

Howe Green Community Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th April 2014 at 8 pm in the Howe Green Chapel

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Richard Spooner, Anne Gaylor, Alan Mitchell, Cllr.Ian Wright, Dee Hyatt, Vic Morgan

2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

Proposed: Bob Harris Seconded: Carol Fellowes. Approved.

3. Sandon Quarry Report

The Chairman read a report on progress at the quarry prepared by Ken Wedon. the southern void is being filled at the rate of 30-40 lorry loads per day.

4. Sandon Parish Council Report

The Annual Assembly will be held in the village hall at 7.30 on Monday 28th April. You are all invited to attend.

An Open Gardens event takes place in aid of Farleigh Hospice each year. This is not organised by the PC but councillors help and the PC contributes towards costs. Last year the event raised approximately £4000. A committee has been formed to organise this year's Open Gardens event which will take place on 18th May. This year, Howe Green residents are being invited to open their gardens to visitors.

The Open Gardens event was organised last year by Dianne Neal, who has since died. She is a great loss to the PC and to the community. We are working to install a semicircular seat on the green in her memory

There was a proposal for an Anaerobic Digester at Highlands Farm, Rettendon Common last summer which would have resulted in a massive increase in traffic through Howe Green. Your parish council, acting in concert with other parishes and the Chelmsford City Council and employing a planning solicitor, worked hard to resist the proposal. The installation was a good idea in principle but it was in the wrong place with access only on a country road through villages. Cllr Neal, our planning specialist, worked for weeks on the project and we think it was largely due to her efforts that the proposal was (we understand) called off.

We have a new chairman, Cllr.Bullus, who replaced Cllr. Ian Wright, who had given long service to the PC. He is still our city councillor.

We have a new vice-chairman, Martin Cross, who replaced Dianne Neal. We also have three new councillors: Dee Hyatt, Cedric Calmeyer and Darren Chaplin who are already proving their worth to the council.

We continue to make efforts to improve the roads. However, it seems that ECC are chronically short of funds so we do not have much success. If you have a complaint about specific road conditions, e.g. potholes, it is best to report the problem directly to ECC Highways via their web site. This usually generates a response.

Martin expanded on the plans for the Annual Assembly and renewed the invitation to residents to attend.

5. Neighbourhood Watch

Periodically the police held speed checks in Howe Green. We have a Community Speed Watch where trained volunteers of three or more use a speed gun to monitor speeds of vehicles and report offenders to the police. They then follow up with a warning letter. We are in need of volunteers to take part in this. If you would like to help, please see me after the meeting.

On the whole, the area is pretty free of crime but we have had a few burglaries recently, in Chalklands and Southend Road. Most burglaries in the area take place during daylight hours and many involve kicking in back door panels. Do make sure your keys are not visible or readily accessible from outside.

There has been a spate of incidents in Essex involving people posing as police officers to obtain bank details, PIN numbers etc. from residents. You need to be suspicious of anyone saying they are police officers, bank officials etc. either on the phone or in person.

As NW co-ordinator for the parish, I attend a Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting with the police, every three months, at which we discuss priorities for law enforcement in the area. I usually put a notice on the email forum when a meeting is due so that residents can make known their concerns. (If you are not on the email forum, give me your email address afterwards and I will send you an invitation to join.)

If you have concerns about law and order at any time, let me know and I will raise the matter with the local police.

Not exactly NW, but email hacking has increased a lot during the past year, with btinternet accounts the particular targets. Hacked emails are normally just a link to a web site. If you get one, do not click on the link; just delete the email. Such emails do impact the forum and one or two accounts have been removed from the list.

Then there is the matter of the Heartbleed problem, where some sites have been rendered liable to hacking because of a security flaw. Information about this has been circulated on the forum.

Discussions continued regarding the problems caused by email hacking.

Pam Knott reported a strange incident where an unordered phone was delivered to her house. As she was opening it, someone arrived to collect it because they said it was delivered in error. However, that person then said it was a scam and would not take it. The documents relating to the phone referred to an unknown bank account so it was all a bit of a mystery. The phone was returned to sender, not collected. (Such scams have been reported widely, Google 'Telephone Delivery Scams'.)

6. Environment

The Southend Road has been resurfaced and is now in quite good condition. Vic Morgan has been busy organising volunteers to clear footpaths and gullies. Martin gave a short description of the activities of the volunteers.

The waste bin has disappeared from the car park. If you have any idea what happened to it, please get in touch. The PC is working to replace it.

There is an organisation called Raid Relief Team (RRT) which is offering to do volunteer work in the area.

Barbara Daniels organises walks every Tuesday morning, meeting in the car park at 10 am.

7. Social Events

Summer Barbecue. We did not have a barbecue last year because we could not find anyone to organise it. We do hope to have one this year, probably in late August. If you would like to help, do get in touch.

Eighteen residents enjoyed a fine Sunday Lunch at The Cricketers, Danbury on 2nd March. A real success.

The chairman asked for suggestions for future events. None were forthcoming.

8. Treasurer's Report

See attached.

9. 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 other nominations for election.

Re-election proposed Martin Cross, seconded Hesther. Approved.

10. Election of Committee Members.

The following are available for re-election:

Martin Cross, Alan Mitchell, Vic Morgan, Richard Spooner, Dee Hyatt.

Dee Hyatt was nominated as a new committee member and this was approved.

Re-election proposed: Pam Knott, seconded Carol Fellowes. Approved.

11. Any other business

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.-