

Howe Green Community Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Association Committee
held on Monday 16 May 2005
at Howe Green Chapel

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

Committee Members:

Judy Bynom - absent
Martin Cross - absent
Gabi Everett
Caroline Travis - absent
Vic Morgan
Richard Spooner - absent

1. Apologies for Absence

Judy Bynom
Martin Cross
Caroline Hartard
Ken Wedon
Richard Spooner

2. Minutes from the last meeting held in March 2005

Minutes were accepted. Proposed Vic. Seconded Wendy.

3. Matters arising from last meeting

Cycle path cleaning. There has been some activity cleaning the path. Some difficulty with clearing the drain. There is work still to be done. The posts on the cycle way, intended to stop parking, could be a danger in the dark. Sandon PC have complained. Some of the cycle path fencing has been damaged; it will be repaired.

Essex CC have refused to consider closing Creephedge Lane but the junction with the Hyde Hall access road will be arranged so that it will be difficult for coaches to negotiate the access road from the direction of East Hanningfield.

4. Parish Council update from Neville

Parish Plan

Efforts are continuing to commence the study into preparation of a Parish Plan. An officer from the Planning Department gave an overview of the new Local Development Plan progress within Chelmsford Borough Council and advised that a properly constructed Plan for the parish would be considered with any major developer coming forward for expansion of properties within the parish. I give to the chair a copy of a Village Design Statement for South Hanningfield: the chair agreed to circulate it to the committee. This is an example of what another parish has done. (Many examples are also available on the Internet – search for ‘Village Design Statement’.)

It is important that the HGCA be represented in any discussions in the preparation of the Parish Plan. **It is important that we advise the Chelmsford Borough Council of what we are and are not prepared to accept.** The procedure will involve setting up a committee of around 16 people who will go back to their areas and set up sub-committees to prepare their section of the plan.

People will be asked to provide an input for the document. It is important that the Borough Council receives an input from all parishes. If a parish provides no input and there is plenty of land in that parish, then that parish may be considered ripe for development. There are at least four property developers interested in Sandon. For instance, Countryside Properties hold options to buy large tracts of land south of Howe Green village. They plan to build 1600 dwellings. The old A130 forms the green belt boundary. Anything to the east of that can be built on. Various applications for development will probably come up in September 2006. Chelmsford Borough Council have to provide 14,000 houses by the year 2021.

Vandalism

The Village has suffered from a lot of vandalism recently. Cars have been damaged, the play area damaged and litter bins set on fire. The windows of the vestry in the church were broken and damage caused to the doors of the St. Andrews Room. Attempts were made to open the safe but it was empty at the time. There was an attempted break-in of the hut owned by the Garden and allotment Association but failed to gain access. The Police were notified and a number of youths have been questioned by the Police, one youth has had a parenting order placed on him and so far things have quietened down. The people responsible for damage to the church windows have also been found.

Planning Applications

Planning applications have been checked and one application recommended for refusal has been turned down by the Planning Officers.

Tree Preservation Orders

We now have a dedicated councillor responsible for trees in the parish. Mrs Pat Nicholson has been asked to undertake this responsibility. Tree preservation orders have been placed on both ends of East Hanningfield Road

Disability Act

Discussions are in hand with the Village Hall Management Committee to upgrade the village hall for the new disability act. It has been suggested that the Parish Council could benefit with this by increasing the size of the hall to accommodate not only the requirements of the act but include an office for the council and a separate meeting room.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place last Monday. There were no changes to the Chair and Vice-Chair. Neville remains as Chairman for the time being and Ian Wright continues as Vice-chairman now his Mayoral duties have finished.

Traffic

Traffic waiting orders have been completed for Woodhill Road outside Sandon School where pupils and parents parking their cars have caused disruption for buses and other vehicles.

Police

Graham Easey has now left South Woodham Ferrers and his replacement is PC Adams. Our Local Community Beat Support Officer is Lynda Samways, both located at South Woodham Ferrers.

5. Environment

No planning applications have been received relating to the site behind the bus shelter.

6. Social Events

Summer Garden Party

It was decided that, provided enough people volunteered to help, we would have a garden party. Vic has approached Lesley Frankland with a view to holding it at Caynes, EH Road. Lesley is willing and will come back with a date, probably first or second Saturday in September. Caynes will be a very pleasant venue.

The opinion was expressed that we had too much food and drink last year and we should cut down this year.

We need six or eight people to help with the preparation and to organise things on the day. It was agreed that the chairman would approach the following people to help:

Judy Bynom, Don and Lou McDonald (food), Delroy and Hazel Harris, Paul and Yvonne Bullock, Caroline and David Hartard, Brian and Jackie Beales.

Committee members David, Vic, Wendy and Gabi, plus Neville, agreed to help. David volunteered wife Barbara. Wendy volunteered husband Richard (to help on the day).

It was agreed to have an organisational meeting on **Monday 20th June 2005 at 8 pm.**

Sandon Fete

Fete will be on Sandon Recreation Ground on Sunday 26th June 2005 from 13.30 to 17.00. Proceeds to Sandon funds.

It was agreed that the HGCA should organise a Tombola. Wendy agreed to organise it provided she was helped. It was agreed to put out a notice of the event, asking for contributions. The notice could include a tear-off slip saying 'I have some items for collection'.

7. Treasurer's Report

Six collector rounds have come in: ten to go. A new collector is required for Alexander Mews.

Current account: £1254.00.

Deposit account £1061.21.

With a surplus in the kitty, either the annual dinner or the garden party could be subsidised.

8. Any other business

Next committee meeting: 19 September 2005.