

HOWE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2010 AT 8 PM IN THE HOWE GREEN CHAPEL

Chairman's Notes

1. Apologies for Absence

Yvonne and Paul Bullock, Ken Wedon, Vic Morgan

2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

Proposed: Richard Spooner Seconded: Barbara Pearson. Approved.

3. Cllr. Ian Wright

As a borough councillor, Cllr. Wright outlined the aims of the council in keeping costs down. Leisure centre and the museum have been refurbished. There have been cut-backs in senior council staff but frontline services have not been affected.

The rumours in the press about giving posh quarters to council staff are not true. Refurbishment that has been done to give the public better access to council services.

Parks are winning awards and new facilities are being offered. Moulsham Street is to be refurbished.

The borough council are putting pressure on Essex County Council to repair potholes in the road.

Pam raised a question about recycling information following a meeting. Ian asked her to email information to him so that he could follow it up.

Barbara asked why tetra-pack recycling was only available at Riverside. Ian explained that it was a pilot project.

The general complaint was that initiatives are not followed up.

Ian emphasised that he is always available.

As chairman of Sandon Parish Council, Ian appealed for people to go to the Annual Assembly on the following Monday.

For the fourth year running, the parish council precept has not increased.

The council has continued with maintenance and have a number of projects in hand: flashing speed signs, refurbished village sign, the Lintons pond, speed limits, high quality affordable housing and putting pressure on ECC to improve the Woodhill Road/Hulls Lane/Mayes Lane junction. Affordable housing will only be available to people associated with the parish.

He complimented the parish clerk on her efforts in the council being accepted as a quality council.

One of the parish councillors is organising the Sandon Open Gardens day on 23 May 2010. Tickets £5. Minibus transport will be available between sites. Proceeds in aid of Farleigh Hospice.

The Village Fete will take place in June.

Communication is important. David is responsible for the web site and the email forums.

He pointed out that Howe Green has three representatives on the council.

Richard expressed concern at how affordable housing is allocated. Ian explained that allocations will be strictly controlled.

The travellers' site proposal has been put on the back burner. The only likely site in Sandon Parish is near the Park & Ride.

4. **Neighbourhood Watch**

David Pearson explained that he carried out his function of NW coordinator for Sandon through the email forums.

The Neighbourhood Action Panel or NAP 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. David asked that if anyone has law and order concerns, they should get in touch.

5. **Sandon Village Design Statement**

David, as chairman of the VDS committee, gave an update on the progress of the Village Design Statement (VDS). The latest draft is now with the borough council for approval. He pointed out that the draft document can be viewed on the Documents page of the web site www.sandonvds.org.uk.

6. **Chairman's Report**

Environment:

The big event this year was the action to purchase the land west of Howe Green (Westland). It was a great effort by the community to raise such a large amount in such a short space of time. In the end, the fund was not needed as it was bought by a consortium of local residents who shared the land between them.

We composed and agreed a set of covenants aimed at restricting uses of the land in the future. The covenants have not yet been applied as there are difficulties with conveyancing the sale.

The cost was around £750, mainly solicitor's fees, came out of HGCA funds.

Pam expressed her appreciation of the work put in by the committee on the Westland project.

Social Events:

Summer Garden Party: I think it was agreed that the party went very well. We had an excellent venue of Peter and Gilly's garden, the weather was good and the food was excellent, especially the turkey, courtesy of Paul Kelly who provided, cooked and carved turkey for everyone.

Theatre Visit. In October a small group of us enjoyed a visit to the Palace Theatre in Southend to see *The Likes of Us* by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice.

Sunday Lunch last month. 19 enjoyed a good gossip over a good lunch at Pontlands Park. We had a room to ourselves and we all sat round a large oval table. The food was very good and we all had a very enjoyable time. We made a slight loss.

Barbara suggested that the garden party should be held every two years instead of yearly. This suggestion did not meet with much approval. It was thought that something should replace it but no suggestions were forthcoming.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Wendy presented the accounts. The current balance stands at £4165.

It was agreed that the OAP concession should be removed, meaning that the contribution should be £3 for every household.

8. **Election of Officers.**

The following were available for re-election:

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

The chairman appealed for a volunteer to act as secretary. None was forthcoming.
There were no new nominations for officers.

9. Election of Committee Members.

The following were available for re-election:

Martin Cross, Vic Morgan, Richard Spooner, Yvonne and Paul Bullock

There were no new nominations.

Barbara proposed re-election, Tony seconded it and it was passed.

10. Environment

Potholes and pavements. David agreed to raise the matter with SPC.

Richard asked about ownership of the piece of land between the pavement and properties. It was explained that it was owned by ECC highways. There were complaints that it was not maintained.

Pam complimented the tidy pinch points.

11. Social Events

Summer Garden Party. The committee is looking into the possibility of holding a garden party again this year.

A ceilidh was suggested and met with approval. Wendy agreed to make enquiries.

12. Any other business

None.

The meeting closed at 21.10.