

Howe Green Community Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2015 at 8 pm in the Howe Green Chapel

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Richard Spooner

2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

Proposed: Alan Mitchell. Seconded: Bob Harris. Approved.

3. Chelmsford City Council Report

Cllr. Ian Wright and Cllr. Bob Shepherd gave a report on the activities of Chelmsford City Council. Following the report there were questions from the floor:

A12 expansion to three lanes: Due to happen in the next 10-15 years.

City councillor payments: earlier voluntary services by councillors have been superseded by effective salaried services. Cllr. Wright said his personal view was that they should not be out of pocket but should not be paid. The council has, in the past, rejected recommended increases and there have been no recent increases. The councillors emphasised that city councillors put in a huge amount of working hours without extra pay. The council is one of the most efficient in the country, due largely to the expertise of individual councillors. Also Cllr. Wright believed that city councillors should not also sit on the county council.

Road verges: county council highways responsibility.

Draining problems on Southend Road and East Hanningfield Road: can be reported via the ECC web site. SPC have tried in vain to get something done. Advice is to report the problem and be persistent.

Bridleway verges being damaged by reversing rubbish collection lorries: Cllr. Wright agreed to bring the matter up with refuse collection.

Cllr. Wright stated that he is always available during Christmas holidays to help vulnerable people.

Cycle races on Howe Green roads: concern was expressed that cyclists are exceeding the speed limit during races using the SE and EH roads. Police are responsible. Cyclists should abide by all the rules of the road but cannot be prosecuted without evidence obtained with speed cameras, with multiple cyclists.

4. Sandon Parish Council Report

The SPC is the lowest of the four layers of government. Meetings on the second Tuesday of every month can be attended by the public. They may address the council during the initial 15 minutes but not during the subsequent meeting.

Projects: bollards around the Sandon School to prevent parents parking on the verge of Woodhill Road will not be installed in this financial year.

Butts Green: an access road is being built at land owner's expense across SPC land to permit a farmer reach a field.

5. Sandon Quarry Report

Vic Morgan gave a report on the operations by Bretts to fill the Southen void of the quarry. The project is going well with up to 120 lorry-loads of waste being deposited per working day. Bretts make a charge per lorry for dumping waste.

Bretts will hold a public presentation in the chapel in May on proposals for the Northern void.

Lorries visiting the quarry are not allowed to use EH and SE roads. If lorries are seen there, they can be reported to Bretts.

There were complaints about mud being deposited on the approach to the site. It will be reported.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

Periodic meetings are arranged, usually in the village hall car park, where residents can meet local police and discuss law and order matters.

There have been one or two burglaries and attempted burglaries in the past year and attempts to steal fuel from parked vehicles.

There are still incidents 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.

Neighbourhood watch is organised through the email forum.

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

7. Environment

A request that a park be provided for Howe Green residents, particularly children, was discussed. Various possible locations were discussed, in particular, a triangular site down Bridleway. It was pointed out that providing a park was not a very simple matter. David agreed to sound out the community via the email forum.

Wheelie bin stickers.

The car park is in the very bad state: it is proposed to buy a 16T load of road planings to surface the park. Keith Ellis agreed to look into the project. Cost to come out of HGCA funds.

Dog waste bins for Bridleway: it was pointed out that dog waste can and should now be placed in normal bins.

8. Social Events

Sunday lunch: 20 attended the Green Man between Writtle and Highwood

It is proposed that we hold a BBQ again this summer

It was proposed that we organise a walk on a Sunday morning. David agreed to put a note on the forum.

9. Treasurer's Report

In future, newsletters will only be delivered to houses who pay the subscription.

See attached.

10. 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 was approved.

11. Election of Committee Members.

The following are available for re-election:

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

Re-election was approved.

12. Any other business

Travellers sites appeals: Appeals are pending for both the May Farm and EH sites. The SPC is awaiting details before proceeding further with their solicitor. May Farm appeal date: 10th June.

Meeting closed at 10:05 pm.