

Howe Green Community Association

AGM

Tuesday 17th April 2007 at 8 pm in the Howe Green Chapel

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Pauline Hollingsworth, Peter Longhurst, Don Reel, Jean Jessop.

2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

Proposed Judy Bynom Seconded Richard Spooner
Approved.

3. Neighbourhood Watch

I have taken on the mantle of NW coordinator for Sandon. I will be running it through the email forums for Howe Green and Sandon. Most Howe Green residents who have email are already members of the HG forum and you will have seen various NW bulletins recently. If you have email and are not a forum member, please see me afterwards if you wish to join.

A recent initiative is the Neighbourhood Action Panel or NAP, on which I am your representative. The object of this panel will be to highlight those aspects of law enforcement that are of most concern to the community. The panel will meet regularly to establish targets – maximum three – on which the police will concentrate their limited resources. The first NAP meeting is next week and I would like to present, at that meeting, a list of law enforcement aspects that most concern this community – so please let me have your opinions.

Neville Jessop explained that he had taken on the overall organisation of NW for the whole of the South Woodham Ferrers area – including Sandon.

4. Sandon Village Design Statement – Neville Jessop

Neville Jessop, vice-chairman of the VDS committee, give a short talk on the purpose, importance and progress of the Village Design Statement (VDS) currently being produced for Sandon. Under the recent planning changes, the VDS document has become a Local Development Plan. The Sandon VDS Association initially produced a questionnaire for distribution to the community only to be told that they were not asking the right questions. At a recent meeting, the committee decided to employ a professional to produce the questionnaire. Negotiations are currently under way.

Once the questionnaire has been produced, it will be distributed to all residents. We hope they will respond by indicating their preferences on the manner in which any future development of the parish should proceed. The Borough Council will vet the questionnaire before it is distributed.

From the results of the questionnaire, the committee will produce a draft VDS document. After further consultation with residents and the Borough Council, the document will be submitted for approval. Once approved, it will be available for reference by any body proposing any sort of development in the parish. The Planning Authorities will then have grounds for refusing planning permission for any development that contravenes the recommendations outlined in the VDS document.

In response to a question, Neville explained that the Borough Council will still be the planning authority, but the VDS document will be available as a guide for the sort of development that would be acceptable to the residents.

5. Sandon Parish Council Report

The parish council have been very active under the able leadership of Councillor Ian Wright. He apologises for not being here this evening – he had a prior engagement.

Sandon Parish Council will be subject to election on May 3rd. Since there were only 6 nominations for 7 places, no elections will be necessary and all 6 nominees will be deemed elected. Your Howe Green representatives will be Ron Robin-Coker and myself.

All parish councillors are members of the Sandon email forum which you can join via the Sandon Parish Council web site: www.sandon.info. On the web site you can keep up to date with all parish council activities, including minutes of Parish Council meetings.

The council is working towards obtaining Quality Status, which will make it more effective in its operation.

Council activities this past year have included: a new web site (www.sandon.info) a new park seat, new noticeboards, dismantling of the vandalised children's playground which had become dangerous and various planning activities. It is hoped to provide new play facilities but there are difficulties in finding a suitable site.

The Annual Assembly will take place in Sandon Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 30th April 2007. Some Borough Councillors and County Council highways representatives are expected to be there to answer your questions. This should be quite an important event so please try to attend.

6. Chairman's Report

Your committee has been active in a number of areas.

Environment:

We have been agitating for various improvements:

- A pedestrian crossing at the Colchester sliproad of the A12 – no progress
- Safety improvements at the roundabout leading to the Colchester sliproad – to be looked at this year.
- Repairs to damage at pinch points on the Southend Road. The trees have been replanted. It is hoped that other repairs will be undertaken in the near future.
- A working group of residents did a clean-up of the pinch-points and planted daffodils.
- Concerns about the operations of Kelly Turkeys were ironed out to the satisfaction, in the main, of all parties.

Social Events:

A tombola stall at the Sandon Fete last June. £149.50 profit.

Summer Garden Party: Judged a success despite questionable weather.

Sunday Lunch last month. Over 30 enjoyed a good gossip over a good lunch.

Although our intention was to break even, we made a small profit on all these endeavours.

7. Treasurer's Report

Wendy explained that subscriptions were down by £100 on the year but bank interest was up and we made a profit on the Tombola Stall, the garden party and the Lunch. Outgoings were up at £113. Income increased giving a total in the bank of £3749. (See accounts attached.)

In response to a question about the reduction in subscriptions, Wendy explained that more people were now reluctant to pay even the small subscription requested.

Pam confessed that she had not yet paid in the subs that she collected last year. Wendy said she would add them to the accounts for next year.

