

**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)
on Tuesday 28 April 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, John Hobbs, Graham Mullaly, Andy Peddle and David Porter.

Apologies were received from Desmond Henley.

Item 1: Election of Chair

Under item 5.4 of the SLRA Constitution, after two consecutive years in office, the Chair must be re-elected annually if he/she wishes to stand for a further term. The Secretary proposed that Tony Bartlett be elected as Chair for a further year. This was seconded by **JH** and carried by a unanimous vote.

TB introduced Nicola Ideson, the Westwell Parish Clerk elect, who had joined the meeting briefly. Nicola outlined her new role, which would become permanent on the retirement of the present Clerk, Susan Wood, on 30 June 2021. **JH** wished her good luck in her new role and this was endorsed by the whole committee.

TB welcomed **GM** to his first meeting as a full committee member.

Item 2: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3: Record of meeting held on 17 February 2021**i. Approval**

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

AP said that there had been no change to the open land adjacent to and including the footpath AU3 (between 106 and 112 Sandyhurst Lane).

FD had not been able to raise the issue of flooding with the KCC Councillor; this was now on hold pending the local elections on 6 May 2021.

Further matters arising were dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

Item 4: Review of AGM, 17 March 2021

It was agreed that, for a virtual meeting, the AGM had gone very well. **TB** said that Toby Howe's presentation had been well received and that he should be invited again next year. He had also received positive feedback from Andrew Judd, the Police Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, who had spoken with the local Chief Inspector who would like to attend next year. **TB** suggested that he could be invited to speak on Policing in Ashford and proposed that the AGM be held on 17 March 2022. This was agreed. **ACTION DP**

[Secretary's note: If the AGM is to be held physically, this date (St Patrick's day) is subject to the availability of Sandyacres, which has yet to be booked]

Item 5: Planning Issues

It was noted that an appeal had been lodged against the decision to refuse retrospective planning permission for amendment to the design and the size of the garage/home office approved under planning permission 17/00319/AS to include a residential annexe at Elvey Cottage, Kingsland Lane. However, as no appeal documents had yet been published, it was not yet possible to consider whether any further SLRA submission was appropriate.

Following the submissions to Ashford Borough Council by the SLRA and others about a possible breach of planning permission at 28 Sandyhurst Lane, work on the construction of a new dwelling had been halted and permission was now being sought for demolition (retrospective) and erection of a replacement dwelling. Westwell Parish Council had recently made a site visit and submitted further comments. **TB** confirmed his email in which he had stated that that he had been approached by the owners and their family but had declined conversation about planning issues for their property.

It was noted that permission was being sought for extensions at 172, 388 and 352 Sandyhurst Lane and Rivendell, Westwell Lane, that permission had been granted for extensions at 250 and 402 Sandyhurst Lane, and that permission had been refused for discharge of condition 6 (parking and turning area) at Downsway, 35 Sandyhurst Lane.

Item 6: Traffic issues

TB had queried the ANPR camera installation at the junction of Sandyhurst Lane and Faversham Road with the Joint Transportation Board and had been advised it was solely to monitor any illegal HGV movements on the A251, which is not an approved route for freight import/export.

DP said that he had received an enquiry from a member about car parking at the Towers end of Sandyhurst Lane by people waiting to collect children from school (up to 15 cars). The road had been blocked by the resultant congestion. **DP** had replied that the parking problem at the Faversham Road end of Sandyhurst Lane was a long running issue, first raised at the SLRA AGM in 2012, following which the SLRA had written to KCC asking for suitable measures to be introduced. However, KCC had refused measures such as yellow lines in the absence of any injury related accidents. **AP** said that congestion also prevented vehicles from turning left out of Sandyhurst Lane despite the A251 being clear in that direction and asked whether the Lane could be widened near the junction. This was thought unlikely, as it was not a safety issue. **BH** agreed to try to raise the issue of problems at this junction with Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council. **ACTION BH**

TB said that, following remarks made by Charlie Simkins at the SLRA AGM, KCC was now asking Westwell Parish Council to re-submit their Highways Improvement Plan and had obtained 3 quotations for a traffic survey at Potters Corner.

Item 7: Footpath closure

DP said that footpath AW134 has been closed on 16 April as an emergency, for an initial period of 21 days, for the part which runs from Sandyhurst Lane (in the vicinity of numbers 178/180) to Kingsland Lane. The closure was because of potential danger to the public due to the presence of large deep holes and collapsed land drains in the vicinity of the footpath. Representations had been made to KCC, both by the SLRA and Westwell Parish Council, to try to ensure that, in addition to making the footpath safe, due regard was taken to ensuring that the land drainage was maintained and improved, as there had been significant flooding in the past to properties on Sandyhurst Lane near the bottom of the footpath and fields. **JH** said that he had seen a large digger in operation on site earlier that day and **DP** said that a member had reported seeing drainage equipment and tractors on site, so it appeared that work had commenced. **DP** agreed to continue to monitor progress with these works in consultation with KCC. All committee members were asked to notify him if they observed any significant progress on the site. **ACTION DP/ALL**

Item 8: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that the Independent Inspector's report had been issued. Sandyacres Sports & Social Centre would not now be designated as a Local Green Space, as this would conflict with the Ashford Local Plan. The Sandyacres site would, however, be protected by its status as a sports and recreational hub in the Ashford Local Plan. Following amendments by Ashford Borough Council, the next stage would be a public referendum of the Plan.

FD asked if there was any further information on the tree felling which had taken place on the Eastwell Estate adjacent to the A251. **BH** said that an update from Forestry England was awaited.

Item 9 Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that Sandyacres had re-opened with a limited service, in accordance with Government guidelines. The bar would remain closed until a further relaxation was permitted. **TB** advised that, as a non-statutory but community group, the SLRA could seek Assets of Community Value (ACV) status from Ashford Borough Council for a building or other land which they believed to be of importance to the community's social well-being.

Item 10: Consultations

There were no relevant consultations to consider.

Item 11: Membership

DP said that membership now stood at 151. He had written to cash members inviting them to renew by online banking and the number of outstanding subscriptions had dropped from 47 to 19. One new member had been in correspondence with the Chair with a view to joining the committee as a co-opted member. **ACTION TB**

Item 12: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the current bank balance was £2509.37, with liabilities of £147 (£44 defibrillator pads, £43 Zoom, £60 Website hosting).

Item 13: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated. **JH** confirmed that the Neighbourhood Watch sign missing from the A20 end of Sandhurst Lane had now been re-printed and **AP** agreed to help with its re-installation. **JH** said that he was also planning to re-print another faded Neighbourhood Watch sign from further along the Lane and **AP** offered to assist in its removal and replacement. **ACTION JH/AP**

Item 14: Other business

AP was thanked for reconnecting the electrical supply to the SLRA defibrillator at the Hare and Hounds and supplying a new junction box.

BH said that he had observed a surveyor measuring distances in the road from Lenacre Street to Eastwell Lake. The purpose was unknown but members would look out for any further activity.

Item 15: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on a 30 June 2021, by Zoom. **ACTION DP**