



Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds on Wednesday 4 February 2015

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

Apologies for absence were received from Don Murrell and Howard Preston.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed and signed.

ii. Matters Arising

TB had attended a recent meeting of the Kennington Community Forum and had been invited to join the 'Core Group'.

Item 2: Planning Issues

i. Planning applications and outcomes

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for extensions at 154 & 328 Sandyhurst Lane and that an application had been made for extensions at 65 Sandyhurst Lane.

ii. Site Submissions for Ashford Local Plan to 2030

In a general discussion it was noted that Ashford had sufficient dwellings already planned for the likely demand to 2030; the economic slow-down had substantially moderated the future likely requirements. Amazon had pulled out of plans for a fulfilment depot near the proposed junction 10A of the M20.

With reference to the site submissions for the Local Plan, a copy of the SLRA survey report had been sent to Winston Michael ahead of meetings of the Planning Policy Task Group. It was further agreed to update him on the committee's deliberations which recognised that a blanket 'no' was unlikely to have much impact and that a measured approach should be taken to any sites which are adopted, to minimise the impact of any development on the rural nature of our area.

ACTION DP

Item 3: Traffic issues

The report of the Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Parish Council (BA&E PC) traffic survey had now been published and included reference to possible traffic calming measures in Sandyhurst Lane to reduce 'rat-running'. [The link to the report was sent to all members on 20 December 2014]. Although the report did not identify rat-running as a major problem, it was noted that some of the survey had been carried out when there were major road works in the Lane for gas main repairs. The report was now in the hands of BA&E PC to decide the next steps.

Speeding in Sandyhurst Lane was also a problem and it was agreed to seek views at the AGM, eg to support a lobby for the installation of traffic calming measures.

Some residents had recently complained about the noise from refrigerated lorries parked overnight in the A20 layby. It was agreed to raise this also at the AGM. If the recently mooted lorry park was built (to mitigate Operation Stack), then we should press for prohibition of overnight parking by lorries on the A20. It was recognised that there is currently a severe shortage of lorry parking facilities; the park at junction 11 of the M20 is regularly 20% oversubscribed and the park at Sevington is closing.

Item 4: Membership

DP summarised the membership report that had been circulated. In addition to the new member listed, a further new member had joined in the last few days. Four members had not renewed in 2014 and committee members would follow this up. **ACTION ALL**

Most standing order renewals had been received on 2 January and cash/cheque renewals would be sought at the AGM.

Item 5: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest updated list of members had been circulated with the agenda. Several committee members were planning to attend the meeting of Weald Co-ordinators and others on 28 March 2015 at the Julie Rose Stadium.

Item 6: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association

JF said that the BA&E RA had recently met for the first time in 9 months; this was because resources had been diverted into the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This was now with the Parish Council in draft form and a consultant was advising prior to submission of the Plan to Ashford Borough Council (probably in the Autumn).

Item 7: Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not present, but **DP** reported that the Treasurer's office had advised him that the bank balance was £1,446.01.

Item 8: Planning for AGM, 25 March 2015

i. Agenda

It was agreed to go ahead with the wine tasting session by Westwell Wines (maximum budget £150) and to serve tea/coffee and biscuits at the end of the meeting. The agenda was revised and agreed. **ACTION DP**

ii. Speakers and Invitees

The following speakers had been secured:

A representative of the Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group (probably Matthew Capper)

A representative of the Kent Community Warden Service (Dave Beckley or his nominee)

John Rowe, owner of Westwell Wines.

It was agreed that the 'Open Forum' would include planning, road traffic issues and flooding. The possible formation of a flooding sub-committee would be raised in the Secretary's report. Winston Michael would be invited to update the meeting on the 'submitted sites' issue and the BA&E Neighbourhood Plan. **ACTION DP**

All the relevant county and borough councillors had been notified. David Robey was unable to attend. A formal invitation would now be sent to the others and to the Parish Council Chairmen. It was also agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch Ashford police volunteer should be invited. **ACTION DP**

iii. Flyer and its distribution

The draft flyer was agreed, subject to completion of outstanding items and the distribution would be organised by Neighbourhood Watch areas about 3 weeks before the AGM. **ACTION ALL**

iv. Admin

Committee members were asked to arrive by 7 pm, to assist with preparations. **ACTION ALL**

The Secretary would send round a formal note to committee members to check whether they were willing to stand for re-appointment or, if necessary, re-election to the committee. **ACTION DP**

Item 9: Other business

DHe raised the issue of the Association's response to the death of a member. It was agreed that care should be taken when addressing bereaved relatives. The Chairman said he would write a letter of condolence to the widower of a recently deceased member. **ACTION JH**

TB said that Kennington Community Forum had recently achieved their target of over 1,000 signatures for their petition to Ashford Borough Council to conduct a Community Governance Review with a view to establishing a Kennington Community Council.

Item 10: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 April 2015 at the Hare & Hounds. **ACTION DP**