



**Minutes of Committee meeting held online (using Zoom)
on Tuesday 27 July 2022**

Present: Tony Bartlett, Bryan Biggs, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Hall, Desmond Henley, David Porter and Sue Wood.

Apologies were received from Doug Harman John Hobbs, Graham Mullaly and Andy Peddle.

Item 1: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 2: Minutes of meeting held on 12 April 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 contacted Forestry England again. His original contact had been replaced but the new contact (John Stafford) had not responded. **DP** had written to the BA&E parish clerk. In her reply she stated that the parish council was aware of the case, but only to the same extent as the SLRA.

TB said that with reference to the Queen's Jubilee, the SLRA had written to Ashford Borough Council expressing interest in the tree planting planned for the Autumn.

DP confirmed that committee members had agreed in correspondence that the implementation of a 30mph (or 20mph) speed limit along the length of Sandyhurst Lane should be a declared objective of the SLRA (see item 4 for further discussion).

Item 3: Planning Issues

It was noted that the application for Land at Eureka Business Park was still awaiting decision. Permission had been granted for an extension at Elden, 61 Sandyhurst Lane and for an extension at St Helens, Westwell Lane.

Item 4: Traffic issues

It was disappointing that the safety measures for Sandyhurst Lane, contained in the Westwell Parish Council Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), had not yet been implemented. **TB** said he would raise this on behalf of the SLRA at the next Westwell PC meeting. **SW** confirmed it would be easy to circulate a targeted flyer on the HIP proposals to the Westwell residents through the Westwell Eye distribution system. **TB** to advise Westwell PC. **ACTION TB**

Following the committee's agreement that the implementation of a 30mph (or 20mph) speed limit along the length of Sandyhurst Lane should be a declared objective of the SLRA, it was decided to adopt an objective of a 20 mph limit. This was consistent with the recent approval by Ashford Borough Council for a 20 mph scheme in Kennington which, if successful, would be followed by others. It was agreed to consult members and seek their views. If positive we would advise both our parish councils and elected representatives of our objective and invite their support. **ACTION DP**

Item 5: Sandyacres Trustee Board

FD said that the football season had now finished but bookings for the Sandyacres facility were starting to pick up following the pandemic. The Trustees continued to support the facility financially, but it was expected to return to self-support towards the end of the year.

TB suggested that the SLRA could help promote the events at Sandyacres. **DP** said there was already a link to the Sandyacres website on the SLRA website. It was agreed to remind members of the events at Sandyacres and provide a link to their “Whats On” website page.

ACTION DP

Item 6: Consultations

There were no consultations appropriate for an SLRA response. The KCC Bus Funding Reduction consultation report had been issued, confirming plans to cease bus route 123, amongst others, in the Autumn.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport had issued a consultation on “Developing a tourist accommodation registration scheme in England”, aimed at improving regulation of Airbnb premises. Although there are currently none in the SLRA area, it was agreed to bring the consultation to the attention of members, many of whom were likely to be Airbnb users.

ACTION DP

Item 7: Membership

DP said that membership was stable at a net 148. One new member had joined and one had sadly deceased. Cash members were being encouraged to renew their subscriptions and there were now 23 outstanding.

Item 8: Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the current bank balance was £2659.71, with liabilities of £14.39.

Item 9: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest Neighbourhood Watch database had been circulated.

Item 11: SLRA Secretary

The current Secretary had written to the Chair in June to advise that the time had come for him to step down from the position of Secretary and from the SLRA committee. He had undertaken the former for over 11 years and the latter for 18 years. In order to provide as much notice as possible, he planned to step down at the end of this year, 31 December 2022. It was agreed that **DP** would prepare a brief outlining all the tasks undertaken as Secretary and that the Chair and committee would then review the various duties and decide on the best way forward. The next committee meeting would concentrate on this issue, including considering how we embrace emerging technologies and widening use of social media.

ACTION ALL

Item 13: SLRA Defibrillator

The SLRA defibrillator had been out of service since 1 July due to the failure of the cabinet opening mechanism. Andy Peddle had been working to fix the problem and was in touch with the manufacturers for technical assistance. A vote of thanks to Andy was recorded for the time and effort he was devoting to this issue.

Item 12: Other business

There was no further business.

Item 13: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 September 2022.

ACTION DP