

Gleneagles Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday 19 February 2017 2.30pm at Grovelands School Hall

Committee members present: Steve Potts (Chairman), Andrew Dixon (Vice-Chair), Phil Golding (Treasurer), Deb Renals (Treasurer), Julie Coates (Media), Adam Barnard and John Weatherall

Guests present: Sharon Cottingham (Independent Councillor – Hailsham South & West), Paul Holbrook (Hailsham Central & North), Gavin Blakelock (Town Councillor) Helen Deehan, Gerard Fox and Gavin Blake-Coggins (HTC Councillor)

71 people present at meeting in total.

Welcome by Steve Potts and introduction to committee members.

Glen Moore, Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, was unable to attend but sent the following message:

“I am aware of the issues from an earlier presentation to our committee. Transport issues will be addressed by the Neighbourhood Plan but in a wider context. We will, of course, give cognizance to your concerns. As you will be aware many parts of Hailsham are blighted by transport issues including parking. We hope to highlight these in our report, but implementation will be subject to funding and acceptance by East Sussex County Council. I would also point out that in these times of financial restraint, infrastructure funding by Westminster is highly unlikely.”

County Councillors were not invited as both are due for re-election in May and it is understood that neither are going to stand again to represent our ward – which in future will be called Hailsham New Town.

No objections to previous meeting minutes (2 years ago). Minutes accepted.

Audited Accounts: £701.30 at the start of 2016. 6 new members over the year gave income of £60. Expenditure of £330 (printing letters and newsletters, hire of meeting room, new logo and AGM venue hire and insurance) which left £248.30 in account. 6 new members joined today.

Annual expenditure is estimated at £425 – not enough to run this year. We would like to propose everybody pays £5 a year. Meeting in agreement. Point made about meeting costs and reducing quality of the paper to reduce costs. Funding was asked from Town Council for newsletters but turned down as Residents Associations should be self funding.

Andy Dixon – Update on Country Park

The Town Council have undertaken extra drainage work which has worked pretty well with making the paths accessible. They are also looking at drainage of ditches and a survey of all the trees. Drug abuse has been brought to the attention of the Police and the Town Council. Do report in the usual way if you encounter drug abuse. It has just been brought to our attention about further

use of the country park as football pitches. Nothing has been agreed as yet – Steve Potts has spoken to John Harrison, Town Clerk, about that.

Phil Golding– Community Speed Watch

New committee came up with list of goals and objectives and traffic flow and speed came up pretty high on the list. We carried out a few non-scientific traffic surveys. Over five surveys at different times of the day and an 8 hour period we counted 2742 cars, 456 vans and 18 HGV's. Potentially over 16,000 vehicles a week (Mon-Fri). Missing roundabout at Hempstead Lane is part of the reason so much traffic is coming through Gleneagles. Four committee members have passed an online health and safety and speed awareness programme for the police and attended a seminar at Hailsham Police Station in January. Because of the traffic calming measures it is potentially not suitable for speedwatch but this week we have been granted a trial period. The rules of running a CSW scheme are very strict. If you are clocked speeding and reported to Sussex Police you will be flagged up and get a visit from them. Traffic too fast and problems with the school junction are particular concerns. The Council have kindly fitted speed awareness signs throughout the estate.

Steve Potts – Chairmans update

As your new committee, in addition to the items above, we have addressed the Town Council regarding traffic issues, addressed the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, addressed the Finance Committee, attended Hailsham Area Action Plan briefings, attended Community Forum meetings, given an interview on Hailsham FM and had a meeting with Chandlers Head of Business to discuss parking issues.

Highways: In addition to the various speed warning signs, the Highways Dept. has agreed to place school warning signs either side of Dunbar Drive. County Councillor Bill Bentley and a Road Safety Manager met with two committee members at around 3 in the afternoon to look at road safety issues. They agreed some parking restrictions are needed – the process of getting yellow lines around the corners of Turnberry Drive (a spot that was particularly noted) will cost around £6000– mostly on legal fees. Near Dunbar drive a crossing is not deemed to be safe because of bends but a 20mph could be enforced. We are awaiting results of a survey of the road which should have taken place last week to see what happens next. The County Council would fund 50% of the work but the balance would have to be found by our Town Council (we addressed the Finance Committee but they felt it was not their responsibility). We have written to the MP and Mayor to try to gain support.

Roundabout on A22 at Hempstead Lane: We really need this installed to help with the amount of traffic that uses Gleneagles Drive. We've heard several different stories about why the roundabout has still not been built. Wealden has the money but will not do anything until HAAP is sorted in case A22 is diverted from Boship Roundabout. There is a Community Infrastructure Levy on the Park Road/New Road developer. He has to build this roundabout, or provide funding for it, but not until he has built the 96th house. Really until HAAP is agreed

nothing will be done. Helen Deehan indicated that HAAP is now dissolved and is part of the Wealden Plan.

Grovelands Land This was an emotive subject at the last AGM and a good number of people suggested that some of the land should be used as a car park for school use. East Sussex County Council has planning permission for 40 houses on this land. We have asked to be kept informed when the opportunity comes up again to object. We will continue to lobby whenever it is possible but it seems unlikely we will be successful.

This concludes the committees report of activities since September last year.

Buses: We have been asked by the Town Clerk if there is a demand for buses on Gleneagles Drive.

Thoughts included the 51 bus route being reintroduced to link with Eastbourne. It was felt this area, including Wellbury Farm, were quite cut off from town. Significant number of residents at meeting agreed to bus service.

There were no issues with the Constitution and no objections to dropping 'Grovelands' from residents association name.

No resolutions were proposed.

Election of officers and committee.

All officers happy to stand for another year. No objections.

AOB

Question about the cost of the High Street (2.5 million so far) – budget was originally 1.25million. (Asked as we were given hard time over getting money) Reason from Gerard Fox was that it was because the gas pipes were only 4 inches underground so dangerous and had to be rectified.

Cost asked for implementation of the 20mph limit –we won't know until the £500 feasibility study is done. Asked whether whole road could be 20mph – would be subject to Highways. Should have been done by Redrow when houses were first built. Since the chicanes some felt we do get a lot less lorries down the road. Another resident did not agree – he backs onto Gleneagles and thinks there are lots of large vehicles still.

Proposal for football pitches – opinion that it should remain as a country park. Suggested to go to neighbourhood plan as a committee and try and get some funds from them, particularly for traffic calming. Also suggested we try Ripleys fund for regeneration.

Nick Collinson has offered to come along with Gerard Fox to a meeting.

Surveillance camera or some sort of policing thought to be needed if 20mph is put into action.

If continuous speeding the police would come along and have the power to stop people.

Lady explained persistence in getting some lighting issues addressed.

Thanks were given for the residents association and the work being done on the issues. Agreement with country park being used for leisure. Wealden plan – need to make sure that money is kept in Hailsham.

Question as to cars parking across drives and on pavements.

Steve Potts explained about the agreements made with Chandlers. Resident from Turnberry explained how she had sent a photo to Chandlers by email which had resulted in a badly parked car being moved.

Operation Crackdown works alongside CSW scheme - for reporting inconsiderate parking.

Hailsham have applied for 2 town wardens.

Question asked as to whether Chandlers are allowed to put cones on the road.

Question as to how the house in Western Road got permission to get access onto Gleneagles. The planning was granted in Bristol.

It was asked if the Police will co-operate if the 20mph limit signs go up. The Police will come if enough things are reported.

Volunteers asked to come forward for Committee Meeting and Community Speedwatch Programme.

Meeting closed at 4pm.