

# HOWE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 8 pm  
in Howe Green Chapel

### Minutes

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Caroline Travis, Pauline & Tony Hollingsworth, Barbara Pearson, Jean Jessop, Yvonne Bullock.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

Proposed: Neville. Seconded: Richard Approved.

#### 3. Sandon Parish Council Report

Cllr. Ian Wright gave a short report on the activities of the parish council.

He urged members to attend the annual assembly taking place on Monday 27th April 2009.

The flashing speed signs have been provided successfully and Essex County Council consented to pay for them.

The precept for the parish council remains about the same.

We have the new footpath along EH Road.

John Galley, Borough finance, will be coming along to the Annual Assembly.

The Park & Ride and the extension of bus passes to 9am have left a black hole in the borough finances, because of inadequate government financing. The borough council have listened to the electorate and will try to maintain the 9am start for the bus passes. The P & R appears to be always full and will be extended. A new P&R at Boreham in a couple of years will take some of the strain off the Sandon one.

Free swimming passes are available but no-one present was using one. The provision of a diving board is still at the consultation stage. Due to the recession, Riverside will not be redeveloped but will be refurbished.

The proposed gravel extraction at Danbury caused a stir and universal condemnation from local people, evidenced by an over-flowed public meeting. In the face of such opposition, it seems unlikely that the proposal will go ahead. Local parish, borough and county councillors have promised to oppose it. We await a decision by Essex County Council.

The parish council are looking into the provision of affordable housing for people with strong attachments to Sandon parish. There would be four or six high-quality residences that would be part-owned or rented by people on low incomes. The housing would be provided by and controlled by a housing association. There would be strict control to ensure that the houses are well looked after and that there would be no detrimental effect on neighbours or the neighbourhood. A letter will be circulated shortly to canvas local opinion and to investigate the demand for affordable housing.

New legislation will allow parish councils to change their name to Community, Neighbourhood or Village Council. This possibility will be discussed by your parish council.

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The hoardings on the A130 are an eyesore and efforts have been made to clear them away, with little success so far.

No travellers sites are earmarked for this area.

The borough council have been approached with a view to establishing allotments in Howe Green.

We need to know what you want. If we don't, we will follow our own agenda and that is not always what the electorate want. Give us your support.

The chairman thanked Cllr.Ian Wright for his contribution.

#### 4. **Neighbourhood Watch**

I am NW coordinator for Sandon. I am 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. If you have email and are not a forum member, please see me afterwards if you wish to join. There have been a few burglaries in the village, reported via the email forum.

I am your representative on the Neighbourhood Action Panel or NAP which meets every few months to discuss law and order matters. The object of this panel is to highlight those aspects of law enforcement that are of most concern to the community. If you have any particular concerns relating to law and order, please get in touch.

I am organising a Resident's Speed Watch. A volunteer group will be trained and supplied with a speed gun so that we can monitor traffic speeds in the village. Any offenders will be contacted by the police with a warning. This has apparently proved very effective in reducing traffic speeds in other locations. We are on a waiting list of 60 odd for the training course.

Two residents recommended the Speed Course that is run for offenders who are caught by speed cameras.

Richard reported a Smart car that stopped in Southend Road and erected a speed camera and stayed there for about 45 minutes.

Martin made the point that speed cameras are located at dangerous black spots with the aim of slowing the traffic. Pam said that many people do not know what the speed limits are.

#### 5. **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.

We have a draft document and are approaching the stage where we will have a document that will be acceptable to the council and the parish.

#### 6. **Chairman's Report**

It has been a fairly quiet year.

**Summer Garden Party:** We did not have a garden party last year partly because we had such a poor response. As it turned out, the weather pretty bad so perhaps it was as well we didn't.

We tried to organise a **quiz night**, but the response was so poor that we abandoned the attempt.

**Sunday Lunch** last month. 15 enjoyed a good gossip over a good lunch. We made a profit of 99p.

We are organising a **theatre visit** to see Hot Mikado at Southend on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Booking closes tonight so if you have not yet booked your place, please see Vic or myself after the meeting. Date clashes with Chelmsford Arts Festival.

Neville mentioned that the Sandon Garden Allotment Association organise two trips per year to gardens.

Sandon Fete will be on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Howe Green will not have a tombola stall this year.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Subscriptions are up from £233 last year to £313. Bank interest is up at £104. Sandon fete raised £117. The total in the accounts is up at £4351.

## **8. Election of Officers.**

The following were 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: Ann                      Seconder: Pam

Motion passed with no opposition.

## **9. Election of Committee Members.**

The following are available for re-election:

Martin Cross, Caroline Travis, Vic Morgan, Richard Spooner, Yvonne and Paul Bullock.

There were no further nominations.

Proposer: Bob                      Seconder: Hester

Motion passed with no opposition.

## **10. Environment**

Neville is having difficulty putting together a committee to negotiate with Bretts regarding Sandon Quarry. Essex County Council still have the quarry on the Waste Plan.

Signs on the roundabout are causing some concern. These are unlawful. Prosecution can only take place if someone is actually caught erecting them. The meeting supported removal of these signs to the council. The erector has been seen driving across the roundabout in a 4-by-4 in the early hours.

The promised brown signs directing drivers to Hyde Hall have not materialised. This should be brought up at the Annual Assembly.

Vic expressed reservations about the safety of the Community Speed Watch.

## **11. Social Events**

Covered.

## **12. Any other business**

None.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.



Howe Green Community Association

Income and Expenditure Account

<u>Year End</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>	<u>2008/2009</u>
<u>Income</u>	£	£
Subscriptions	233.00	313.00
Bank Interest	55.00	104.00
Surplus on functions	1.00 meal	1.00 meal
Sandon Fete	----	117.00
Quiz Night	199.00	----
	488.00	535.00

Expenditure

Photocopies/Printers	163.00	130.00
Hire of Hall	waiting invoice	60.00
Server	7.00	----
Others: bulbs etc	----	60.00
Subsidy on functions	----	----
	170.00	250.00

Total (deposit and current account).

Balances at end of	31/3/2008	31/3/2009
Cash in Bank	£4066.00	£4351.00

Figures have been rounded up to nearest pound.

Subs handed in after 31.3.09 to be included in 03/10 accounts.

Treasurer: Wendy Spooner.