

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association

Minutes of SLRA Committee meeting held at Sandyacres Clubhouse on Thursday, 21 July 2011.

Attendees: Howard Preston, John Faulkner, Doug Harman, Andy Peddle, David Porter, Evan Thomas.

Apologies for absence had been received from Sandra Bunclark and Don Murrell.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2011.

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: Planning Issues

HP noted that the diversion of the footpath AE210 was now going ahead, following the publication of a second public notice. The next stage would be a meeting of the landowners with the authorities (Countryside Access) in Maidstone.

It was also noted that Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council are seeking to adopt as a Public Right of Way the 'TRACK' which runs from Sandyhurst Farm Cottage uphill to the rear of no. 250 Sandyhurst Lane ("Molehill") and then turns 90 degrees down to Upper Pemberton and to Trinity Road. Following an email appeal to SLRA members, **HP** said that he was in contact with numerous residents who had walked the track for many years and he thought that he could get up to 100 signatures to that effect.

HP had made a response to the appeal which followed the refusal of planning permission to build a 3 bedroom house on land adjacent to 10 Sandyhurst Lane/Potters Close. This had been circulated to members and was on the SLRA website.

HP had also made a response to the recent "Urban Sites" Development consultation. This had also been circulated to members and was on the SLRA website.

It was noted that there was a current planning application for a garden room at 374 Sandyhurst Lane.

Item 3: Traffic speed

i. Speed Watch

DP reported that Westwell PC and Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PC had now agreed a schedule for operating Speed Watch in Sandyhurst Lane. **JF** reported that he had seen a Speed Watch group in the Lane.

ii. A20/Sandyhurst Lane junction

DP had asked Westwell PC if they would be interested in this lobby but had not yet received a response. He also tabled a draft letter to Kent Highway Services, which needed accident data to strengthen the case. It was thought that this could be obtained from KCC or the Police.

Item 4: Residents' Security - Neighbourhood Watch

JF tabled a Neighbourhood Watch brochure from 2004, which named Monica Berwick (356 Sandyhurst Lane) as the contact. **HP** agreed to speak to her with a view to the scheme being revitalised and extended by the SLRA.

Benefits of Neighbourhood Watch include a discount offered by house insurers. It was noted that there had been five burglaries in the area recently.

AP said he would speak to a colleague who is an ex-police officer involved in running a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Item 5: Financial Matters

DP tabled a financial report which had been provided by the Treasurer's office. This showed that the bank account stood at £75.92 in credit. A further £200.00 would be credited in early January 2012 from 40 members' standing orders. A further £95.00 would also then become due from 19 members who had paid by cash or cheque (there are 20 such members, but one has already paid in advance for 2012).

[Note: It has subsequently been found that there are two further standing orders, bringing the total to 42, yielding £210.00.]

It was agreed that the aim would be to keep expenditure to the absolute minimum until 2012.

Item 6: Membership Drive

i. Report on current membership

DP reported that there were now 61 members [Note: subsequently amended to 63]. Following the social event on 2 May 2011, there had been a steady growth in membership until mid-June, but the numbers were now static.

ii. Next steps

The committee welcomed an offer from **AP** to knock on residents' doors with a view to signing them up for membership. He would then advise **DP** who would send a follow-up email (if an email address were available) a few days later.

It was agreed that a membership leaflet would also be sent to non-members if and when the revitalised Neighbourhood Watch scheme had been set up.

Item 7: SLRA website

JF tabled a newsletter from Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council, giving their annual parish report. It was agreed to seek permission from Winston Michael (BA&E PC Chairman) for this to be reproduced on the SLRA website and that he and other local politicians should be invited to contribute to the website.

JF had provided a draft list of restaurants which was now on the website as a hidden page. It was agreed that members would review the list and make suggestions for additions and deletions, following which the restaurants named would each be invited to contribute a 50 word description. Hyperlinks to their websites would also be included.

DH suggested that a Twitter feed be added to the website.

Item 8: Any other business

ET suggested that the fund raising activities for the Westwell Church Restoration Fund could be featured on the website. He would speak to the Chairman, David Harvey, with a view to him providing some suitable words, and to him joining the SLRA.

Item 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 October 2011 at Sandyacres Clubhouse.