

HEVER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY 2003 AT HEVER VILLAGE HALL

Present;- Jan Ryan (Secretary), Gerry Ryan, John Scott, Eric Jackson, Tony Yates.

The Meeting was attended by a further 28 Members and Guests

In the absence of the Chairman, Christopher Dane, the Chair was taken by Committee Member Gerry Ryan.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO JEAN MORGAN, STRATEGIC SERVICES DIRECTOR WITH SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Acting Chairman began by welcoming all present, and thanking Jean Morgan for agreeing to attend the Meeting and talk on the subject of **"Mains Drains - The Aftermath"**.

Jean said there were 122 properties which would have been on the scheme, and all had been sent an invitation to discuss the practical problems with Council Engineers. 21 had responded, but had not yet received replies from the Council. Across the region as a whole there were 5000 properties not on mains drainage, and any money left after the cancellation of the local scheme would have had to be shared between all of them.

The Acting Chairman asked why, if £648k had originally been allocated to the scheme, the remainder after costs could not be paid to the locally affected residents. Jean said the sums involved were correct, although the amount due to Southern Water had yet to be finalized. The matter had been discussed in Committee, and Members had decided that the remainder should be returned to general funds. **Andy Barnett and Pat Humphreys** both expressed bitter disappointment at this decision. **Ellie Heard** asked about alternative solutions to the pollution problem, such as reed beds. Jean said she knew of one such scheme at the back of West Kent Cold Storage in Dunton Green, installed in conjunction with the West Kent Wildlife Trust, but she did not think such schemes would be applicable to domestic circumstances. **Ruth Parsons** clarified the situation at the Village School, saying there was a scheme in train to separate the foul waste from other effluent, with the assistance of a government grant. **The Secretary** asked if there were any grants available which might be applied individually or administered by the Association or the Parish Council. Jean said there were none on offer from SDC which would be applicable. She suggested that if small groups of residents wanted to install their own mini-schemes the Council would help with practical advice, but funding would not be forthcoming.

Jean concluded by saying that Strategic Services covers many aspects of Council work, and she would welcome the opportunity to help with any other queries or problems.

There being no further questions, The Acting Chairman thanked Jean on behalf of all those present, and concluded the discussion.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These had been received from Christopher Dane (Chairman), Neil Johnson (Treasurer), Committee Member Terry Dell, and a further 3 Members.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Copies had been distributed in advance of the Meeting, and were accepted without amendment. Proposed: David Baron. Seconded: Ellie Heard.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no Matters Arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had prepared his notes in advance of the Meeting, and these were presented by the Acting Chairman.

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the highly successful Jubilee Party which had been held at the Village Hall on 3rd June.

He also commented on the excellent Fireworks Display held on 9th

November on the Parish Field, and had also been extremely well attended.

Other matters which had been addressed during the year included pot-holes and the state of the roads generally; removal of cars which had been left in a private field; the clearance of land off Uckfield Lane; removal of fly-tipped rubbish and other items; vigilance and action where necessary on planning matters.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all Members for their continuing support, and Committee Members for their hard work during the year. He particularly singled out Committee Member Gerry Ryan, Secretary Jan Ryan, and Treasurer Neil Johnson.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer had prepared his report in advance of the Meeting, and in his absence copies had been distributed by Amanda Johnson. On his behalf, Amanda explained that there had been fewer marquee bookings in 2002 than in the previous year, and this had affected the overall income. **Tom Parsons** asked if the reduced income on subscriptions reflected a reduced Membership. The Secretary replied that Membership had remained roughly the same, but income had dropped because she had not chased non-payers as vigorously as in the previous year.

The 2 Reports were then adopted, Proposed by Ruth Parsons and Seconded by Pat Humphreys.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

All Officers and Committee were willing to stand for re-election, and were duly elected en-bloc on a show of hands. Proposed; Tom Parsons, Seconded; Una Higgs.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Acting Chairman thanked the long standing District Councillor **Martin Whitehouse** who is retiring in May, for his many years of devoted hard work on behalf of the Community. Martin said he had enjoyed his long career, but was now looking forward to a rest. All present joined in with warm applause.

The Acting Chairman then asked **Lizzie Whitmarsh** if she had heard anything further on the car rally which is due to pass her house in the small hours in February. Lizzie said she had written objecting to the plans, but had received no reply. 6 other Members present had also received advance notification.

Ruth Parsons asked for clarification on the proposal by Mark Iredale to re-route Hever Road across his own land at the rear of the Bower Farmhouse. There was some general discussion on the merits or otherwise of the scheme to the Village.

David Baron asked why a gravelled area had recently appeared outside the old Station Buildings. The Acting Chairman explained that the owner had obtained planning consent to convert the part of the building that had been the Station House back to residential usage, and this was part of the delineation between the 2 parts of the property.

John Scott asked if anything could be done about the deteriorating appearance of the King Henry VIII Inn, and in particular the green wheelie bin stationed in the porch.

The Secretary, on behalf of **Kevin Agate** who was unavoidably absent, commented on the improvements made by the recently appointed Community Warden, and in particular the speed with which dumped cars, white goods and other rubbish, is cleared.

Ruth Parsons thanked the Committee for the hard work and effort put in to maintain and improve the Village. Those present responded with applause.

There being no other business, the Acting Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.06pm.