

**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)
on Wednesday 29 September 2021**

Present: Tony Bartlett, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Biggs, Bryan Hall, Desmond Henley, John Hobbs, Graham Mullaly, David Porter and Sue Wood.

Item 1: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 2: Minutes of meeting held on 30 June 2021**i. Approval**

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

On the issue of the tree felling which had taken place on the Eastwell Estate adjacent to the A251, **BH** and **DP** said that they would have further discussions and raise the issue with the Tree Officer at Ashford Borough Council. **ACTION BH/DP**

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

Item 3: Planning Issues

Eureka Park: It was felt that the Quadrant Estates public consultation launched at the end of August on their proposals for "Trinity Lakes" was not as wide ranging as it could be. **SW** said that the pandemic was no longer a valid excuse for not holding a public event and this was reducing public engagement. **GM** said that leaflets advertising the consultation had not been delivered in Westwell Lane. The SLRA, together with all local parish and community councils, had not been invited to contribute. **TB** said that he was preparing a draft SLRA response which he would circulate to committee members in the near future. **ACTION TB**

Item 4: Traffic issues**i. Speeding on Sandyhurst Lane**

JH had recently written to Cllr David Brazier, Cabinet Member, Highways & Transport at Kent County Council, seeking a 30 mph speed limit along the entire length of Sandyhurst Lane. Cllr Brazier had indicated that the lack of "a pattern of crashes" in this area meant that it would not be included in KCC's programme of improvements, but he suggested contact with local parish councils and elected County Members as an alternative. He also suggested contacting the Police Speed Watch team. **TB** said that Westwell Parish Council was shortly to meet with KCC Highways to progress its Highways Improvement Plan, which included painting 30 mph signs on the relevant parts of Sandyhurst Lane. He would also suggest the use of Speed Watch.

It was felt that the traffic problems in Sandyhurst Lane were likely to get worse, particularly in view of the Eureka Park development, which would cause higher traffic volumes in both Trinity Road and Sandyhurst Lane. It was agreed that **JH** would reply to Cllr Brazier, saying that he had discussed the issue with the SLRA committee and elaborate on what we should like to achieve in terms of traffic measures for Sandyhurst Lane and the underlying reasons. He would also draw on the work by Westwell PC on their Highways Improvement Plan and the KCC "Vision Zero" strategy. **ACTION JH**

ii. M20 noise

DP said that an enquiry had been received from new members about the possibility of acoustic barriers on the M20. This was one of the measures, like resurfacing, which had been raised in our campaign over the past 10 years with Highways England and

with our MP, Damian Green, who held regular meetings with Highways England (recently re-named National Highways). Despite earlier promises to resurface the M20 in 2021/22, this had now been delayed until 2022/23 and there was no prospect of any other noise reduction measures.

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

It was noted that the result of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum held on 29 July 2021 had been an overwhelming "yes", albeit with a low turnout. The Plan was now being used in planning decisions and was being formally adopted by Ashford Borough Council.

TB asked **BH** if he had any information on the Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Highways Improvement plan and whether there was any prospect of using it to reduce the 40 mph speed limit in Sandyhurst Lane. **BH** said he would make enquiries.

ACTION BH

Item 6 Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that Sandyacres had now resumed a full service, though bookings were still down and the Manager was running the facility on her own at present. An SLRA member had recently queried new "Keep Off" signs which had been erected near the Sandyacres pitches.

FD said that the Trustees had agreed that more prominent signs were needed to remind the public that the pitches were not for public use and that the Public Right of Way was around the edge of the site. This was because of littering, dog fouling and damage (eg from barbecues); also when staff or trustees had approached offenders they have suffered abuse.

A discussion was held about public access to Sandyacres and transparency of its affairs. **TB** asked **BH** if he could ascertain whether the minutes of Trustee meetings were made available to Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council.

ACTION BH

Item 7: Consultations

There were no consultations appropriate for an SLRA response, other than that for "Trinity Lakes", which had been dealt with under Item 3.

Item 8: Membership

DP said that membership remained at 150 net, 3 members having moved/left and 3 new members having joined. 4 cash subscriptions were overdue, down from 16, and these members would be given final notice prior to removal from membership.

ACTION DP

Item 9: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the current bank balance was £2,425.04, with liabilities of £15.

Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated. A member who had suffered financial loss through a roofing scam had recently been threatened by the same culprits. The police were aware and the information had been circulated to members and, through Westwell Events, to a wider audience.

Item 11: Other business

GM said that he had approached the landlord of the Hare & Hounds about its possible role as a basis for building the community, eg by offering a discount to residents, but had not received a positive response.

FD said that Sandyacres would be interested in working with the SLRA on an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2-5 June 2022). It was now desirable to seek feedback from members on the likely level of support. **JH** agreed to develop a draft for circulation to members.

ACTION JH/DP

Item 14: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 30 November 2021, by Zoom.

ACTION DP