

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association

Minutes of SLRA Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds on Wednesday 26 June 2013

Attendees: John Hobbs, Tony Bartlett, John Faulkner, Desmond Henley, Andy Peddle, David Porter, Howard Preston.

By invitation: Jason Matthews, Chairman, Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Norma Devereese, Doug Harman, Don Murrell and Evan Thomas.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2013

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed and signed.

ii. Matters Arising

Letters had been sent to the two new KCC councillors, Jim Wedgbury and Charlie Simkins. A supportive reply had been received from Jim Wedgbury.

The offer of sponsorship had been declined.

A members' email had been sent, publicising forthcoming events at Sandyacres.

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

Item 2: Planning Issues

There were no contentious planning issues to discuss.

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for a two storey extension at 72 Sandyhurst Lane and a single storey extension at 26 Hoads Wood Gardens. It was also noted that an application had been made for a garage conversion at 4 Watsons Close.

Item 3: Traffic issues

i. A20/Sandyhurst Lane junction

In addition to the assurances that the scheme had been transferred to the 2013-14 budget, contained in the letter dated 27 March 2013, received from KCC, it was noted that the following had appeared in the papers for the Joint Transportation Board meeting of 11 June 2013:

"Funding for this scheme has been safeguarded and carried over into the new financial year 2013/14. The siting of an interactive sign on the approach to the junction from Ashford has proven to be quite challenging. The technicalities are being resolved and a revised proposal should soon be available to share with local members and parish councils."

ii. Parking restrictions

Following the informal consultation by KCC in March on two schemes for parking restrictions in Goat Lees, the proposals had been discussed by the Joint Transportation Board on 11 June 2013. The meeting, which had recommended Option 1 to the Ashford BC Cabinet, had been very controversial. Jason Matthews took the view that the decision had been taken undemocratically and that the majority of residents preferred Option 2. BA&E Parish Council were taking legal advice to see if they could challenge the decision.

iii. M20 Noise Action Group

AP said that there had been no recent meetings of the M20NAG and that there had been little activity by the Group. The prospect of persuading Government to introduce noise reduction measures was now even more challenging in the light of recent budgetary cuts. **TB** reported that the issue had featured at the previous evening's Westwell PC meeting as a desirable item to progress.

Item 4: Neighbourhood Watch

Further documents had been obtained and circulated following the discussion with Alex Harrington at the previous meeting. **JF** suggested that this issue had the potential to 'galvanise' residents in a similar way to big issues of the past, such as the M20, CTRL, etc.

It was agreed to progress the issue by holding a meeting of residents at Sandyacres in September. A letter would be delivered to all residents in the SLRA catchment area outlining the scheme and offering it as part of SLRA membership at £5 pa per household. Residents would be invited to indicate their interest via a reply slip and by attending the initial meeting. Invitations would also be sent to Neighbourhood Watch officers such as the local PCSO. Members of the committee would act as 'Coordinators' for the part of the catchment area in which they lived, whilst the existing Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer would act in the same capacity for Neighbourhood Watch.

The following actions were agreed:

Book Sandyacres – **DP**

Draft invitation letter, based upon existing material – **ALL** ('round-robin' email)

Contact/invite Neighbourhood Watch officers - **DP**

Item 5: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association

JF had been unable to attend the most recent meeting, but said that the BA&ERA followed a similar agenda to SLRA. A recent attempt to recruit members at the Boughton Lees Pleasure Fayre had been disappointing, because of the inclement weather. The RA was also interested in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Item 6: Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was unable to attend. It was noted that the bank balance in April had been £608 and that no expenditure had since been incurred and a small number of subscriptions had been received.

Item 7: Membership

DP said that, since the last meeting, 2 members had renewed their subscriptions, following a 'chaser' email to 8 members. There were currently 64 paid up members, compared with 69 at the end of 2012.

Item 8: Education on Twitter and Facebook

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Item 9: Other business

HP drew attention to trees on the Sandyacres site which were encroaching on the pavement and road. Jason Matthews said he would discuss this at the next PC meeting on 10 July 2013 and write to KCC requesting action. Similar considerations applied to the newly installed vehicle activated traffic signs, one of which was almost totally obscured by foliage.

AP said that a (non-member) resident had asked him whether a litter bin could be installed next to the refurbished millennium seat in Hoads Wood Gardens. This would require planning permission and it was unlikely that the Council could be persuaded to supply and service it.

JH had inspected the SLRA notice board, which had been reported by **HP** as being in need of repair.

JH proposed to replace the whole notice board and would prepare a design for circulation. **ACTION JH**

DP submitted an expense claim for paint used to refurbish the millennium seat. This was approved.

JF raised the issue of road signs which badly needed to be cleaned. Jason Matthews offered to look at this at the PC meeting on 10 July 2013 and write to KCC requesting action.

DHe said that the turning in Wye Road at the eastern corner of the green in Boughton Aluph was very dangerous and suggested that a mirror could be installed. Jason Matthews said he would give this consideration.

The difficulties for some residents in using the new wheelie bins were also discussed. It was agreed to circulate information to residents about the assisted collection scheme. **ACTION DP**

Item 10: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at Sandyacres Clubhouse. **ACTION DP**