



**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)
on Wednesday 7 December 2022**

Present: Tony Bartlett, Bryan Biggs, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Hall, 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 20 September 2022

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

TB had attended a training course on the new Ashford Borough Council (ABC) planning portal and had raised the issue of the lack of planning notifications to non-statutory bodies such as the SLRA. He said that Westwell PC was notified all applications in its area and that he would ask the Clerk of Boughton Aluph & Eastwell if she would forward notifications of planning applications in that area.

ACTION TB

FD said that he had consulted the Sandyacres Trustee Board on the possible erection of a flagpole at Sandyacres. The Board was in favour of a flagpole near the entrance to the site. **TB** said that he would obtain quotations and arrange a meeting to take the matter forward.

ACTION TB

Item 3: SLRA Secretary

TB said that there had been no response to the appeal to the members for assistance in the administration of the SLRA. He had circulated a document summarising the key achievements of the SLRA over the years and proposed that it should be sent to members to remind them of what would be lost if the SLRA were wound up. There followed a discussion of the role of SLRA in relation to the local parish councils and the need for a body to campaign in the interests of residents when issues (eg the Local Plan 2030) arise. Several committee members offered to help with administration of the SLRA if they were able to. **BH** said he would talk to a new neighbour who had IT and communication skills, with a view to assisting the SLRA. **SW** offered to prepare the minutes of meetings.

ACTION ALL

Item 4: Planning Issues

TB said that ABC were still working on the Stodmarsh issue, so major developments, including that on land at Eureka Park, were still on hold.

It was noted that two of the planning applications on the agenda were for extensions to aid disabled or elderly residents and it was agreed that the SLRA was not against sensitive developments of this nature.

TB said that there had been no progress by ABC in taking enforcement action against the oversize development at Elvey cottage, Kingsland Lane. Westwell Parish Council were aware of this and were pressing for action.

Item 5: Traffic issues

KCC had been instructed to proceed with the safety measures for Sandyhurst Lane, contained in the Westwell Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). Due to

weather considerations, these were now to be implemented in Spring 2023. **TB** said that, following this, Westwell Parish Council would work with Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Parish Council with a view to reducing the speed limit for the whole of Sandyhurst Lane to 30 mph and then 20 mph.

Item 6: Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that Sandyacres was to receive a grant from the Lawn Tennis association to upgrade the surface of the tennis courts, but the foundations of the courts had to be renovated first.

Item 7: Consultations

There were no consultations appropriate for an SLRA response.

Item 8: Membership

DP said that membership had reduced from 146 to 143. Two members had moved away, one was deceased and one “remote” member had now discontinued his subscription.

Item 9: Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the current bank balance was £2631.54, with liabilities of £43.17. It was noted that there were sufficient funds to purchase a replacement cabinet for the defibrillator (see item 11).

Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated. **DP** asked who would take over the roles of local coordinator currently undertaken by himself and **JH** when they resigned at the end of the month. It was agreed that a single person could act for all the current coordinators, as the role was almost entirely reviewing and forwarding selected emails received from the Neighbourhood Watch police volunteers, with very little local feedback from members.

Item 11: SLRA Defibrillator

The SLRA defibrillator remained out of service since 1 July due to the failure of the cabinet opening mechanism. Attempts to contact the manufacturer and effect a repair had been unsuccessful. It was agreed to replace the existing electronically locked cabinet with a mechanically locked version. **DP** was asked to contact **AP** to see if he would be able to install a new cabinet.

ACTION DP

Item 12: Other business

DP said that the SLRA Facebook page was ready to be launched to members. It was not intended to compete with other local Facebook pages but was a “members only” site which would be used to communicate SLRA campaigns, news and issues. News items would in future be published only on this Facebook site and not on the website. Commercial activity would not be allowed. It was agreed to launch the Facebook page and **SW** said she would take over the administration on **DP**’s retirement.

ACTION DP/SW

SW said that there was a problem with dog excrement not being picked up in Hoads Wood Gardens. **JH** kindly offered to provide a sign to be erected in Hoads Wood Gardens and asked **SW** to provide the wording.

ACTION JH/SW

Item 13: Next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged in correspondence.