

**WELL HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE "RED DEER"
ON TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2001**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: [see list]
Councillors: County - R Norman
District - C Dibsdall
Parish - P Hobson

Apologies: P & B Marley
S & S Saunders
P & B Mason
D Dean
Cllr. J Bovington

The Chairlady, Mrs Christine Gregory, opened the meeting.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on 11th April 2000 were read and approved following one minor correction.

2. Cllr. Mr. Ronnie Norman (KCC)

Cllr. Norman began by giving a brief overview of some of the things that KCC has achieved over the last 4 years. He then listened to complaints and answered or noted queries raised.

A discussion took place on the problems with the emergency services not knowing which area is responsible for the different parts of Well Hill. RN said that he would make enquiries and respond to the Association in writing. Police - WPC Jackie Allen has been appointed to look after policing in the Shoreham Parish. RN says she is happy to talk with residents' Associations.

The problem of transport to the local schools was discussed. The closest primary school is in Chelsfield village, but this is in Bromley Borough not Kent. He will endeavour to make sure that a closer pickup point is arranged for the Kent schools.

Distribution of literature remains a problem in the Well Hill area. The information sent to households informing them about the recent Darent Valley Rural transport initiative meeting was not sent to any houses with a BR6 postcode even though they are in Kent. The last 2 issues of the Kent reports were delivered by the Association. With the renewing of the Shoreham Parish Council noticeboard within the village, could the KCC be persuaded to give us a grant to enable us to install a place for leaving leaflets.

KCC had taken part in a walk around the village to assess traffic problems last November. The Association was disappointed with what came out of it. RN was asked whether there was any way that we could get higher in the priority list for action. He replied that potholes should not be a problem, but re-conditioning would be. He will find out what has happened to the budget and then respond to the committee.

RN requested that he be sent copies of all communications that the Association sends to KCC so that he can pursue them on our behalf. He stated that he does read the minutes from Parish Council meetings.

Finally, RN was asked what the KCC's stance was on the current anomaly that the Lullingstone golf course is open for Golfers but not walkers in the light of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. He was not aware of this situation, but would investigate and report back.

3. Matters Arising

Woodlands Farm - what is the latest situation? This was answered later in the meeting within the Chairman's Report.

A question was raised on what was happening about the Millennium signpost. This is on hold at the moment pending the outcome of recent discussions about erecting village signposts at the roadside as you enter Well Hill. We are eligible for these signs, but is there sufficient resources for it to actually be done.

Speed Limits - The problems involved with getting speed limits applied within Well Hill were discussed. One resident has seen places in Kent where the limit is painted in the road, but not supported by accompanying signposts. The committee requested details of these locations so that they could pursue this matter.

A copy of the Crockenhill Millennium Album has been purchased by the Association and is available to members for viewing.

4. Chairman's Report

To be inserted by CG

Woodlands may have been sold to Asprey Homes of Sevenoaks. Asprey Homes think they own Woodlands, but so do Ward homes.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Phil Hobson reported that little financial activity had taken place over the past year. The accounts showed a drop off in the number of subscriptions collected last year. If this trend continues the associations funds will slowly be depleted.

Such expenditures as maintaining Santa's Float come directly out of the funds as all money collected during the procession is donated to charity.

One resident made the point that if anything happened requiring major expenditure a fund-raising exercise could be undertaken to boost the fund.

6. Election of Committee

Nominations have been received for the 5 existing committee members. No other nominations have been submitted. The motion that the 5 candidates be elected was proposed by David Lifton and seconded by Cyril Smeeth. The vote was carried and the members duly elected.

7. Election of Officers

Due to commitments with the Parish Council this year, Phil Hobson will be standing down as Treasurer for the Association. He will continue with his involvement in planning matters within and affecting Well Hill.

Confirmation of which committee members will be carrying out which roles within the committee will be announced following the next committee meeting and circulated in the next Newsletter.

