

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association

Minutes of SLRA Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds on Wednesday 11 September 2013

Attendees: John Hobbs, Norma Devereese, John Faulkner, Desmond Henley, David Porter

By invitation: Alexandra Harrington, Kent Police, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, East Kent Division

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Peddle and Howard Preston.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2013

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed and signed.

ii. Matters Arising

JH showed the design for the new notice board which his company had produced. It was agreed that the aluminium frame would be finished in green with white lettering. **JH** kindly agreed to manufacture and erect the notice board. **ACTION JH**

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

Item 2: Neighbourhood Watch

In discussion with Alex Harrington, the arrangements for the residents' meeting, to be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 25 September at Sandyacres, were finalised:

All committee members were invited to become local NW co-ordinators for around 30-40 properties.

All those present accepted, those absent to be emailed. **ACTION DP**

All coordinators need to complete a form to register for the police messaging service; this can be handed in at the meeting. **ACTION ALL**

JH offered to print the new flyer, which had been redesigned at his company, and this would be distributed by committee members to all residents during the week ending Saturday 21 September. **ACTION ALL**

It was agreed to attach a membership form to the flyer. **ND** agreed to re-design the form to incorporate the standing order form and **JH** agreed to print it. **ACTION ND, JH, DP**

It was agreed that the printing costs incurred for the flyer and the membership form would be met from SLRA funds.

DP will draft and circulate the agenda for the meeting. **ACTION DP**

The meeting format will be an introduction by the Chairman, followed by a talk by Christine Peel, PCSO, about the scheme, followed by a Q&A session. Alex agreed to ask Christine if she would like to get in touch with SLRA with a view to a short meeting in advance of the event. **ACTION AH**

Alex will supply Christine with NW stickers and 'no canvasser' stickers for distribution to residents. **ACTION AH**

DP will email Alex to request two signs @ £9.00 each and the installation recommendations. **JH** agreed to arrange for their installation. **ACTION DP, JH**

DP will seek two committee volunteers to look after the registration desk at the entrance to the meeting. **ACTION DP**

Item 3: Planning Issues

There were no contentious planning issues to discuss.

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for a garage conversion at 4 Watsons Close and a two storey and single storey rear extension at Eversleigh, Westwell Lane. A new application had also been made for the erection of a first floor rear extension & side first floor bay window at Cumberland, Westwell Lane

Item 4: Traffic issues

i. A20/Sandyhurst Lane junction

It was noted that KCC Traffic Schemes had responded to the SLRA lobby, which had been intensified when a serious accident occurred on 10 July 2013. KCC had now put forward revised proposals which addressed the main criticism we had of the original scheme, by including a vehicle-activated 'SLOW DOWN' traffic sign on the Maidstone approach to the junction, in addition to one on the Ashford approach to the junction. It appeared that the installation works had been started in the last few days. It was also noted that the following had appeared in the papers for the Joint Transportation Board meeting of 10 September 2013:

*"A20 / Sandyhurst Lane: Interactive warning signs on approaches to crossroads
Works ordered, planned for Sept/October (subject to electrical connection work)."*

ii. M20 Noise Action Group

AP was unable to be present, but it was believed that there had been no recent activity by the M20NAG.

Item 5: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association

JF & ND reported that the BA&ERA was interested in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, but had not yet implemented it. The village fete, which had included a stand by the RA had been less successful than hoped for, due to the inclement weather. There was a strong interest in trying to improve the quality of broadband available in the village. The road traffic survey project was proceeding with financial support from the Parish Council and the Government.

Item 6: Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not present.

Item 7: Membership

DP said that, since the last meeting, 6 members had renewed their subscriptions, largely due to the efforts of DHe, who had made a number of house calls. One member had left, having moved out of the area. JH reported that a further new member had joined. Consequently, there were now 70 paid up members, compared with 69 at the end of 2012.

Item 8: Education on Twitter and Facebook

JF said that the BA&ERA had persuaded him to register for their blog website and showed some examples of useful output. He suggested that, although this agenda item was to be deferred until the next meeting, it should be expanded to include blogs.

ACTION DP

Item 9: Other business

DHe complained about the introduction by Ashford Borough Council of a £30 charge for the fortnightly removal of garden recycling in brown bins. Members expressed mixed views on the issue and no specific action was agreed.

DP referred to an email received from a member about the difficulties of exiting their drive safely. Members discussed possible solutions and the Secretary agreed to respond to the member.

ACTION DP

Item 10: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 November 2013. The venue is to be confirmed.

ACTION DP