

Sleepers Hill Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held on Tuesday, 20th April 1999 at
Downlands, Sleepers Hill, 7.45

Present: Christopher Croft, Steve Osborne, Joan Elliott, Jane Crabtree, Ray Cherrett.
Apologies: Derek Wilmshurst. Steve Harte

1. Minutes of Meeting of 7th April 1999

All agreed the Minutes were a fair record of that Meeting.

2. Matters arising

a) Capt Croft's meeting with Mr Jones.

Capt Croft reported that he had met with Mr Jones and had a cordial and beneficial exchange of ideas. Capt Croft mentioned that, prior to this year's AGM, he envisaged a note to members covering what further action had been taken to investigate practicable ways of reducing the risk from traffic on the Hill. Mr Jones asked whether this could be delayed until he had completed collecting data about traffic flow etc. (For this purpose he had assembled a group of like-minded members who were particularly concerned about the risk posed to pets and pedestrians by traffic). Capt Croft agreed. He and Mr Jones would keep in touch by e-mail to avoid possible duplication of effort.

b) Grants and funding etc.

The Secretary and Chairman had agreed to explore alternative methods of funding for future traffic calming schemes. David Marklew (City Chief Engineer) has suggested some possible contacts and these would be pursued.

3. Purpose of the Sleepers Hill Association.

In view of some adverse comment received by The Secretary (in the context of the new driveway that had appeared at Pentargon), Capt Croft suggested that there should be a clear understanding of the purpose of the Association and the areas in which it should, or should not, be involved. After some discussion it was generally agreed that the functions of SHA had evolved over time to be:

- To maintain the road surface, drainage channels and kerbs.
- To carry out such maintenance as tree pruning around street lights etc.
- To provide and replace warning signs.
- To seek to maintain the rural character of Sleepers Hill as a unique residential area by opposing commercial development.

The Secretary agreed to research the files to see if anything had been formally laid down in the past.

4. New drive at Pentargon.

The Secretary informed the Meeting that he had received a cheque from Mr Meyer, the owner of Pentargon, as a subscription to join SHA at the same time as the new drive appeared. He was aware of a long standing dispute between Sir Bryan Thwaites and Mr Meyer regarding the strip of land over which the new drive ran, but had also been in

discussion with other residents at the bottom of the Hill who were concerned with the development.

Three residents had complained that the new drive was unsightly and had spoiled the appearance of that part of the Hill. One had threatened to leave the Association if no action was taken. Another resident thought the new drive was a hazard to vehicles. A lively discussion followed centering on the position that the Association should take.

It was generally agreed that the new drive had been built over a strip of land that plainly did not belong wholly to Mr Meyer but it was agreed that this in itself did not constitute grounds for action by the SHA. Nor was the new driveway considered to pose a threat to traffic safety. Unsightly it might be but the appearance would presumably improve with time and the recovery of the vegetation. It was noted that Mr Meyer had indicated that he would care for the shrubbery below his new driveway (something not acceptable to Sir Brian Thwaites). Work on this shrubbery has hitherto been paid for by the SHA. A resident had asked the Planning Dept. if they had an opinion, to be told that planning permission was not required for a new drive on to a private road.

A further point was raised concerning the address of Pentargon. It was noted that although Pentargon had never previously had an access onto Sleepers Hill, its address had recently been changed from Sparkford Road to Sleepers Hill. This again was hardly a matter calling for action by the SHA.

The Chairman was firmly of the opinion that this was essentially a dispute between neighbours and one in which the SHA should not become involved. It was a fact that Pentargon now had an access to Sleepers Hill and that its occupants would be using the Hill for access. Whatever the rights or wrongs of the case, or the personal animosities aroused, subscriptions should be accepted from Pentargon as a contribution to the upkeep of Sleepers Hill.

A vote was taken on the question 'Should Pentargon's subscription be accepted?'. The majority view was that it should. One member of the committee felt that there should be at least a brief delay and this was duly recorded.

5. Traffic calming.

Capt Croft reported that in his search for a practicable solution to the traffic problem, the least intrusive features might be 'speed tables' similar to those installed in Sarum Road, between Chilbolton Ave. and Romsey Road. These seemed to be quite effective, were not too uncomfortable to drive over, and were likely to be among the least costly alternatives. Whether they would provide sufficient calming to qualify for a 20 mph speed limit remained to be established. Such 'speed tables' were in use in several parts of the City and did not appear to need to be individually signed or lit. The Meeting was generally enthusiastic about this solution and it was agreed that Ron Hewitt (who was familiar with the regulations and the requirements of the City Traffic Department) should be commissioned to prepare a design and specification of such a scheme with a view to obtaining estimates to place before the Members at the next AGM.

6. Any other business.

None

Meeting closed at 20.45