

SLEEPERS HILL

ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1200 hrs SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2003

HIGHCROFT

Present: John Stanning (Chairman), Paul Barlow, Jan Royston-Smith, Iain Fleming, Pam Jones, Christopher Croft, Steve Osborne, Chris Wintrell, Eileen Wintrell, Pat Goodall, Alison Dudgeon, John Pattinson, Mary Pattinson, Stewart Patterson, Leslie Cranham, Ceri Parke, Jill Bath, Margaret Gilliat, Peter Gilliat, Arnold Ames, James Richardson, Stephen Harte, Chrissie Harte, Ewa Stahel, Rolf Stahel, Ray Cherrett, Nick Kelly, Bob Jones, Helen Williams, Don Midgley, Ian Ferguson, Sheila Tucker, Martin Tucker, Tim Jones, Pamela Jones, Colin Beaven, Richard Priestley, Louise Priestley, Peter Greene, Susan Greene, Derek O'Neill, Clive Tullock, Tessa Tullock, Frank Doyle, Bish Osborne, Jeremy Ouvry, Matt Johnson

Apologies: Harold Leech, Guy Bolwell, Colin Beavan, David White, Hugh Jeffery

MINUTES

1. Welcome to new members

The Chairman welcomed all those residents who had moved on to the hill over the course of 2003

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The previous minutes were adopted unanimously and without debate.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM

3.1 The Treasurer's report

Steve Osborne made the following observations;

- The SHA had 75 members in 2003
- No members from Dawn Gardens
- 2 houses have elected not to pay the annual subscription
- The largest single item of expenditure over the year was £770 + VAT for repairs to the road
- No major expenditure is anticipated

Thereafter the treasurer's report was adopted by the meeting. (Proposer; Bob Jones Seconder; Christopher Croft.)

3.2 Thanks

The Chairman thanked Highcroft and Derek Whilmhurst for their hospitality in providing the room and coffee for the AGM

3.3 Election of new committee members

Alison Dudgeon retired by rotation from the committee

John Stanning resigned as Chairman

Bob Jones retired by rotation and stood for re-election

Iain Fleming retired by rotation and stood for re-election

Jeremy Ouvry volunteered to fill the post of Chairman

Tim Jones stood for election

The appointments were put to a single vote and the members were re-elected without opposition. (Proposed; Martin Tucker Seconder; Ian Ferguson)

3.4 Outgoing Chairman's Report

Thanked Pat Goodall and Margaret Gilliat for all their efforts in organising this year's Summer Party, and thanked the Hartes for providing the venue.

Continued.../

The Chairman noted that the main topics of discussion within the SHA this year have been traffic and planning. While Enniskerry is the only know major development outstanding, the recent (refused) application by Milnethorpe to build a single house in keeping with the surrounding is another such case, and there may well be more proposals being studied.

Given that the Winchester Planning Department lacks any clear policy towards the Hill the Committee is setting out to define a vision for the future of the Hill via a Supplementary Planning Guidance document (Neighbourhood Plan) that will be devised in partnership with the council (see later comments) and in consultation with the residents.

The referendum conducted in the summer to discover residents' views on possible options for regulating traffic on the Hill was described, with a clear majority favouring closing the road with a movable barrier. However the Chairman pointed out that the Hill is a public right of way, and that a lengthy consultation and legal process would be required before any such action could be taken.

The Chairman also noted that a traffic report commissioned last year by the SHA showed that the Hill was nearing throughput capacity, and that the junctions at either end were clearly sub-standard.

A vote was held on whether the Committee should continue in its efforts to preserve the fundamental nature of the hill, and was passed without opposition (Proposed: Don Midgely Seconded: Iain Fleming)

4. Comments from Incoming Chairman

Jeremy Ouvry thanked John Stanning for all his efforts over the past three years.

He went on to reiterate that planning has become much more complicated in recent years, while Local Government strategy is incoherent and uncoordinated, as evidenced by the Milnethorpe proposal. The role of the committee must be to try and establish a coherent strategy for the Hill.

To facilitate communication, each committee member will be allocated a 'parish' on the Hill to aid two-way communications between residents and the committee.

The committee will begin by drafting a statement for the planners based on the existing EN1 local plan that recommends only low-density developments on the Hill. The AGM signalled its acceptance of this plan with a unanimous show of hands.

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION

Derek Whilmhurst observed that the future of Highcroft cannot be predicted given that in April 2004 it will transfer from the Regional HA to Winchester & Eastleigh Healthcare.

Ian Ferguson also observed that Sleepers Hill was specifically mentioned in the current plan as an area worth preserving.

Stewart Patterson enquired why Cllr John Beveridge subsequently changed his mind on the Enniskerry vote. Bob Jones reported that at the time the Planning Committee felt it had no technical grounds for refusing the application. He went on to describe the underlying principles of PPG3 and *Better Living by Design* and that in his view the Winchester City Council was wrong in its interpretation of the requirements.

Martin Tucker observed that planning and traffic in relation to the Hill were in fact two different issues. He described his own survey of the traffic taken earlier this year and his conclusions that at an average of just two vehicle movement every minute, traffic volumes were in fact low. Bob Jones thought that the Committee's survey had come out with a higher number, although the Chairman disagreed.

A speaker from the floor asserted that in their view planning was the more important of the two issues, but given that people walked up and down the hill, plus the lack of formal walkways, meant that traffic was a problem even at current levels.

A second speaker supported this view by stating that the speed of the traffic was more significant an issue than the volume. A third stated that the traffic noise had definitely increased in recent years.

John Stanning noted that the state of the verges and their tendency to encourage pedestrians to walk in the road had long been a subject of debate on the Hill, with little resolution. The Chairman stated that the future of the verges will be an issue in the Neighbourhood Plan to be drawn up.

Alison Dudgeon stated that the new paved section of pavement outside Threeways had been popular with some residents. However on a show of hands a substantial majority voted in maintaining the status quo. The Chairman stated that various alternative surfaces had been looked at over the years, but the costs had been prohibitive.

Continued.../

Rolf Stahel stated that he hoped that the vote to maintain the status quo would not mark an end to all investigations into alternatives to the current state of the verges, and that other options would continue to be studied and a compromise solution sought. A second speaker supported this view, and considered that a proper study was required.

Ian Stevenson added that any study would need to link roads and planning as the two are inseparable. However another speaker noted that the twin goals of a better road way plus minimal development could be in conflict as a better road could encourage more building.

5. Other business

The Agenda item on calling a vote to authorise the committee to spend SHA funds on obtaining an opinion as to the legal status of the Hill was withdrawn as the sum is as yet undetermined.

Alison Dudgeon noted that the cost of drawing up a neighbourhood plan could be up to £8,000, but that would represent only £100 per household. Pam Jones replied that residents tend to be unwilling to pay out on such occasions, but that the committee was authorised to spend up to a predetermined amount without further consultation. Iain Fleming suggested that the committee poll individual houses when the time comes to establish what amount might be forthcoming to establish a fighting fund.

The AGM agreed that another SHA party be held next year, at a time and date to be agreed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1310 hours, and the Stannings kindly provided drinks at St Marys thereafter.

- end -