

# HOWE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

TUESDAY 12TH APRIL 2011 AT 8 PM IN THE HOWE  
GREEN CHAPEL

## Minutes

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Peter and Gilly Longhurst.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

The chairman had forgotten to provide copies but it was decided to accept them.

Proposed: Richard Spooner      Seconded: Tony Hollingsworth. Approved.

### 3. Mr Derek Stebbing

Mr Stebbing gave a presentation on 'Chelmsford as a City' and answered questions from the floor. He outlined the approach the council took in applying for city status in competition with many other towns in England. The borough council will eventually become a city council. As Chelmsford borough becomes a city, Sandon is now part of a city.

Q1 Can we have a tourist information office? **A.** Yes.

Q2 Can infrastructure cope with new proliferation of flats in town centre? **A.** Yes.

Q3. Army and Navy accidents. **A.** The spate of accidents has triggered an investigation by ECC of the safety of the flyover.

Q4. Will the west end near bus station be improved, particularly the shops? **A.** The council has no control over the shops.

Q5 Why do we have to have another Tesco's in Moulsham St? **A.** The council cannot control who opens a shop.

### 4. Cllr. Ian Wright

SPC has retained its quality standard. SPC is negotiating to ensure that the quarry is handled appropriately. He stressed the importance of having a residents association. There will be no fete this year but the church will hold a flower show. SPC relies on guidance of residents. Ian stressed the importance of the email forum in communicating vital information to the community. Please spread the word.

As an elected representative I am here to help. Borough council have no intention to cut front-line services at present. Still working on recycling. Because we have a local development plan, we are protected against unscheduled development.

Q1. What is going to happen about the noise reduced section on the A12? Is it going to be removed? **A.** We have asked the question and will tell you when we know.

Q2. Recycling. Why can't all recyclables be put in a single bin and separated at base? **A.** Because this results in contamination and clean waste is much more valuable. The alternative would lead to an increase in rates. Recycling is continually reviewed.

A poll of those present showed that the vast majority would be content with a weekly black bin collection. **A.** The conservatives promised to retain weekly collections in their manifesto at the election and so they do, for the moment.

Q3. Can something be done about the bags for food waste? They degrade too quickly. **A.** Recycling is continually monitored so you can expect things to change.

## 5. Neighbourhood Watch

Carol Fellowes will give a report on her recent burglary. Rear of property was broken into and police were very helpful with offers of support. She had some hints to impart:

- Report anything suspicious to the police however trivial it may seem - you never know how useful it might be when linked to other information. Note registration details and descriptions of persons and vehicles.
- Police Crime Reduction have some very helpful information, UV pens for marking property etc. Dial 101 for details.
- Check the small print and coverage of your house contents insurance.
- If car keys are stolen from the house, replacing the locks on your car may not be covered by the car insurance. This can be expensive so check!

Carol was thanked for her valuable contribution.

The email forum still provides a valuable resource for reporting and learning of matters relating to law and order, accidents and other police matters. There are very few law and order problems in Howe Green but there have been a few incidents:

- July 1<sup>st</sup> A house in Chalklands was burgled; money and a number of small items were stolen.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 Burglary at Greensmiths Farm.
- March 26<sup>th</sup> We managed to trace the owner of a purse that was found in Chalklands.

Various email and telephone scams have been reported during the year.

Recently there have been a number of thefts of heating oil in the Danbury area. There are steps you can take to protect your oil and I recently put some police recommendation on the email forum. There are a few copies of the advice on the table at the back of the hall. There have also been thefts of catalytic converters.

## 6. Environment

May 2011 Alan presented the report commissioned at the last AGM on measures to combat speeding in Howe Green. I passed the report to Sandon PC and published it on the forum. I also presented the report to EC Highways when work was proposed on the Southend Road.

Sept 2011. It was pointed out that the field at the south end of the village had been mown and was wide open to invasion. I managed to contact the farmer and pointed out the problem.

