

HOWE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Association Committee
held on Monday 15 September 2008
at Howe Green Chapel

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

Committee Members:

Martin Cross
Caroline Travis - absent
Vic Morgan – Left before main committee meeting
Richard Spooner - absent
Yvonne Bullock
Paul Bullock – absent

Mr Kevin Walter plus associate and wives.

Various residents were present for the initial discussion, mainly Bridleway residents.

1. Proposal for football pitch off Bridleway

Mr Kevin Walter gave a presentation of his proposal to the association. This was followed by questions and a discussion on the pros and cons. No support for the proposal was voiced and a number of objections were raised. The chairman agreed to supply a summary of the objections to Mr Walter. Ken agreed to write to Bretts, who own the Bridleway, to ascertain their position. The main objections were:

- A basic objection was to the principle of a facility will be introduced that the community will have no or little use for.
- Assurances made now may carry little weight in the more distant future. The community will ultimately have no control over what goes on the site.
- Once a non-agricultural use is approved, the door is opened for changes later (perhaps much later).
- The access road is inadequate and would be very difficult and expensive to repair to sufficient standard. There are no passing places – vehicles would have to go onto the verge to pass. In winter, the verges are very wet and soft so that vehicles would quickly become bogged down. This would result in damage to the verges.
- Noise resulting from traffic and the football matches.
- The car park could attract unsavoury uses and, perhaps, travellers. Locks and chains will not deter travellers.

2. Apologies for Absence

Vic, Richard, Paul, Caroline. Vic left early.

3. Minutes from the last meeting held in May 2007

Minutes were accepted.

4. Matters arising from last meeting

The council have still not done anything about the mounds of soil left on the verge after ditch digging and cable installation. It is really untidy as grass is growing and cannot be mown. Needs levelling out, at least, so that it can be mown. There are no attempts to mow the grass down that part of SE Road. *David agreed again to contact SPC to see if something can be done*

5. Sandon Parish Council Report

Flashing speed signs should be operating within a month or so.

There are moves afoot to rebuild Sandon Village Hall.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

Recent burglaries in Chalklands and EH Road. Recent burglary in Butts Green, attended by a police helicopter.

Ten volunteers completed the Community Speed Watch course. We await supply of road signs and high-visibility jackets by the police.

7. Environment

There is a possibility of having a footpath on EH Road. Opinions are divided. David is in the process of contacting ECC about this.

Saturday Standouts will collect any recyclables, not just the types collected at the door.

Sloe bushes outside the cottages near the tennis courts need cutting back as they are a hazard to cyclists on the path. *David will check with SPC.*

The post in the middle of the path beside the railing needs a pair of reflectors fitted as it is a hazard for cyclists at night. *David will check with SPC.*

David agreed to check with SPC if allotments could be provided in Howe Green.

Yvonne agreed to do some weeding and asked if we could supply some bulbs for planting. *David agreed to consult Neville.*

Yvonne raised the matter of weeds on the pinch points. A vote between grass and chippings was a tie. The chairman cast his vote for wood chippings *and agreed to contact Neville to obtain some.*

The recent mowing mowed the litter as well as the grass and made it look worse. The litter should be picked, probably prior to mowing the grass. *David will check with SPC.*

The double-decker school busses that are parked down the old A130 come speeding dangerously through Howe Green. *David agreed to check if they have planning permission.*

8. Social Events

2008 Garden Party

The garden party was cancelled due to lack of response and a problem with the venue.

Quiz Night

It was agreed to organise a quiz night some Saturday night in November. David agreed to ask Dave if he would comper. Numbers would be restricted to eight tables with six on each (48 max). Cost £5 each. Yvonne agreed to provide the food and organise the raffle (7 or 8 decent items). A contribution to charity or charities would be made with any remainder going the HGCA funds. Committee members will fill tables.

9. Treasurer's Report

Current account: £691.22

Deposit account: £3643.34

10. Any other business

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm.