

Howe Green Community Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 8 pm in the Howe Green Chapel

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Wendy Spooner, Ken Wedon, Cllr. Bob Shepherd, Cllr. Richard Ambor.

2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

Proposed: Tony. Seconded: Alan. Approved.

3. Chelmsford City Council Report - Cllr. Ian Wright

There has been noticeable evidence that the appellant is fulfilling the conditions attached to the May Farm appeal. Any necessary enforcement will take effect at the end of April.

4. Sandon Parish Council Report - Cllr. Dee Hyatt

Sandon Parish Council have had a very busy year.

We started off with the May Farm Gypsy/Traveller Appeal hearings in June, November and December 2015 and after all the work, the hours of residents and Council sitting listening to the arguments for and against; in February we heard that one pitch was allowed at the rear of the property, which was disappointing. No more than 2 caravans, no commercial activity and a control of commercial vehicles to one at no more than 3.5 tons. In March a horse box on a low loader was delivered to site in breach of the conditions and at the end of April Enforcement will once again be on their case if the front caravan has not been removed with the whole area cleared.

Our Parish Clerk resigned last November and we had some problem replacing her and now have Amanda Parsons taking up the reins. One of our Councillors has also resigned and if you feel you would like to represent your neighbourhood and have a few hours to spare, please speak to me or one of the other Councillors!

We had to find new Parish office premises, and were kindly given temporary accommodation at Hammonds Farm for which we are truly grateful and have now purchased a Portacabin which has been placed at the Village Hall/Sports Club area, and will be open for business from next Monday.

Hall Lane area has been a big problem for the residents of Sandon. A local resident has caused a lot of problems with illegal parking of lorries, some of which were set fire to in the Allotment Car Park. Fences and barriers have been damaged, the road has had a ditch dug across it and through private woodland, a huge yellow skip has been left in the car park and a caravan was also burnt out there and the mess still left. Chelmsford have been on the case but for every step forward there has been two back. Magistrate hearings are pending to try to sort this out.

Bretts have put in a planning application to fill the North void at the quarry. This includes a recycling facility on site where they will take the inert waste and make into building materials and cement products, only dumping the residue. We cannot just dump waste any more as land is short, therefore Sandon Parish Council understand the need to recycle but have voiced our concerns about the noise and dust for the residents backing onto the site.

Our Annual Assembly is on Tuesday 26th April at 7.30 at Sandon School, and we hope you will join us there. We have a lot of organisations there for you to talk to

and Superfast Broadband will do a presentation. Also details of a new Community Centre. Worth coming to hear what they have to say.

5. Sandon Quarry Report

Filling of the southern void will resume soon, following the winter hiatus. A planning application is pending for filling the northern void, which it is hoped will become amenity land with footpaths and bridleway.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

There has been very little NW activity this year. Any occurrences are reported on the email forum.

Home security packs are now available at a cost of £25, including a 5-year licence. Details have been circulated on the forum and in the newsletter.

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

Cllr. Wright expressed his concern that the main police station in the county town of Essex is only open from 9-5pm. He also expressed concern that the police are not responding to reports of burglaries and that the Marine section has been disbanded. Essex police are now the worst in East Anglia where it used to be the best. It is hoped that the Police Crime Commissioner might come to the parish council annual assembly where these concerns could be raised. Cllr. Wright expressed his thanks for the work of the Neighbourhood Watch.

7. Environment

Rory White expressed concern that dogs should be kept on a lead in the vicinity of sheep recently installed in a field opposite Southlands Chase.

Gill, an Alexander Mews resident, expressed concern at the litter on the verges of East Hanningfield Road. It was suggested that an appeal for collection of litter be made on the forum. City and parish council both do periodic litter collections but there is not the finance for frequent collections. The bus stop has been refurbished.

Complaints were made about the state of the pavement etc. following the new build on SE Road opposite EH Road. The residents have not responded gracefully to complaints.

There is occasional flooding on SE Road, opposite Tythings. ECC Highways can be informed via their internet site.

The Howe Green sign and the entrance 'gate' at the SE end of the SE Road has been damaged. It was agreed that we should reinstate the sign ourselves. As regards the entrance gate, David White agreed to get prices for new plastic gates as used at Galleywood. The chairman suggested repainting the A12 end gate with Sadolin. Cllr. Wright warned against putting anything in place that could lead to litigation if it were hit by a vehicle.

Pam was complimentary about the appearance of the pinch points with daffodils, cared for by Yvonne Bullock.

It has been reported that bugs have been installed in computers, possibly by attachments to email apparently received from the forum. It was felt unlikely that it had actually come from the forum as everyone would have received it. It was agreed that a note be posted on the forum warning against opening any attachment to an email unless you are certain of its origin and content. Alan pointed out that anti-virus software should pick up any malware attached to emails.

8. Social Events

The BBQ last August went very well but we made a slight loss on the costs. If we are to have any BBQs in the future, we need an Event Organiser to join the committee. Richard agreed to resume his duties as Events Organiser.

On Sunday March 20th, fourteen of us met at The Green Man, Edney Common for lunch. The food and company were excellent. Just a pity we can't get more people to come to these events. Pam suggested that a closer venue would be more acceptable and that three courses was too many - two plus coffee would be better. Vic Smith suggested that the price for the meal was too high - significantly higher than having a similar meal privately at the same venue. These points would be taken into account next time.

We are organising a debate on Brexit to take place on a Wed evening before the referendum on 23rd June. We will debate the motion *The Howe Green Community believes that the UK should leave the European Union*. To head up the debate, we will have speakers to speak for and against the motion. We have Ken Wedon to speak for Leaving, we need someone to speak for Remaining.

9. Treasurer's Report

£5492 total compared with £5239 for 2015.

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. Proposed Vic Smith, seconded Tony Hollingsworth.

11. Election of Committee Members.

The following are available for re-election:

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

Re-election Proposed Vic Smith, seconded Hester. Approved.

12. Any other business

Road works are in progress to install gas supplies to a house up EH Road.

Pam pointed out that, at the last meeting, it was proposed that the HGCA arrange repairs to the surface of the car park. It was agreed to follow up that proposal again. It was agreed to approach Keith Ellis with a view to having the work done - to be paid for out of HGCA funds. *P.S. Mr. Ellis is no longer willing/able to carry out the work.*

The cost of white plastic gates would also come out of HGCA funds.

Meeting closed at 09:02 pm.