

**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)
on Wednesday 30 June 2021**

[This meeting was held online because of the restrictions of the Covid-19 virus pandemic]

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

Apologies were received from Doug Harman.

Item 1: Committee membership

Mrs Susan Wood was invited to join the committee as a co-opted member. She accepted, observing that she was actually re-joining the committee, having been a committee member and Secretary until 2008 when she left on her appointment as Clerk to Westwell Parish Council, a post from which she had just retired. Susan was warmly welcomed back to the committee.

Item 2: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3: Minutes of meeting held on 28 April 2021**i. Approval**

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

DP confirmed that the AGM for 2022 had been rescheduled from 17 to 16 March, due to the availability of Sandyacres. **TB** had passed the date to the proposed speaker.

TB said he had written to a member who had offered to join the committee and would pass a copy to **DP**.

ACTION TB

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

Item 4: Planning Issues

It was noted that documents had now been published for the appeal against the refusal of 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. SLRA had submitted objection comments to the retrospective application, and it was not considered that any further comments to the appeal were necessary.

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for demolition (retrospective) and erection of replacement dwelling at Two Chimneys, 28 Sandyhurst Lane and for extensions at Rivendell, Westwell Lane.

It was noted that permission was being sought for extensions at 73 Sandyhurst Lane and Kingsland Grove, Kingsland Lane (revision to planning permission 20/00163/AS) and had been refused for extensions at 172, 352 & 388 Sandyhurst Lane.

In the case of 172 Sandyhurst Lane, a revised application had been submitted and it was agreed to review this and submit comments if appropriate.

ACTION ALL

[Secretary's note: Closing date for comments is 9 July, so please forward any views asap]

Item 5: Traffic issues

TB said that Westwell Parish Council was amending its Highways Improvement Plan to re-submit to KCC. This was necessary before further progress could be made on measures which include the painting of 30 mph reminder signs on the surface of Sandyhurst Lane.

Although KCC had obtained 3 quotations for a traffic survey at Potters Corner, no funds were currently available to progress this.

FD said that the recent closure of Sandyhurst Lane for electrical repair work by UK Power Networks had been ignored by some drivers, with bollards and barriers being unofficially moved.

JH said that the traffic in Sandyhurst Lane seemed to have become worse in recent months, with three areas of concern: road safety at Potters Corner, disregard of the 30 and 40 mph speed limits and the parking problem at the Faversham Road end of the Lane. **TB** said that he would contact the Clerk of Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council (BA&E PC) to raise the issues of parking and traffic speed in the 40 mph zone. **ACTION TB**

BH said that he understood that BA&E PC had asked Cllr Winston Michael to look at the parking issue and **DP** said that Winston Michael had mentioned it in his address to the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Item 6: Footpath AW134

DP said that the part of footpath AW134 which runs from Sandyhurst Lane to Kingsland Lane, which had been closed on 16 April as an emergency, had reopened 3 weeks later following repairs by the land owner. However, recently two of the "sink holes" had opened up again and had been fenced off for safety. SLRA committee members have reported the issue to the KCC Public Rights of Way team who have inspected the problem and are now working with the landowner/manager responsible to resolve it.

Item 7: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that, following amendments by Ashford Borough Council, the public referendum had been scheduled for 29 July 2021. The SLRA had advised members.

On the issue of the tree felling which had taken place on the Eastwell Estate adjacent to the A251, **BH** said that he was still awaiting a response from Forestry England, to whom he had written in April. It was agreed to raise the issue with the Tree Officer at Ashford Borough Council. **ACTION BH/DP**

Item 8 Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that Sandyacres planned to resume a full service from 19 July 2021, in accordance with Government guidelines and the Trustees planned to meet on site at Sandyacres on 6 July.

Item 9: Consultations

TB had prepared a background note on the consultation by the Boundary Commission for England on the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies, Initial proposals. This consultation closes on 2 August 2021. Because of the growth of the population in and around Ashford, it would be necessary to create a new constituency to keep within the statutory number of constituents. This was proposed as the Weald of Kent, with significant commensurate revisions to the constituencies of Ashford and Faversham & Mid Kent. The proposed border between Ashford and Faversham & Mid Kent included the existing border of Downs West borough ward, which now runs just behind the south side of Sandyhurst Lane and its side roads. **TB** said that the proposals would mean that there would be three MPs with responsibility for issues in and around Ashford and the background paper suggested possible changes to reduce this to two MPs.

Following a wide ranging discussion, it was decided that this was an issue for individuals and that a collective response from the SLRA would not be appropriate, as there was likely to be a divergent range of views. **TB** agreed to prepare a concise briefing paper to inform members, who would be able to make individual responses to the consultation if they wished.

ACTION TB

Item 10: Membership

DP said that membership now stood at 150. One new member had joined, two had moved away. 16 cash subscriptions were overdue, down from 18, and these would be pursued.

ACTION DP

Item 11: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the current bank balance was £2529.37, with liabilities of £164.33.

Item 12: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated. A recent scam, which had resulted in financial loss to a member, had been reported to police and circulated to members as a cautionary tale.

Item 13: Other business

GM suggested that the Hare & Hounds might be used as a basis for building the community, eg if the landlord was willing to offer a discount to residents. He offered to explore the possibility further.

ACTION GM

FD said that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2 June 2022) could be an opportunity for residents to hold a street party at Sandyacres. **TB** suggested that it could be raised at the AGM in March to "test the water". **FD** agreed to find out if Sandyacres would be willing to work with the SLRA on such an activity.

ACTION FD

Item 14: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29 September 2021, by Zoom, subject to review.

ACTION DP