

**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds  
on Wednesday 29 April 2015**

**Present:** Tony Bartlett, Joanna Clarkson, Bryan Hall, Desmond Henley, John Hobbs and David Porter.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mike Cullen, John Faulkner and Howard Preston.

**Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015****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: Review of AGM, 25 March 2015**

It was felt that the event had been very successful, with a good mix of interesting speakers, addressing some wider issues. The wine tasting event at the end of the meeting had been particularly successful in encouraging members to stay and socialise/network and it was felt that something similar should be included next year.

It was decided to undertake an email survey of those who attended, to seek feedback.

**ACTION DP**

**Item 3: Planning Issues****i. Planning applications and outcomes**

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for extensions at 27 & 65 Sandyhurst Lane and Lantern Lodge, Westwell Lane. It was also noted that applications had been made for extensions at 31 Sandyhurst Lane and Oaklands, Westwell Lane.

**ii. Site Submissions for Ashford Local Plan to 2030**

No further information was yet available from Ashford Borough Council on the long-awaited short list of site submissions for the Local Plan to 2030. With the forthcoming election, it was feared that further delays might mean that it would not be published until late in 2015.

It was decided to write to the Planning Policy Manager at Ashford Borough Council seeking more information on the likely timescale, in view of the 'planning blight' being suffered by many residents in the vicinity of candidate sites.

**ACTION DP**

**Item 4: Traffic issues**

The committee considered the suggestion, made by the Chairman at the AGM, that SLRA should conduct its own traffic survey in Sandyhurst Lane, given that the results of the recent survey carried out for Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council had been carried out when the Lane was undergoing substantial road works. Two possible methods were identified: (i) a 'manual' method, using observers at each end of the Lane, counting and identifying (and possibly timing) vehicles, (ii) a 'smart' method, using video cameras at each end of the Lane to record the data. The legality of the latter method was questioned and it was decided to seek advice from the police.

**ACTION DP**

**Item 5: Community Governance Review**

**DP** outlined the background. The borough-wide review was being undertaken by Ashford Borough Council following petitions supported by over 1,000 signatures each from Kennington and South Ashford Community Forums. Under the terms of reference, in addition to considering whether to create community councils for unparished parts of the borough, consideration would also be given to existing parish boundaries and their electoral arrangements. Responses were due by 29 May.

An email survey of residents in the unparished part of the SLRA area (Bockhanger ward) had a very poor response, but the majority of respondents supported both the creation of Community Councils and the realignment of boundaries. A draft response had been prepared, following a suggestion by a respondent that the boundary down the centre of the western part of Sandyhurst Lane should be realigned so that the (unparished) properties currently in Bockhanger ward (and Central Ashford County division) should be included in Westwell Parish (and Downs West ward and Ashford Rural West County division).

**TB** said that he had discussed the issue with the Chair of Westwell PC, who was supportive. He undertook to hold a similar discussion with the Chairman of Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council. He would also raise the issue with the Kennington Community Forum. **JH & TB** both had contacts at Central Ashford Community

Forum and would raise the issue with them. It was felt that the SLRA submission would carry more weight if supported by some or all of these bodies. **ACTION TB/JH**

#### **Item 6: Flooding**

Mike Cullen had reported by email that no updates were yet available, but he would report back once the flooding group had met and agreed actions.

#### **Item 7: Mains drainage**

A member had recently asked the SLRA to consider lobbying for mains drainage to be extended to Sandyhurst Lane, where most properties are presently not connected. There was a wide range of views amongst committee members. Some properties were equipped with cesspits which had to be regularly emptied, whilst others had septic tanks which were emptied less often. One member reported that his system, which treated effluent efficiently and discharged the water into a soakaway, had required to be emptied only four times in the past thirty years. Others felt that the costs of mains drainage would outweigh the costs of the alternatives, especially when the initial installation costs are taken into account.

It was decided to write to Southern Water to enquire about mains drainage options for those properties in the SLRA area currently without it. **ACTION DP**

#### **Item 8: Membership**

**DP** said that four new members had joined at the AGM on 25 March and many other members had renewed their subscriptions at, and since, the AGM. There were now 136 members, of which 30 were yet to pay their subscriptions for 2015. **DP** would send an email inviting these members to renew. **ACTION DP**

#### **Item 9: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was not present, but **DP** reported that the bank balance at the AGM on 25 March was £1,526. Since then, £120 in subscriptions had been passed to the Treasurer's office and the following expenditure had been incurred: AGM (Sandyacres) £112.30, AGM (Westwell Wines) £62.80, website costs £68.99 (including a 5 year domain licence), postage £3.50. The Association's financial assets therefore stood at approximately £1,400.

#### **Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch**

The latest updated list of members had been circulated with the agenda. **DP & JF** had attended the meeting of Weald Co-ordinators and others on 28 March 2015 at the Julie Rose Stadium. The Powerpoint presentation by Alex Harrington had been circulated to committee members. **JF & DHe** were planning to attend the Kent Police Awareness Conference in Maidstone on 20 June.

#### **Item 11: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association**

**BH** said that he was not a member of the BA&E RA but had become involved, together with his wife, in the preparation of the BA&E Neighbourhood Plan, led by Winston Michael. **JF** had asked about the SLRA representation on this group; **BH** said he would discuss this with **JF**. **ACTION BH**

#### **Item 12: Other business**

**DP** reported that a resident had complained about a Sandyhurst Lane property allegedly being used for the sale of second hand cars. The complaint had been forwarded to the planning enforcement department at Ashford Borough Council.

**DP** reported that two residents had complained about the alleged destruction of a hedge and verge near the entrance to Sandyacres, to create a vehicle parking area. One of the complainants was now going to contact Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council.

**DP** reported that, following complaints about inconsiderate parking by participants in the Ashford Marathon on 19 April 2015, the organisers had been contacted. They had apologised and promised to ensure that there would be no participant parking in Sandyhurst Lane at next year's event.

**JF** had asked, by email, whether the local paper's campaign to clear litter could be extended to Sandyhurst Lane, perhaps using local school children, and whether the road signs could also be cleaned. The consensus was that health and safety issues (referring to traffic in the Lane) precluded such a campaign.

**TB** had attended the Kennington Community Forum meeting on 20 April. Volunteers were sought to help with the Spring Fair on 27 June. A volunteer was also sought to deliver the KCF Newsletter at the end of May to addresses in Sandyhurst Lane falling within the KCF area. **DP** agreed to do the latter. **ACTION DP**

#### **Item 13: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 July 2015 at the Hare & Hounds. **ACTION DP**