Road salt. We have acquired four caches of road salt for use on public areas in the village. They were not needed this winter but we had a snow-clearing session one Sunday morning when we cleared some of the top of Chalklands and paths to the bus stops.

We organized a working party to tidy up the village. There were few volunteers but those that did turn up did a grand job on the Southend Road and pinch points. Yvonne and Paul, in particular, put in a lot of effort.

We publish the newsletter in Spring and Autumn. If there is anything you would like to contribute, please let me know.

Questions:

Q1. Is there any indication that the road might be mended? *No.*

Q2. Can something be done about litter in East Hanningfield Road, opposite Alexander Mews - perhaps a work party. Discussion ensued. There appears to be regular sorties by a council person picking up litter. *The chairman agreed to try to get the litter-picker to extend his area of coverage.*

## **7. Social Events**

We decided not to organise a garden party for 2011.

Nov 2011. We organized a visit to the theatre. Six people visited the Cramphorn theatre to see Shylock on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

In March, 21 residents attended the Sunday Lunch we organized at The Windmill, EH and it was judged a success.

We will be organizing a Jubilee Barbeque this summer on Bank Holiday Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Woodside EH Road. I am very pleased to say that Paul Kelly has kindly agreed to give us a demonstration of turkey carving along with some samples of his product. Any volunteers to help both with the organization and on the day will be welcome. Please contact Richard Spooner on 471325.

We, on the committee, have been thinking about the things we organize, such as tidying the village and the various social events, and it seems to us that there is not really a lot of interest in or support for community activities. We ask ourselves, does the community really want us to organize things? Would they notice if we didn't? In the end we decided to see what kind of turnout we got at this meeting and we decided that we would arrange the Jubilee Barbecue anyway, as this is a special event this year. Discussion ensued. The general opinion was that the apathy is a fact of life but the newsletter is a valuable commodity.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Wendy presented the accounts (attached). The current balance stands at £4321.

Q. Will any of this be used to subsidise the BBQ. A. No, it will be self-financing.

## **9. Election of Officers.**

The following were available for re-election:

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

Anne took over the meeting for the election of a chairman. There were no other nominations for chairman. It was proposed, seconded and carried that David continue as chairman.

There were no new nominations for officers. Tony proposed re-election of the officers and Anne seconded the motion, which was passed.

The chairman appealed for a volunteer to act as secretary. None was forthcoming.

## **10. Election of Committee Members.**

The following were available for re-election:

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

Unfortunately, Yvonne and Paul have dropped out. We are very sorry to lose them as they have been very valuable members of the committee and we are going to miss them enormously.

Barbara proposed re-election, Neil seconded and it was carried.

## **11. Any other business**

A question was raised about public liability insurance for community activities. Chairman replied that we were covered for such things as street parties by a neighbourhood watch scheme.

The meeting closed at 21.55.

## Howe Green Community Association Income and Expenditure Account

Year End	2009/2010	2010/2011
<b>Income</b>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<i>Subscriptions</i>	370.00	296.00
<i>Bank Interest</i>	3.00	2.00
<i>Surplus on functions</i>	----.-	118.00(garden party)
<i>Sandon Fete</i>	----.-	----.-
<i>Donation</i>	100.00	----.-
	673.00	416.00
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Photocopies/Printers</i>	184.00	273.00
<i>Hire of Hall</i>	72.00	12.00
<i>Server</i>	----.-	----.-
<i>Others: bulbs etc</i>	----	41.00
<i>Subsidy on functions</i>	----	12.00
 <i>Solicitors Fees</i>	604.00	----
	860.00	338.00

**Total** (deposit and current account).

<i>Balances at end of</i>	31/3/2010	31/3/2011
<i>Cash in Bank</i>	£4165.00	£4243.00

*Figures have been rounded up to nearest pound.*

*Subs handed in after 31.3.11 to be included in March 2012 accounts.*

*Treasurer: Wendy Spooner.*