

HEVER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 30th JANUARY 2004 AT HEVER VILLAGE HALL

Present;- Austin Adkin (Guest Chairman), Jan Ryan (Secretary), Gerry Ryan, Eric Jackson, John Scott, Claire Longley.

The Meeting was attended by a further 30 Members and Guests.

The Meeting was opened by the Secretary, who introduced the Founder and first Chairman of the Association, Austin Adkin, who had kindly agreed to Chair the Meeting.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO  
PARISH COUNCILLOR NICK BASHFORD.

The Chairman began by welcoming all present, and thanking Cllr. Nick Bashford for agreeing to attend the Meeting and talk on the subject of 'Deers Leap - Where do we go from here?'

Nick began by showing photographs of the site as it was when it was open countryside, and of the rubbish dump it has become since the travellers bought the land and moved their vans on to it in March 2003.

He explained the legal and planning history, and the significance of the dates of 5th February 2004, when SDC will be able to action enforcement notices, and 12th May 2004 when the planning appeal hearing is scheduled to be heard.

He concluded by saying that the site WILL eventually be restored, although this might take years 1

**Hugh McNeill** asked what nationality the travellers are. Nick said most are Irish, some English, and a scattering of others from many different countries. Gerry Ryan added that when they moved on to the site they did not know that one of their neighbours was the Chairman of the Parish Council, Laurie Rutman, who is a lawyer.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Nick on behalf of all those present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These had been received from the Treasurer and Acting Chairman, Neil Johnson, Committee Members Roy Cope, Terry Dell, Tony Yates, and a further three members.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2003 A.G.M.

Copies had been distributed in advance of the Meeting, and were accepted without amendment. Proposed; David Baron, seconded; Una Higgs.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no Matters Arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Acting Chairman had prepared a report in advance of the Meeting, and this was presented by the Chairman.

He began by talking about the sad loss of Christopher Dane, Chairman of the Association for many years, and the intention to install a brass plaque on the Beacon Post to commemorate Chris's services to the Village.

The appalling state of local roads, and the steps taken by the Committee to harass the Highways Department into action was his next topic. To this end, an application had been submitted to upgrade Hever Road from 'C' to 'B' status, in an effort to improve the level of service it receives.

The Committee had also taken responsibility for renewing broken or missing road signs, in order to preserve the traditional appearance of which would be lost if the task were to be left to the authorities.

The Village Sign had also been renovated.

Martin Whitehouse had retired after many years as District Councillor, and had been presented with a plaque and a gift in thanks for all his hard work. Committee Member Gerry Ryan had taken over as District Councillor.

Other matters addressed during the year included light pollution, bonfires, dog fouling, notice board at the bus shelter, and parking at the Village School.

On the social front, he mentioned the Hog Roast and Country Dance, which had been poorly attended, and the Fireworks Display which had been very successful, and for which he thanked Gerry and his team, and the generous sponsors who make it possible.

The Chairman's Report concluded with thanks to all members of the Committee who had contributed their time and energies during the year, and in particular to Claire Longley, Terry Dell and Tony Yates, who were standing down after many years of service.

#### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the Accounts and Balance Sheet had been distributed in advance of the meeting. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary read out his explanatory notes. Income from subscriptions and the marquee had been healthy. The Hog Roast and Country Dance had made a loss. Money had been spent on the retirement gift for Martin Whitehouse, and £1000 had been donated to the Deers Leap fighting fund. There was, however, £3500 still in the reserve fund. Annual subscriptions would remain at the same level as last year. **Gill Ford** asked how accounting for the fireworks is conducted. The Secretary said that money received from sponsors and from the bucket collection was paid into a bank account, and costs, including purchase of the fireworks, was paid out of that account.

Both Reports were then adopted, proposed by Andy Barnett and seconded by Adrian Maurice.

#### 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Claire Longley, Terry Dell and Tony Yates had retired from the Committee. Nominations for new Committee Members were; Gill Ford, Andy Barnett and Adrian Maurice, and all three were accepted onto the Committee, proposed by Pat Humphreys and seconded by Claire Longley.

Other Committee Members, including the Secretary and the Treasurer/ Acting Chairman, were willing to stand for re-election, and were elected en bloc, proposed by Claire Longley and seconded by Hugh McNeill.

**Gill Ford** asked what the position is regarding the vacant post of Chairman. The Secretary replied that after Chris's death, the Committee had not felt ready to appoint a new Chairman immediately. The Treasurer had taken on the role of Acting Chairman in the meantime. The Committee would appoint an interim Chairman during the coming year, and he or she will then stand for election at the 2005 A.G.M.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Andrew Russell** asked for information on the current situation with Belcher's Field. Gerry Ryan said there is only one vehicle left, and there is an Article 4 Directive in force on the site, so even normally permitted development rights had been withdrawn. Andrew asked if the one vehicle could be removed. Gerry said that in view of Belcher's known association with the travellers at Deers Leap, it had been felt expedient not to further antagonize Belcher at this time. Nevertheless, he would discuss the matter with an enforcement officer at SDC.

There being no other business from the floor, the Chairman went on to thank Teresa Agate for her gift of a floral display. It had become traditional, after the formal proceedings, to present this to the most recent newcomer to the Village present at the Meeting, and this year it was presented to Amy and Julian Davies, who moved into the Village in October 2003.

The Secretary requested subscriptions for 2004.

The Chairman then closed the Meeting, urging all present to avail themselves of the food and drinks on offer at the back of the Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9pm.

The finger foods are provided by Committee Members and their spouses, each providing a dish. Each year the most 'Popular Platter' is recorded, and for 2004 that dish was the plate of smoked salmon on delicately cut brown bread, with squeezed lemon. Congratulations go to the provider.