



SLRA AGM 15 March 2022 Secretary's Report

Since last year's AGM, the committee has met 5 times by Zoom. All the meetings were well attended by an average of 8 members, many of whom felt that meeting online made more efficient use of time.

We were pleased to welcome to the committee Graham Mullaly, following his election at last year's AGM. We were also pleased to welcome as a co-opted member Susan Wood, who was actually re-joining the committee, having been a committee member and Secretary until 2008 when she left on her appointment as Clerk to Westwell Parish Council, a post from which she has now retired.

The Chair's report covers all the major issues we have dealt with over the year. As Secretary, my duties include submitting our formal responses on key issues and consultations to local authorities and other relevant bodies. I also ensure that the SLRA views on matters of concern to members are communicated to Councils, utility companies, road race organisers, local farmers and other relevant stakeholders.

My duties also include keeping databases and the website up to date and sending out over 120 members' emails each year. These have been on a very wide range of subjects, including planning, traffic issues, road and footpath closures, local election results, lorry parking bans, bus services, the "tip" booking system, Operation Brock, Ashford 10 & 5 mile runs, Ashford 10k run, overgrown footpaths, defibrillators, post collection times, water works, power cuts, parking, bin collections and so on.

We also carried out a small reorganisation of our Neighbourhood Watch schemes and now have ten rather than nine local schemes (as we did at the inception of our Neighbourhood Watch schemes in 2013).

Overall, a great variety of issues has kept the committee and the secretariat very busy over the year. Our membership has remained stable and includes 43% of the 347 homes in our area.

Finally, may I record the Association's thanks for the support we receive from our county, borough and parish councillors and the relevant officials in councils, the police and many other bodies we deal with; we greatly value our close working relationships with them and the bodies they represent.

And, of course, thanks to you the members for your support and your friendly emails and calls. We greatly value your membership.

Finance

The balance of the Association's bank account currently (24/02/2022) stands at £2,803.04. This compares with £2479.37 at the last AGM in 2021.

David Porter, 24 February 2022