

Howe Green Community Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Association

held on Monday 18th April 2005

at Howe Green Chapel

Committee Members :-

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

Judy Bynom
Martin Cross
Caroline Travis
David McGregor
Richard Spooner
Gabi Everett
Mark Rayner
Vic Morgan

1. Apologies for Absence

Ken Wedon, Richard Spooner, David McGregor, Anne and Ron Gaylor, Vic Smith, Pauline Hollingsworth, Neville Jessop, David Travis.

2. Minutes from 2004 AGM

Approval proposed: Caroline Seconded: Wendy.

3. Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported an income of £576 for 2004/05 up from £169 the previous year. This was the result of increased collections and a profit on the garden party.

Expenditure was £251 up from nil the previous year. This included two years hire of hall and photocopies.

The total cash in the bank amounts to £2183.00, up from £1,858.00 the previous year.

5 Chairman's report

Thanks to committee members for their help and support during the past year.

Environment

Kelly Turkeys, who are situated down the end of the Old Southend Road, applied for permission to slaughter turkeys for 365 days of the year, instead of the current limit of 21 days per year. We opposed this and the application was turned down by the council. On invitation, members of this committee visited Kelly Turkeys and were shown around the establishment. We were impressed with the set-up and convinced that extending the permitted days of operation from 21 to 50 days per year should be permitted. This, we decided, would not lead to any expansion of operations or nuisance. In fact, not to allow the extension could result in more local nuisance.

Hyde Hall are intent on expanding their operations and creating a new access road to the site. This is likely to result in increased traffic to the site. Unfortunately, Hyde Hall is located in the middle of the countryside so any increase in traffic is

likely to impact on local communities. Their original intentions were for an access road extending across Bicknacre Road on to the East Hanningfield Road. This was opposed by all the local communities and particularly by Rettenden and East Hanningfield. Planning permission was refused – largely because of the potential effect of traffic on Rettenden. The application was likely to go to appeal. However, instead, they proposed opening a route onto CreepHedge Lane, with the intention that traffic would approach from the south from Rettenden Turnpike, the A132 and Shaw Farm roundabout. Along with East Hanningfield, we were opposed to this, arguing that most traffic from the north would take the shorter route through Howe Green and East Hanningfield. We were overruled, however, and the council approved the new proposal, provided certain conditions were met. Sandon Parish Council are pushing for an arrangement of the junction with CreepHedge Lane that will discourage traffic from taking the northerly route through East Hanningfield. Also coaches will be forbidden from dropping parties off, leaving them and picking them up later.

We have campaigned for closure of CreepHedge Lane, to reduce the traffic from South Woodham Ferrers and Hyde Hall, with no success so far. We have requested that Essex County Council perform a road traffic count on East Hanningfield, to give us some campaigning evidence.

Although we are not on the diversion route, traffic through the village is likely to increase while roadworks have closed the main road through Danbury.

We have been campaigning for cleaning of the cycle path along the border of the Southend Road and have had some success. There is a problem with blocked drains at the bottom of the hill - we are trying to get them cleaned out.

Social Events

The garden party held on 18th September 2004 was judged a success. Financially, we aimed to break even, but in fact made a profit. The committee expressed its thanks to the various people who contributed so much to the event. It is hoped to hold a similar event in August this year.

Seven of us enjoyed a very successful dinner at the Royal Oak, Danbury a week or so ago. This was ably organised by Vic Morgan.

We produced a newsletter, as usual, in the Autumn and the Spring one is due out soon. Any contributions or suggestions would be welcome.

We have a web site for the use of residents. We also have an email forum for discussions.

We would appreciate any feedback or contributions for the newsletter or the web site.

We have produced a Welcome leaflet for new residents, giving some basic information about the area and facilities. Please look out for new residents and see that they receive a copy. Copies are available on the table. They can also be obtained from me or from the web site.

Questions

In response to a question about where the new road joins Creephedge Lane, the chairman explained that the new road joins Creephedge Lane about 500m from the Bicknacre road. He also explained that coaches would be forbidden from dropping off their passengers and coming back for them later – causing complications as incoming and outgoing coaches try to pass on the narrow Creephedge Lane. Creephedge Lane is expected to be improved to the extent of providing passing places.

The timescale for the changes has not been finalised.

The meeting discussed the Saturday collection of rubbish in the layby. The chairman explained that the dates were on the website and will be included in the Spring newsletter. It was explained that there are also rubbish dump sites at the Boreham Interchange and at South Woodham Ferrers.

4. Election of Officers

The chairman, vice-chairman and treasurer are all willing to stand again. Would anyone care to propose re-election:

Proposed: Vic Seconded Judy

The chairman asked for a volunteer to take the post of Minutes Secretary. There were no takers.

5. Election of Committee Members

The following committee members are available for re-election:

Judy Bynom, Martin Cross, Caroline Travis, Vic Morgan, Richard Spooner, Gabi Everett.

Proposed: Harry Pounder Seconded Pam Knott

Nominations for new committee members were invited. There was no response. Wendy expressed concern that we may not have the required minimum number of committee members.

7 Sandon Parish Report

Neville apologises for not attending this meeting but sent in the following report.

The closure of the A414 will inevitably mean a number of vehicles will be using the country roads to bypass the road workings. We have discussed with Essex County Council the problems we are likely to encounter and have been assured that diversion signs have been put up to route traffic away from the 414 without using minor roads. This of course will not prevent those drivers who know their way around from creating rat runs. The programme is to last until late August.

All problems regarding Highways are now the responsibility of Essex County Council. All officers from the Borough Council for Highways maintenance have moved over to the County Council.

Sandon quarry. Robert Brett, who owns the quarry site, has put the Waste Management Department on the market. If a major company experienced in waste disposal buys out Brett, there may be changes to the way the quarry is used for waste disposal. Landfill has been ruled out on environmental grounds but this does not mean that the site will not be used for other means of waste disposal. The County has now issued invitations to tender for three plants to cater for MBT (Micro-biological Treatment). There is a possibility of seeing a plant in Sandon.

Annual assembly The Parish Council will be holding its Annual assembly next Monday 25th April 7.30 at Sandon Village Hall. The Borough Council Planning department is to give a resume of progress of the new local Plan. We would like to see as many people as possible from Howe Green come to this meeting to hear if there are plans to build any more houses in the area and any possible revisions of the defined Settlement zone around Howe Green. Incidentally the area behind the bus shelter that has been cleared recently is outside the defined settlement zone.

Annual General Meeting The Parish Council will be holding its Annual General Meeting on May 9th at 7.15 pm in Sandon Village Hall, this meeting will be the election for the position of Chair and Vice-chair for the ensuing year.

That concludes the Sandon Parish Council report. If you have any questions, please come to the Annual Assembly at Sandon Village Hall next Monday at 7.30.

6. Summer Garden Party

It was proposed that we hold a garden party again this summer. The chairman appealed for volunteer helpers to contact either him or Vic Morgan.

7. Any other business

Bernard Woodcraft asked that his appeal for someone to cut his grass go on the website. The chairman explained that the appeal was already on the web site and would go into the newsletter.

Harry Pounder expressed concern about traffic negotiating the pinch points on Southend Road and also stated that the road camber could cause traffic to drift onto the wrong side of the carriageway. Also, cyclists are using the main road instead of the cycle path.

The meeting discussed the routes for diverting traffic from Danbury.

Harry Pounder expressed thanks to the committee for their efforts in the past year.