

HEVER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 25th JANUARY 1991 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HEVER, KENT

The full Committee was present.

Austin Adkin (Chairman), Neil Johnson (Treasurer), Jan Ryan (Secretary), Committee Members - Keith Ross, Terry Dell, Kevin Agate.

The President of the Association, Michael Brudenell.

The meeting was attended by 46 members and guests.

Chairman's Welcome

The meeting opened at 8.15 pm, with the Chairman welcoming all present, and reminding everyone that the day after the Inaugural Meeting in January 1990, gale force winds flattened one of the barns, resulting in a subsequent reference to the meeting as being that of a witches' coven.

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

The Secretary read out the list of apologies for absence, these being from a further 10 members, and then the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting. These were accepted after a minor amendment from Mrs. Liz Holland.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that during the year no new barns had been built, and the original sites were slowly being eradicated. As a result of the 'acid-house' parties held during the summer in the 'Crystal Palace' barn, Mr. Bennett had been served with three prosecutions, all as a result of evidence produced by members of the Association. Mr. Ellis's barn has recently changed hands, and is again the subject of investigation by Sevenoaks District Council Planning Department. The Association has been represented on a variety of august committees, and has been involved in many matters of local concern apart from that of the barns.

The Chairman then re-stated the aims and objectives of the Association, and went on to explain the 'Hever Housekeeping' campaign being headed up by Committee Member Terry Dell. A donation of £10 from the Horticultural Society, and another of £50 from Hever Parish Council have already been received for this project. It is intended to form a small sub-committee, and volunteers have already come forward, including Doug Goodyer, who is willing to share his not inconsiderable knowledge and experience. The Chairman then went on to mention the self-help group which exists within the Association, adding that response from members has always been completely reliable. He then thanked the Committee for all its hard work during the past year, and in particular the Secretary, upon whom the burden of the administrative work falls.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer prefaced his report by mentioning that £199 had been received in subscriptions during 1990, and as this had seemed an adequate sum to cover administrative costs, subscriptions would remain at the same level for 1991. He added that special events such as the social evening after the AGM would be expected to be self financing, and if any money were left in the account, the Association could consider donations to such schemes as the Hever Housekeeping Campaign. In response to a question from the floor, the Treasurer stated that subs for 1991 would be £3 per person, or £1 for those on fixed incomes. He then presented his report, and this was accepted on a show of hands.

Election of Officers and Committee

The Committee then resigned en bloc, and the President took the Chair. He explained that all Committee Members were willing to stand for re-election, under the terms of the Constitution, but that Austin Adkin no longer wished to remain as Chairman, and Keith Ross had been nominated for this office. The Officers and Committee were re-elected, and the change accepted, on a show of hands. The President thanked Austin for his hard work as Chairman, and for his initiative in starting the Association. The President then called for nominations for two further Committee Members. Tony Yates and John Scott (in his absence) were proposed, and seconded, and were elected on a show of hands. The newly constituted Committee, except for John Scott, who had already tendered his apologies for absence, then took its place. The President vacated the Chair in favour of the new Chairman, who began by stressing that even if the matter of the barns should be totally resolved during the coming year, the Association has a much broader remit. He called for members to bring any other matters of local concern to the attention of the Committee. He then threw the meeting open to the floor.

Any Other Business

The question of donations for the Hever Housekeeping Campaign was raised from the floor, and the Chairman responded that various means were being employed, including a raffle to be held during the Social after the AGM.

Pat Humphreys asked how soon the village could expect to be on mains drainage, and would it be possible to expedite the matter with the District Council. Dr. Andrew Russell pointed out that housing development would be likely to follow in the wake of such an innovation, and several people agreed that they would prefer not to see main drainage in the village. Opinions on the subject were very mixed, and the Chairman added that it was probably more a matter for the Parish Council than for the Residents Association, but that it would be discussed in Committee. Ruth Parsons, Clerk to Edenbridge Town Council, speaking from the floor, explained that the proposal was for the new drain to serve only Hever Road and Uckfield Lane, and the District Council would in any case carefully canvass local opinion before any decision could be made. Derek Martin raised the subject of the state of the metalled surfaces of local lanes, which were never intended for use by heavy traffic, and which were left cratered after water board repairs. He also mentioned hazards caused by water run-offs, particularly in icy conditions. In this context, Brian Andrews, speaking on behalf of Hever Parish Council, requested that any problems with footpaths and byways be passed on to that body. The Chairman agreed that the question of land drainage should be passed on to the Parish Council. The Secretary added that representation had already been made to the Highways Department, and to the Water Board regarding the pot-holes, but so far without result.

David Woollett suggested that the Association should take over the organisation for the annual Best Kept Village Competition, and he passed the relevant paperwork to the Hon. Secretary. The Chairman agreed that the proposal should be discussed in Committee.

The question of the two lots of footings in Sage's field was raised. The Secretary replied that the field had remained untouched for months, and the District Council have recently written again to Mr. Sage. Ruth Parsons confirmed this, and added that Edenbridge Town Council have received no new information on the matter. In this context, Ellis's barn was also mentioned, and the Secretary confirmed that the new owner has been visited by an Enforcement Officer from Sevenoaks, and has also been sent a letter from the Planning Dept., requesting details of his intentions. Brian Andrews supplied the information that by law, new title must be included in the Land Registry within two months of purchase, and this

is available for public scrutiny on payment of a fee of £12. The Secretary confirmed that the Planning Dept. is checking with the land registry to ascertain the extent of the holding now in new ownership.

Liz Holland, speaking on behalf of the Edenbridge and District Rail Travellers Association, thanked all those members who had returned the questionnaire, and mentioned the TVS programme on the Uckfield Line, to be screened on Monday 28th January.

Jennifer Bowden asked if anything could be done to prevent the proposed enlargement of the Hever Road Gypsy Encampment. The Secretary replied that the site is outside the Hever boundary, and passed the question on to Ruth Parsons. She replied that the Town Council has formally objected to the proposals, but that no firm decision has yet been reached. Pauline Scott pointed out that Hever residents are affected by the site, and local people have had missiles put through windows and car windscreens. The Chairman added that the Association could make formal representation to Edenbridge Town Council. The Secretary agreed to send a letter. The Chairman then closed the meeting by thanking the organisers, and in particular the caterers, for their hard work, and reminding people of the raffle to be held in aid of the Hever Housekeeping Campaign.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.