

**HEVER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2005 AT HEVER VILLAGE HALL**

Present: - Adrian Maurice (Acting Chairman), Jan Ryan (Secretary), Amy Davies (Acting Treasurer), Alan Townsend, John Scott, Gerry Ryan, Gill Ford, Katherine Storey, Andy Barnett.

The Meeting was attended by a further 25 Members and Guests.

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER LAKE.**

The Acting Chairman began by welcoming all those present, and thanking Cllr. Peter Lake for agreeing to attend the Meeting and give a short talk.

Peter began by explaining the many and varied aspects of his work in representing the area at County level, and his specific role in "Social Care In The Community".

He touched on the state of Kent roads, measures to prevent dumping of old cars, the fight over the proposed closure of Primary Schools with less than 100 pupils, the rules governing the provision of School transport, problems with HGVS using minor roads, provision of sites for travellers, the improvements in railway timetables, the provision of care for child asylum seekers, holding down the cost of Council Taxes, and the provision of further Nursing Home facilities.

Ruth Parsons asked why admissions policy at Hever School had been taken from local to County level when this had resulted in a drop in pupil numbers. Peter replied that the decision was wrong and should be reversed, but KCC did not have the authority to do this.

The Secretary asked if more rubbish dumps with easier and free access could be provided to cut down on the ever rising problem of fly-tipping. Peter said that possibly collections could be stepped up, and there should be more Community Wardens, as well as increased penalties for fly-tippers. Gerry Ryan commented that recently a culprit had been fined £3000 with a further £1500 costs, but fly-tipping continues to escalate.

Sue Jackson asked why unaccompanied asylum-seeking children coming in from France could not be sent back to France. Peter said that this would breach internationally agreed rules.

Peter had a further commitment for the evening, and after being thanked by the Acting Chairman on behalf of all present, he left at 8.50 pm.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These had been received from 7 Members. All Committee Members were present.

**3. MINUTES OF THE 2004 A.G.M.**

Copies of these had been distributed in advance of the Meeting, and were accepted without amendment. Proposed by Tony Yates, seconded by Ken Seal.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Acting Chairman began by explaining that since the sad loss of Christopher Dane in October 2003 the post of Chairman had remained vacant, and the Treasurer, Neil Johnson, had taken on the role of Acting Chairman. Neil had recently moved away from the area, and had resigned.

Amy Davies, who had been co-opted on to the Committee during the year, had volunteered to stand for Treasurer, and the Acting Chairman was willing to stand for Chairman. Alan Townsend,

who had also been co-opted earlier in the year, had agreed to act as Deputy Chairman as and when necessary.

The Acting Chairman then went on to summarise some of the activities which had taken place during the last year.

The Summer Event, held on Saturday 4th September, had benefited from hot, dry weather, and had been attended by nearly 200 people.

The Fireworks Display, held on Saturday 6th November, had also taken place in near perfect weather, and had attracted a record number of spectators. Karel, of the Henry VIII Inn, had set up an excellent barbecue in the car park. A brass plaque to the memory of Christopher Dane had been set into the Beacon Post, and was unveiled on that evening.

Deers Leap had been restored in record time, and was once again a green field, thanks largely to Hever Parish Council and Sevenoaks District Council.

Many small improvements and maintenance tasks had been performed throughout the Village, although thankfully there had been no new threatening planning matters to deal with during 2004.

The Acting Chairman then closed his report with thanks to all the loyal Members who continue to support the Association and its work, and in particular to its Committee Members, past and present.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Neil had completed his financial report for the year, before he left, and copies of this had been distributed in advance of the Meeting. Alan Townsend asked for clarification of 'donation and gifts', and Gerry Ryan was able to explain that £200 had been given to the Village Hall Repainting Fund, and £59 had been the cost of the commemorative plaque.

Both reports were then adopted, proposed by Tony Yates and seconded by Ken Seal.

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

Retirees during the year had been Eric Jackson and Neil Johnson.

Amy Davies, Alan Townsend and Katherine Storey had been co-opted. Amy was willing to stand for Treasurer, Adrian for Chairman, and Alan for Deputy Chairman. All other Committee Members were willing to stand for re—election, including the Secretary.

All these were voted in en bloc, proposed by Pat Humphreys and seconded by Ruth Parsons.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman requested ideas and suggestions from the floor as to areas in which the Association could benefit the Village. Terry Dell suggested that the Parish Field could be further developed with trees, seats, etc., to make it more of a park.

Gill Ford said the Notice Board needs some attention, and John Scott agreed to look at this.

Laura Palmer asked for more of the Village direction signs to be replaced with timber ones.

Gerry Ryan said he would try to get the single litter bin by the Memorial Oak to be doubled to two bins to cope with the tourist generated litter during the season.

Ruth Parsons asked for verges etc. to be better cared for, especially the area around the bus shelter.

Laura Palmer asked if anything could be done about the constant flow of water on Uckfield Lane and near the bus shelter. Ken Seal said the problems started in the mid '80s when mains water pipes were installed, and the spring/well water had nowhere else to go. Tony Yates said the pipes had been set in aggregate which was supposed to drain the water into Kent Water and on into the Eden.

Mike Ford asked if the Village could be entered in the 'Best Kept Village' competition or similar, and also to join the 'Twinning' fraternity. Terry Dell pointed out that some years ago a campaign to keep the Village kempt and pretty had resulted in the same handful of people turning out week after week. Laura Palmer added that there is litter all over the Village, and asked if the Castle could be held accountable for clearing it up. The Secretary replied that they had been approached in the past, and although happy to deal with litter in the immediate vicinity, they had

refused to accept responsibility for further flung parts of the Village. Gill Ford asked what advantages, if any, Twinning would bring. The general feeling was negative.

Terry Dell mentioned the plethora of private sign posting which doesn't get removed once the event is over. It was thought that records could be kept, and the event organisers contacted. Sue Jackson asked if signs or other measures could be taken to warn motorists of horses on the road, as horses have been killed and riders injured. There are no bridle paths in Hever, and attempts to install some had met with opposition from landowners.

Mike Ford asked for support for the Bring and Buy Sale to be held on Saturday 12th February in aid of the Tsunami Appeal.

There being no other business from the floor, the Chairman went on to award the floral display to the most recent newcomer present at the Meeting. Once again this went to Amy and Julian Davies, who moved into the Village in October 2003.

The Secretary requested payment of subscriptions for 2005. The Chairman then closed the Meeting, urging all present to avail themselves of the food and drink on offer at the back of the Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Finger foods are provided by Committee Members, each of whom provides a dish. Each year the 'Most Popular Platter' is recorded, and for 2005 that dish was the plate of spiced chicken drumsticks. Congratulations to the provider.