

SLEEPERS HILL

ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1200 hrs SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2004

HIGHCROFT

Present: Jeremy Ouvry, Steve Osborne, Matt Johnson, Pat Goodall, Paul Barlow, Don Midgley, Margaret Gilliat, Peter Gilliat, Leslie Cranham, Jill Bath, Doreen Chalke, Opal Webster-Philp, Bob Jones, Pam Jones, Eira Parry-Jones, Alun Parry-Jones, Bish Osborne, Sue Ouvry, Iain Fleming, Ray Cherrett, Carole Cherrett, Derek O'Neill, Joan Elliott, Elizabeth Archdale, Peter Greene, Tim Jones, Martin Tucker

Guest: Ian Tait WCC

Apologies: Steve & Chrissie Harte, John & Gay Stanning, Mary & David White, Flavia Bateson, Judy & Arnold Ames, Rolf & Eva Stahel, Brian & Lynne Sharpe

MINUTES

1. *Welcome to new members*

The Chairman welcomed all those residents who had moved on to the Hill over the course of 2004

2. *Minutes of the previous AGM*

The previous minutes were adopted without opposition. Proposed: Iain Fleming Seconded: Tim Jones

3. *Thanks to Highcroft*

Highcroft in general and Derek Whilmhurst in particular were thanked for their support both in providing the premises and refreshments for the AGM and also for the free photocopying services that were provided during the year

3. *Matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM*

3.1 *The Treasurer's report*

Steve Osborne made the following observations;

- Cost of the road signs explained as an initial attempt to deter parking on the Hill
- There was no road maintenance in 2003, which explained the higher costs in 2004

- The new Honorary auditor, Jonathon Monkton, was thanked for his kind support
- Increase in subscriptions explained with George Eyston Drive now requiring maintenance, so GED residents will over time see their subs rise to the same levels as those exiting directly on to the Hill.
- The clamping scheme has also introduced an additional annual cost of about £6.60 per house
- A full resurfacing of the road will be due in the next twelve months, and the current reserves are judged sufficient to meet that anticipated cost

The Chairman suggested that subscriptions should reflect the usage of the Hill by each household, but the point was not debated.

The Chairman went on to thank Steve Osborne, who was retiring as Hon Treasurer, for his long service.

Thereafter the treasurer's report was adopted by the meeting. Proposed: Iain Fleming Seconded: Peter Gilliat)

3.3 Election of new committee members

Don Midgley was elected unopposed as Honorary Treasurer

Matt Johnson retired by rotation as Hon Secretary and was re-elected unopposed

Margaret Gilliat retired by rotation as a member of the committee and was re-elected unopposed

Paul Barlow was elected to the committee

Pat Goodall retired from the committee and was thanked by the Chairman for her contribution over the past four years

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been previously circulated around the membership and he therefore invited comments.

Carole Cherrett spoke in praise both of the new 'parish system' and of the effectiveness of the **non-resident parking deterrent scheme** now in place. The Chairman replied that clamping had been introduced very much as a last resort and only after all other measures had been exhausted.

Alun Parry-Jones stated that he had found watching a student getting clamping a distressing experience. The Chairman reiterated his previous comments and observed that a considerable number of students had both chosen to ignore polite warnings earlier in the year and had been rude and aggressive when approached.

The Chairman went on to say that the situation was only likely to get worse under current council plans to introduce high-density housing without parking spaces. Iain Tate explained council policy without providing any actual solutions.

Peter Gilliat wondered why the clampers would not accept credit cards. The Secretary explained that offenders had been known to pay by credit card and then cancel the transaction shortly afterwards, leaving the clamping firm with no recourse.

Derek O'Neill thought the £100 release fee too high, but Iain Fleming explained that it was the standard charge, and was not excessive given the costs of operating such a scheme.

Derek Whilmhurst commented that the clamping had not helped the parking situation at Highcroft, but they are addressing the wider situation of inadequate parking at the site.

Carole Cherrett commented that Sleepers Hill Gardens (SHG) is very quickly blocked by rogue parkers, and that all the residents would like to see the scheme extended to their road before it became a serious problem. The Secretary said that he would write to the council on their behalf.

Dawn Gardens also has a problem with non-resident parking, but the Chairman noted that the residents will need to join the SHA and then ensure that support for extending the scheme is widespread before the Association can act on their behalf.

Ian Tait said that clamping on such roads may be illegal.

Carole Cherritt commented that SHG had not been resurfaced in 30 years and wondered if the council had forgotten them. Ian Tait replied that the issue of how the council treats adopted roads that come off unadopted roads is not clear.

The Chairman then went on to comment on **planning** in general, and reminded residents that at the AGM in 2003 it was agreed that residents generally wanted to preserve the ambience and character of the Hill and avoid unsuitable high-density development. The Chairman also thanked Tim Jones and his sub-committee for looking into the feasibility of instituting a Neighbourhood Design Scheme (NDS), and explained that the investigations on feasibility and council support were still taking place.

Following a question from Pam Jones, Tim Jones commented on other NDS studies elsewhere in the town, and the difficulties of drawing suitable area boundaries.

Martin Tucker warned that developers offering large sums of money to individual households posed the greatest threat.

5. Other business

None, and the Chairman closed the meeting at 1252 hours.

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