, Lenacre Street, Two Chimneys, 28 Sandyhurst Lane, 136 Sandyhurst Lane and Rudgwick, Westwell Lane. New applications had been made for extensions at 61 and 250 Sandyhurst Lane and at Acacia Lodge, 402 Sandyhurst Lane.

Item 4: Traffic issues

TB said that Westwell Parish Council had successfully applied to Cllr Simkins for funding (£5,000) for preparatory work for at least one village “gate” (in Watery Lane) and for 30 mph reminder signs to be painted on the road surface at appropriate points in Sandyhurst Lane.

FD said that a new camera installation had appeared at the junction of Sandyhurst Lane and Faversham Road. **BH** agreed to enquire whether Boughton Aluph & Eastwell parish council was aware of its purpose.

ACTION BH

[Secretary’s note: BH advises that it is a police ANPR camera]

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

BH said that there were two issues with the Neighbourhood Plan. Firstly, Ashford Borough Council (ABC) wanted to keep the open space, just beyond the Eureka Medical Centre building, free from restrictions. Secondly, ABC did not want Sandyacres designated as a green space. This was known before the Plan was submitted for independent examination and it was now with the inspector to make final decisions on the Plan. This process will include site visits in February.

BH said that he had not seen any recent activity by the BA&E Residents’ Association.

[Secretary’s note: The former website for BA&ERA is no longer operational, but they have a Facebook page for which the most recent post was on 26 February 2020]

Item 6 Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that the Trustees had met online on 15 January 2021. The Trustees had carried out a significant amount of work to upgrade the property and pitches. The events business was run by an independent manager and had only been able to open for 6 weeks of business since the first lockdown in March 2020, but still had significant expenditure on utilities, etc. The Trustees were looking at ways to support the business.

Item 7: Consultations

There were no relevant consultations to consider.

Item 8: Membership

DP said that membership has fallen from 155 to 149 as 4 non-payers overdue by more than a year had been deleted, 3 had moved away and 1 new member had joined. As cash members would be unable to renew at the AGM, they would be invited to pay online to the SLRA account.

ACTION DP

Item 9: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that, following the retirement of Carole Borner, the Treasurer had arranged for the Secretary and Treasurer to be able to view the SLRA account online and to facilitate online transactions, rather than using cheques. **DP** said that this enabled him to reconcile membership with payments in a much more timely way than previously.

The current bank balance was £2,610.37. Forthcoming expenditure included £45 on replacement pads for the defibrillator.

ACTION DP

Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated. The Neighbourhood Watch sign near the A20 end of the Lane had recently come off its mounting. **DP** agreed to check with **JH** if it was in his possession.

ACTION DP

Item 11: Other business

AP said that he had recently been asked to disconnect the SLRA defibrillator because of an electrical fault at the Hare & Hounds. It had now been established that the defibrillator supply was not the cause of the fault and it would be reconnected as soon as the fault elsewhere (in the outside lights) had been cleared. It may also be necessary to replace a damaged transformer housing.

TB said that he had recently reported a damaged fire hydrant to Kent Fire and Rescue, which has recently launched a campaign ("Help keep hydrants in your neighbourhood healthy") to encourage such reports. **TB** also said he had thanked the owner of Tollgate Cottage for clearing a tree overhanging the 30 mph sign near the A20 end of Sandyhurst Lane.

FD suggested that the SLRA should target new residents with information and a membership invitation. **TB** recalled that this had been discussed before and some progress had been made but it was difficult to identify new residents. **DHe** said that he was aware of new neighbours opposite his house. **DP** said that he received information about house sales in the SLRA area and agreed to advise committee members when houses in their local area had been sold.

ACTION DP

[Secretary's note: It may be possible to adapt the AGM flyer, once produced, to a form of welcome letter about the SLRA]

Item 12: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on a date to be decided in the third week of February.

ACTION DP