8. Subscriptions

Ideas for methods of collecting the annual subscription were requested. Some problems had been experienced with the use of the envelopes last year. If this system is to be used again it requires greater clarification.

The use of Standing orders was suggested. It was felt that for a lot of people a subscription of only £1.00 per annum did not warrant the setting up of a standing order.

The idea of a one-off fee for life membership was suggested. It was felt by some that this would reduce further the opportunity for people to keep in touch with each other. It was accepted that it is difficult for only 5 committee members to perform this task and any volunteer helpers would be appreciated.

A rise to £5.00 per household was proposed. It was passed unanimously by the meeting, with 1 objector on the grounds that you will probably get fewer people paying the larger amount.

A suggestion was put that an increased level of financing might allow the association to become a more effective pressure group. The Chairlady reported that under the current circumstances it was difficult to see how the committee could apply any greater pressure than they were already doing. There are a lot of letters and communications being sent by the association on members behalf and they are as pro-active as they can be on any issues that affect Well Hill.

9. AOB

For yet another year, the problems with regular delivery of In-Shape to all households were discussed. The committee has been working hard all year to try and get SDC to solve this once and for all, but as yet have not succeeded.

Confusion was expressed over paper collection in the area. The literature says it is once a fortnight on the same day as the rubbish collection. However, this does not seem to be the case for those areas where the small lorry is used. Colin Dibsdall will obtain clarification.

The increasing problem of fly tipping was raised. Where possible, the Association tries to contact the relevant authorities, but is also up to individual residents to report problems and complain about lack of response. Contact numbers for the appropriate authorities will be published in the next Newsletter.

It was noted that the hit squad for rubbish was very good. Once notified rubbish was usually cleared within 24 hours. The number will be published in the next Newsletter.

The issue of motorway screening and noise reduction was raised. This was discussed at the recent Darent Valley meeting. The committee is not aware of any plans for this section of the motorway currently, but they were asked to keep an eye on the situation and to maintain any pressure they can to ensure that this section is not lit in the future.

Problems with communication links into Well Hill were discussed. Some work has taken place within the last year and small items appear to be ongoing. The Association can do little to apply pressure to BT as they will only deal with the person paying the bill. The recent announcement by the government of funding for links in rural areas may present some opportunities. A resident understands that BT's obligations to OFTEL would force it to supply ISDN to Well Hill if there was a need for 8 or more ISDN lines. If enough interest can be established in this facility, it might be possible to apply some pressure to BT. A note will be included within the next Newsletter.

Cllr Colin Dibsdall was invited to take the floor.

CD stated that there might be some possibility of getting a bus service for Well Hill. Last year the government made funds available for new routes. This year the County Councils can also use those funds to extend existing services. Pensioners could be eligible for 20p fares for journeys starting within Kent. We need to get SDC support to get at the KCC money. For more details contact Robert DeCastro at SDC.

Any problems relating to policing within the Well Hill area should be discussed with Penny Stubbs who is chairman of the Kent Police Authority. She has proved very helpful in Crockenhill.

CD will chase SDC on the issue of non-delivery of In-Shape if the Association provide him with a list of who is not receiving it.

Roads - The money allocated by SDC did run out in 6 months last year. Small repairs are undertaken by the council, but they were a little over enthusiastic. The new

financial year has just started, so CD suggested that a list of all the repairs that need to be carried out be sent to SDC. Contact Roy Holland, highways officer.

Speed limits - KCC refuse to adopt the same criteria as Bromley Council. With an election coming up, it is a good time to keep chipping away at this.

The frequency of swathe cutting in the lanes is to be increased to twice a year.

Street cleaning - schedules are changing. CD will send a copy to the committee. To get any change to the schedule talk to Richard Wilson at Dunbrik Depot.

CD requested copies of our Newsletter and any communications that were sent to SDC.

There being no other business to discuss, The Chairlady thanked all for attending.

The meeting was closed at 10.15 p.m.