

**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)
on Wednesday 7 October 2020**

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

Present: Tony Bartlett, Bryan Biggs, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Hall, Desmond Henley, John Hobbs, David Porter and Evan Thomas.

Item 1: Record of meeting held on 3 June 2020

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Item 2: Planning Issues

Eureka Park: **TB** said that the developers of Eureka Park (Quadrant) had met with Westwell Parish Council (and other local parish councils). They confirmed there would be a buffer area between the development and Sandyhurst Lane, which would be owned by a management company who would be responsible for all landscaped areas. There would be no vehicular access to Sandyhurst Lane (except for emergency vehicles).

Further details of the site layout etc would become available to residents through the planned online consultation due in the near future. Parish Councils and the SLRA would have advance sight of this.

Sand Pit: It was noted that the KCC Ecological Advice Service had recently stated "*We have reviewed the additional ecological information submitted with this planning application and we advise that it has not fully addressed our previous comments provided in June 2020.*"

A further submission from the developers was therefore awaited.

Residential: It was noted that applications for extensions at 14 and 31 Sandyhurst Lane had been approved.

Item 3: Traffic issues

It was noted that Damian Green MP had held a meeting with Highways England on 30 September, at which he had undertaken to raise the issue of M20 traffic noise and resurfacing. In support, the SLRA had assisted a local resident to organise a petition which had attracted over 1,000 signatures. **TB** had written to Quadrant, developers of Eureka Park, who had then added their support by writing to Damian Green. **TB** had also written to Damian Green, asking him to raise a ministerial question in the House if no satisfactory response was received from Highways England.

DP agreed to seek feedback from the meeting. It was noted that Damian Green will be addressing the Rotary Club later this month and **JH** agreed to ask questions if appropriate.

ACTION DP/JH

[Secretary's note: A letter giving feedback from the meeting was received the following day]

TB said that KCC had confirmed that parish Highways Improvement Plans (HIPs) had been overtaken by the Government's **Emergency Active Travel fund**, of which Kent had received £8M. Resources were being devoted to this rather than HIPs. Consequently, Westwell Parish Council had written to Cllr Charlie Simkins for support with short term measures, such as

painting 30 mph signs on the carriageway and erecting “Not suitable for HGV” signs at each end of Sandyhurst Lane.

A recent incident in which a member had witnessed a very large articulated hay lorry encountering difficulties in Sandyhurst Lane had been reported to the police/PCSO.

Item 4: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Residents’ Association/Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Regulation 16 version of the Neighbourhood Plan had been published for a six week period of public consultation running until 6 November. **BH** welcomed the publication and felt that events such as the rejection of the planning application for 21 dwellings at Lenacre Hall Farm and the recognition of Sandyhurst Lane as the rural border were encouraging. He pointed out that the Plan included a new footpath which ran from the existing footpath AU2A to the top of the hill in Sandyhurst Lane (in the vicinity of number 296).

It was agreed to provide an SLRA statement of support for the Plan, provided that the policies it contained were properly enforced. **ACTION TB/DP**

TB said that the Plan and many other aspects of planning were threatened by recent Government proposals for changes in the planning system (see item 6).

Item 5 Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that the Sandyacres facility had re-opened in August, but only to selected organised groups, not the general public. The Trustees had this year invested £20,000 in improvements, including re-decoration, LED lighting and upgrading the football pitches. A meeting of the Trustees was to be held in the near future.

Item 6: Consultations

The Ashford Borough Council consultation on the Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Neighbourhood Plan had been dealt with under item 4. **TB** said that two Government consultations on planning policy had the potential to significantly change future planning policy (“Changes to the current planning system” which had closed on 1 October and “Planning for the future” which was to close on 29 October). The Ashford part of the Kent Association of Local Councils was contributing to the responses.

It was noted that the Government is looking at the reorganisation of local government and that a consultation on a unitary authority for Kent may result.

It was agreed that consideration would be given to an SLRA response to the Government consultation “Managing pavement parking”, which closes on 22 November. **ACTION TB/DP**

Item 7: Broadband

A recent report that Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) was available in Watery Lane had not been confirmed by the Openreach website. It was noted that cable broadband is available in Lenacre Street and some adjacent parts of Sandyhurst Lane.

Item 8: Membership

DP said that there were now 155 members, 4 new members having joined recently. 17 cash subscriptions for 2020 remained unpaid. [Secretary’s note: subsequently corrected to 11 cash and 2 standing orders unpaid].

Item 9: Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance in March had been £2,091.39 and had since received a number of subscription payments. Two expenses claims, totalling £210 had recently been submitted. An up to date bank statement had been requested. [Secretary’s note: the bank balance at 1 October was £2,381.39]

Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated

Item 11: Other business

TB thanked **Evan Thomas** for his greatly appreciated contribution to the work of the SLRA committee over many years and wished him well for the future, as he was soon to resign from membership on his forthcoming move to Bearsted. The committee unanimously endorsed these sentiments.

FD asked if there were likely to be any new committee members. **TB** said that, in the absence of the AGM, reports from the Chairman and Secretary should be circulated (to committee then members), with a call for new committee members and election if appropriate. This was agreed. **ACTION TB/DP**

BH said that he had asked the Forestry Commission to investigate whether the felling and thinning of trees on the Eastwell Estate adjacent to Lenacre Street was within the conditions of the relevant licences. A site visit was scheduled for the following week.

Item 12: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held by Zoom, on a date to be decided.

ACTION DP