Concern was expressed that some residents were not paying their subscriptions.

8. Election of Officers.

The following are available for re-election:

Chairman: David Pearson
Vice-chairman: Ken Wedon
Treasurer: Wendy Spooner

We need to elect a Minutes Secretary – a volunteer please!

There were no further nominations.

Proposer: Anne Gaylor Seconder: Barbara
Motion passed with no opposition.

9. Election of Committee Members.

The following are available for re-election:

Judy Bynom, Martin Cross, Caroline Travis, Vic Morgan, Richard Spooner,
Gabi Everett, Yvonne and Paul Bullock.

There were no further nominations.

Proposer: Barry Bynom Seconder: Bob Fisher
Motion passed with no opposition.

10. Environment

Speeding Traffic

People have complained about speeding traffic on the East Hanningfield Road. It has been suggested that we buy and install one or more Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs on the road. A grant may be available that will reduce the cost to around £1500. We could ask for a grant from Sandon Parish Council also. We do have around £3000 in the kitty. The meeting was asked if this should be pursued.

After discussion of various options, including speed bumps, mobile resident-controlled speed cameras and pinch points, it was decided not to buy VAS and that we would ask the police, through the NAP, to increase the number of speed checks. *The chairman agreed to include this request in the next NAP meeting.*

Waste Plan

Neville broached the subject of the Waste Plan for Essex. The proposal by Essex CC is being revised from six major sites to three. The three in prospect would be Rivenhall, Stanway and Coutauld Road, Basildon. Planning for the Rivenhall site has been approved. The Stanway site is also likely to be approved. As regards the Basildon site, there is an action group that is calling for Sandon to be used instead. The developers of the Rivenhall site have stated that the Sandon site is not really suitable. It is possible that some small facility, such as for composting (already approved), may be installed at Sandon but no more.

On incineration, Essex CC has indicated that it would oppose any proposals for Mass Burn incineration plants in Essex. These cause emission problems. The current incinerators produce Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) that can be used for cement or

electricity production. Any RDF produced is likely to be used by an installation at Thurrock.

11. Social Events

For the Sandon Fete, Wendy and Yvonne have agreed to run a Tombola stall again this year. Please contact Wendy or Yvonne or any committee member if you can help. They will need your contributions. The fete will be held at the Sandon Village Hall field on Sunday 24th June 2007.

Summer Garden Party. In view of the success of previous similar events, it is proposed that we hold a Garden Party again this summer. If this is to take place, we need a **venue** and volunteers to help out. The date has yet to be finalised but **we need a venue – a large garden**. Please see Vic Morgan or myself if you can help.

12. Any other business

Anne pointed out that the RHS has still not installed the promised brown signs directing Hyde Hall traffic down the new A130. *The chairman promised to chase this.*

The chairman clarified the hazard that exists at the A130/A12 roundabout to Colchester.

There was discussion on the prospect of street lights being turned off at night to save energy.

Ken commented favourably on the results of the tidying performed by the working party on the pinch points. It was agreed, however, that the entrance to the village at the roundabout was a shambles and that we should remonstrate further with Essex CC Highways to get this fixed asap. *Ken and Vic agreed to approach Councillors with a mandate from the AGM with a view to expediting the work, in the hope that they may have more influence.*

It was pointed out that Essex CC highways representatives will be present at the Annual Assembly in Sandon on 30th April 2007.

There were complaints about litter, particularly at the bottom of Gingerbread Hill.

It was suggested that we ask Sandon PC to have the handyman paint the entrance structures annually – to keep them in good condition. *The chairman agreed to ask.*

It was agreed to organise a working party on the first Sunday every month to weed the pinch points. *Yvonne and Wendy agreed to organise this. The chairman agreed to put out a notice for volunteers. To meet at 10 am.*

The refuse left over from the ditch clearance on Southend Road has still not been cleared. *The chairman agreed to chase this.*

Howe Green Community Association

Income and Expenditure Account

	Year ending	2005/06	2006/07
Income		£	£
Subscription		443.00	322.00
Bank interest		27.00	39.00
Surplus on Functions:			
Meal		99.00	60.00
Garden Party		267.00	230.00
Sandon Fete		165.00	149.00
		_____	_____
	Totals	1001.00	800.00
Expenditure			
Photocopies		40.00	15.00
Hire of hall		60.00	60.00
Others:			
Bulbs		0.00	15.00
Gift		0.00	23.00
Subsidy on functions		0.00	0.00
		_____	_____
	Total	100.00	113.00

Totals in deposit and current accounts combined:

Cash in bank at end of March	£3062.00	£3749.00
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Figures rounded up to nearest £

Subs handed in after 31 March 07 will be included in April 08 accounts.

Treasure: Wendy Spooner