

Sleepers Hill Association

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Association held at Highcroft on the 21st October 2001

Present:

John Stanning (Chairman); Iain Fleming (Secretary); Steve Osborne (Treasurer); Alison Dudgeon; Pat Goodall; Gil Heneghan; His Honour Martin Tucker; Chris and Stephen Harte; Ewa and Rolf Stahel; Derek Wilmshurst; Colin Beavan; Bob and Pamela Jones; John Pattinson; Tim Stanley; Ian Ferguson; Don Midgely; Matt Johnson; Jeremy Ouvry; Margaret and Peter Gilliat; Linda Harker; Harold Leech.

Apologies:

David White; Chris Croft; Patrick Geraets; Ray Cherrett; Arnold Ames; Jill Bath; Clive Tulloch; Peter Green; Lesley Cranham; Joan Elliott; Gordon Pryor; Clive Houghton; Neil Buchanan; David Matthews; Joan Bessey

Minutes:

i) Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ii) Minutes from the last AGM

No comments were received, and therefore the minutes were adopted.

iii) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the financial report for the year ending 31/05/01 and thanked Carol Ellison for her help in acting as auditor again. A vote for accepting the accounts was held and was carried.

The road was last resurfaced in its entirety back in 1993 at a cost of circa £6,000, and although the road surface is holding up reasonably well, a substantial resurfacing is likely to be required in the foreseeable future....at a cost now of £10,000 maybe?

It was proposed that the rates were held for this coming year, but would increase by 10% at the next AGM. This would change the rates as follows:

	Autumn 2001	Autumn 2002
Sleepers Hill	£30	£33
G.E. Drive	£20	£22
Dawn Gdns	£10	£11
Highcroft	£145	£160

A vote was held and was carried.

iv) Election of Officers

Three officers came up for election/re-election, and all were accepted:

Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Matt Johnson	Iain Fleming	Steve Osborne
Bob Jones	John Stanning	Peter Gilliat
Alison Dudgeon	Pam Jones	Pat Goodall

v) SHA Constitution

Version 4 of the constitution had been circulated following the previous AGM, and the chairman invited comments.

Don Midgely enquired what provision existed within the constitution for the committee to spend funds on special or significant requirements? Steve Osborne replied that this had been deliberately omitted at the time as too difficult/complex to draft.

Rolf Stahel proposed that 'significant' should mean more than 50% of the capital value in the fund.

Jeremy Ouvry proposed that 'significant' should mean more than 50% of the projected annual income of the Association. This suggestion was voted on and carried.

The committee to draft such a clause for inclusion into the constitution.

vi) State of the hill

Jeremy Ouvry raised the subject of responsibility for, and maintenance of the verges – especially in the light of the recent heavy rains and its effect towards the bottom of the hill. The following observations were made from the floor

- Hardcore has a habit of being washed away and clogging the drains
- Grass can become extremely slippery (and muddy) when wet
- Could 'grasscrete' be used for the verge?
- Could 'hoggin' be used, and stepped on the steepest parts?

It was agreed that the Committee's responsibility extended to the roadway and the guttering, but not the verges themselves.

Stephen Harte expressed concern about the base of the roadway breaking up, leading to potential oncost later. Steve Osborne replied that the roadway was actually just a thin tarmac strip laid onto the rockchalk base of the hill, and was in fact really just a wear strip.

Alison Dudgeon raised the subject of the recent accident at the bottom of the hill, and might be done to avoid a future occurrence, the key factor here being speed. Peter Gilliat suggested 'white-lining' in the centre of the road.

The committee took two actions:

- i) Contact the local traffic police for ideas
- ii) Review signage at points down the hill

vii) Status of the hill

The committee reported that the new road signs were expected within a few weeks

Local Plan – a draft is now available from the council for discussion. All representations are to be made by 16/xi/01. Various people talked about what they knew of the Plan, and in addition Ian Ferguson read from a paper kindly put together by Clive Houghton on the subject. Together these can be summarised into the following main issues for the hill:

- Sleepers Hill is outside the city centre conservation area
- Within the current Local Plan, the hill benefits from clause EN1 which gives protection to areas of special character, but the draft plan drops this clause
- PPG3 government guidelines are seeking to better use brownfield sites and increase household density to 12-16 dwellings per acre. Pressure from the government may be such that the existing Local Plan may not be sufficient regulation to prevent development
- A redeveloped Enniskerry might support 24 new residences; rising to a total of 119 if the whole hill was developed as per the consultants example proposal.
- Developments of > 5 houses had to contain an element of 'social' housing
- Developments only had to allow for 1 parking space per dwelling
- The council has a target of 1400 homes on brownfield sites
- Ability of the hill to cope with increased traffic levels – cost, character and safety aspects?

.....which raised the following questions and issues:

- Several homes (eg Milnthorpe) were already receiving much unsolicited mail from builders seeking land for development purposes
- Should the meeting give the committee a mandate to raise funds? [not voted on]
- Should the committee be given sanction to spend up to £2k on a hill/traffic review? [voted and carried]
- Proposal that committee members should have a high level mtg with the council to gauge their views. Do the planners have a strategic view of how the hill should look?
- What level of support will be needed to support the committees defence?
 - Do association members have any 'good' contacts?
 - Committee to propose a framework of what is required
- Councillor Patrick Davies is thought to be sympathetic to our cause, and should be contacted (action: committee)

viii) Social activities

It was noted that the summer 2001 party had been very successful and a special vote of thanks was extended to Sheila and Martin Tucker for hosting the event , and to Pat Goodall and Margaret Gilliat for their help in organising and preparing for it. Ideas for future events included

- Summer party 2002?
- Golden jubilee party 2002?
- Fundraising Xmas drinks party?

Action: committee to discuss

ix) Any other business

a) Leaf clutter

The committee had been approached by one resident who had expressed concern about the way in which leaf clutter could accumulate in the Autumn at various points on the hill and deteriorate if not promptly removed. This resulted in a messy, unsightly and hazardous problem for all pedestrian traffic. Was this the committee's responsibility, or frontagers'?

After a brief discussion, the majority present voted the issue as a frontager's responsibility.

b) List of members

The secretary was requested to circulate an up to date list of members. Action IF

c) Wooden stumps

A concern was expressed at the proliferation of wooden stumps up the hill as frontagers sought to protect their verges from traffic damage, but that these stumps were in themselves a hazard (especially in the dark) causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the committee, and to Derek Wilmshurst for providing the facilities and the hospitality.

Iain Fleming

Honorary secretary SHA