

# *Sleepers Hill Association*

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Manor Cottage Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 1999

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

1. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting.  
All agreed that the Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> October 1998 were a fair record of that Meeting
2. Matters arising - Traffic Calming.  
As this matter was the only one outstanding, it was decided to deal with as a separate topic. See below.
3. Bank Deposit Account  
The Secretary explained what action he had taken re a request from Mr Jones at the AGM that the Association change its deposit account to receive a better rate of interest. He had been in contact with Mr Malone who had suggested opening a Building Society account operated from Guernsey. On discussion it was decided that this would be unsuitable for SHA. He had then trawled the High Street searching for the best rate. It would appear that the high rates of interest envisaged by Mr Jones are only available to private investors and not to Clubs and Associations. He had eventually decided upon a 'Treasurers Trust Account' at the Nationwide building society, and transferred all the Association's deposits to that account. The benefit in extra interest would be marginal.
4. Traffic Calming  
Captain Croft reported that he and Mr Osborne had recently had a meeting with Mr David Marklew, Chief Engineer of Winchester City Council, to discuss the traffic problems of Sleepers Hill. The discussion had been wide ranging and the results were circulated to the Committee in the form of a question and answer session - see appendix.

Mr Marklew's advice was that because of the unique nature of Sleepers Hill, conventional traffic calming measures would be inappropriate. He thought that a better solution would be to segregate the pedestrians from the vehicles by providing a properly constructed, continuous walkway down one side of the Hill. Following this advice, Capt Croft and Mr Osborne had made a survey of the condition of the verges on the south side of the Hill to ascertain at which verges pedestrians were obliged to walk in the road because of the unsatisfactory surface.

The Committee then discussed the feasibility and desirability of upgrading the verges on the south side of the Hill to a uniform standard that would be beneficial to pedestrian safety. The following views were expressed:

Miss Elliott would have liked to maintain the status quo but if pressed would prefer a continuous walkway to traffic calming.

Mr Harte was uneasy about the loss of the grass verges which gave Sleepers Hill its unique rural look .

Mr Cherrett acknowledged that an upgraded walkway would improve safety but was keen to preserve the rural feel of Sleepers Hill.

Mrs Crabtree was not keen to lose the grass verges and rural outlook.

Captain Croft agreed that some verges (including his own) had become muddy but was only in favour of upgrading verges where absolutely necessary.

Mr Osborne thought that although the grass verges were attractive, most were in poor condition owing to the shade on the south side of the Hill and were not suitable for pedestrians. Whilst they were an asset in the past, with the volume of traffic now on the roads, they were a luxury we could no longer afford.

Mr Osborne said that the cost of upgrading the verge at St Marys was around £76 per metre and that if all the verges from St Marys to Sleepers Hill Gardens were similarly treated, the cost would be around £40,000. It was agreed that although it was unlikely that the frontagers would adopt this solution, alternative methods of funding would be explored.

Reference was also made to a committee set up by Mr Jones who was most concerned with safety on the Hill. The Secretary said that he had no knowledge of the outcome of Mr Jones' committee and was concerned with the possible duplication of effort. Captain Croft agreed to contact Mr Jones, to pool ideas and report back to the next Committee Meeting.

Mr Osborne and Capt. Croft agreed to make investigations into possible sources of grants that had been mentioned by Mr Marklew. They would continue to seek solutions to the traffic problems of Sleepers Hill.

6. Any other business.

Mrs Crabtree reported that there were no new developments on the Cable front, but she was continuing her efforts to investigate the possibilities of Cable on Sleepers Hill.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm