

**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)  
on Tuesday 20 September 2022**

**Present:** Tony Bartlett, Bryan Biggs, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Hall, Graham Mullaly and David Porter.

Apologies were received from Doug Harman, Desmond Henley, John Hobbs, Andy Peddle and Sue Wood.

**Item 1: Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Item 2: Minutes of meeting held on 27 July 2022**

**i. Approval**

The minutes were agreed.

**ii. Matters Arising**

On the issue of the tree felling which had taken place on the Eastwell Estate adjacent to the A251, **BH** said that he had received a response from Forestry England in August, stating that an offence had been committed under section 17 of the Forestry Act 1967 and a restocking notice had been issued. **DP** said that this had been communicated to members, several of whom had replied, praising the actions by the SLRA in pursuing this issue. It was agreed that it would be necessary to monitor further developments, to ensure that restocking was actually carried out. **ACTION ALL**

**TB** said that, with reference to the Queen's Jubilee, Westwell Parish Council (WPC) was considering planting a tree, possibly on the green in Hoads Wood Gardens. It would be considered further at the November WPC meeting.

**TB** also suggested the erection of a flagpole on the green in Hoads Wood Gardens, or at Sandyacres. There were mixed views and it was agreed to ask all committee members for their views. **FD** said that he would consult the Sandyacres Trustee Board on the issue. **ACTION DP/FD**

**Item 3: SLRA Secretary**

**TB** said that, on the basis of the brief prepared by the Secretary, the duties were too much for one person and proposed that they be split into three parts:

- Constitutional Secretarial duties, including membership database, subscriptions, committee and AGM administration, agenda and minutes, etc.
- Member Services, including issues and concerns, membership notifications and alerts, newsletter content, etc.
- Communications, including website and IT management, database management, social media, etc.

**TB** had prepared a full list of these roles and agreed to circulate it to all committee members. If the proposal was supported, the membership would be approached to seek assistance with fulfilling these 3 roles. **ACTION TB**

**Item 4: Planning Issues**

**DP** said that the introduction of a new planning portal by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) had resulted in a cessation of email planning alerts and weekly lists from ABC. The new portal was very difficult to navigate. Consequently, SLRA members were no longer receiving planning information from the Secretariat. **TB** said that he would ask the Westwell parish clerk what information she received and how it was transmitted. Consideration would be given to

writing to ABC, advising them of the unsatisfactory nature of the new arrangements, which prevented the SLRA from fulfilling its duties to its members. **ACTION TB/DP**

#### **Item 5: Traffic issues**

The safety measures for Sandyhurst Lane, contained in the Westwell Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), were due to be implemented by KCC Highways, after residents had been advised. **TB** said that he had drafted a suitable leaflet for distribution to the relevant residents as an insert to the October Westwell Eye. **DP** agreed to finalise the document. **ACTION DP**

**DP** reported that the recent survey of members resulted in 50 being in favour of a 20 mph speed limit along Sandyhurst Lane and 10 against the proposal. Several of those against the proposal [Secretary's note – it was 4] would support a 30 mph limit along the whole of the Lane. It was noted that Boughton Aluph & Eastwell PC's draft HIP included a 30 mph limit instead of 40 mph in their part of Sandyhurst Lane. **TB** said that Westwell PC would support a similar measure in their part of Sandyhurst Lane, in a future HIP. It was agreed to write to the local parish councils, supporting this objective. **ACTION DP**

**FD** raised the issue of large numbers of cars parking very close to the junction of Sandyhurst Lane and Faversham Road in the afternoons when parents were collecting their children from Towers School. An approach to the school had not yielded any improvement. **DP** suggested an approach to the police, who had successfully dealt with a similar parking issue at the entrance to Hoads Wood Gardens. It was agreed that the SLRA would make the approach. **ACTION DP**

#### **Item 6: Sandyacres Trustee Board**

**FD** said that bookings for the Sandyacres facility were improving following the pandemic. The Trustees continued to support the facility financially, but it was hoped that it would return to self-sufficiency by Christmas.

#### **Item 7: Consultations**

There were no consultations appropriate for an SLRA response.

#### **Item 8: Membership**

**DP** said that membership had reduced from 148 to 146. One member who had re-joined earlier in the year had not paid a subscription and one had moved away. It was noted that John Hobbs had tendered his resignation from the committee as from the end of the year.

#### **Item 9: Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the current bank balance was £2664.71, with liabilities of £28.78.

#### **Item 10: Neighbourhood Watch**

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated.

#### **Item 11: SLRA Defibrillator**

The SLRA defibrillator remained out of service since 1 July due to the failure of the cabinet opening mechanism. **AP** had been in contact with the manufacturer, but it appeared that the required technical information had not been received. **TB** suggested that SLRA should contact the manufacturer. **DP** agreed to liaise with **AP** and try to progress the repair. **ACTION DP**

#### **Item 12: Other business**

There was no further business.

#### **Item 13: Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 10 November 2022. **ACTION DP**