

Howe Green Community Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Association
held on Monday 15th May 2004
at Howe Green Chapel

Chairperson David Pearson
Vice Chairman Ken Wedon
Minute Secretary None
Treasurer Wendy Spooner – absent

Committee Members:

Judy Bynom - absent
Martin Cross
Caroline Hartard - absent
Pauline Hollingsworth - absent
David McGregor - absent
Vic Morgan
Richard Spooner
David Yolland - absent
Co-opted: Neville Jessop (Chair - Sandon Parish Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Wendy Spooner
Judy Bynom
Pauline Hollingsworth

2. Minutes from the last meeting held in Jan 2004

Vic proposed and Richard seconded. Approved.

3. Parish Council update from Neville

3.1. AGM

The AGM of the Parish Council was held on Monday 10th May. Neville was confirmed as Chairman for a further year, Ian Wright accepting the post as Vice Chairman although he has accepted the post of Mayor of Chelmsford for a year commencing later this month. We now have a full council with seven members.

3.2. Planning

- a) The planning application for the Nursing Home in East Hanningfield Road will be determined on Tuesday 18th May. Officers have recommended approval.
- b) A further application has been received from Brett's for retention and use of the concrete batching plant. The condition for this application is for recycling of aggregate and building material. The Parish Council will be opposing this application on the grounds of importation of material to the site.
- c) the application for the composting facility will probably be determined at the end of this month. A Further Risk assessment document has been received from the consultants working for Brett and the Parish Council will respond to this assessment.
- d) Hyde Hall has now gone to inquiry, the Inspector is scheduled to hear about the objections etc sometime in November. The Parish Council has opposed this application on the grounds of increased traffic movement along East Hanningfield Road. Currently, Rettendon, Sandon, Runwell and East Hanninfield Parish Councils have objected and there is a possibility of legal representation for these councils at a cost of £6000.

Apart from the Hyde Hall application, planning applications can be seen by phoning the clerk on 227734 on Monday or Thursday mornings and arrange a convenient time to view.

3.3. Verge Clearing

The council has now purchased a flail machine to fit on the front of the tractor mower already in use. This flail will cope with rough grass and we will be looking at covering more verges in the parish this summer.

4. Hand-out for new residents.

It was proposed that the distributors be made aware of the existence of the hand-out and should be encouraged to provide copies to any new residents on their rounds. The availability of the hand-out should also be raised at the AGM. Neville volunteered to provide copies for the distributors. Copies can also be downloaded from the HGCA web site: www.hgca.org.uk.

5. Environment

5.1 Refuse collection

The Saturday visits of the refuse vehicle to the lay-by have now be arranged with the Borough council. The dates, when known, will be propagated on the HGCA web site and with the distribution of the AGM notification.

5.2 Hyde Hall Access

The committee discussed the likely impact of the proposed access to Hyde Hall via East Hanningfield Road. It is expected that the access will generate traffic of around 250,000 vehicles per annum, many of which will be routed via Howe Green. The proposal is being backed by the Essex County Council but opposed by Chelmsford Borough Council and four local Parish Councils, including Rettenden and Sandon. The opposition is on the basis of the impact of traffic on the villages on the route. The opinion expressed was that it was ludicrous to spend £M1 on traffic calming only to unleash such traffic onto country roads. The parish councils propose to engage a solicitor to represent the views of the local communities. It was agreed to raise this matter at the AGM with a view to obtaining a wider consensus.

5.3 Travellers

It was pointed out that travellers own several tracts of land in this area, some of which they could be allowed to settle on.

5.4 Waste Disposal

It was pointed out that some aspects of the waste disposal plant may generate noise that could impact on some Howe Green residents.

6. Social Events

It was agreed, in principle, to organise a Garden Party this summer, around the end of August or the beginning of September – possibly on the August Bank Holiday weekend. Vic agreed to look into available venues. At least two venues have been proposed – Greenfields farm and Southlands Farm. It was agreed that the subject should be discussed at the AGM, to gauge the likely response and to illicit help from volunteers.

It was proposed that we join in the Sandon Fete at around 26 June?

7. Agenda for AGM

Neville agreed to approach Ian Wright with a view to giving a talk, as the new Mayor of Chelmsford. Failing that, he would approach the local Police Community Officer.

Additional items for the agenda were:

The Garden Party

The likely impact of Hyde Hall access traffic.

Election of additional members of the committee – in particular, a minutes secretary.

The Parish Plan – a talk by Neville.

8. Finance

Richard presented the accounts for 2003/2004 and reported that three collectors had brought in their collections. We have £1239.02 in current account and £1224.72 on deposit.

9. Any other business

None.

Meeting closed 20.00