

**Minutes of the Meeting held on
Monday 7th March, 2011 at 7.30 pm
in the Letherhead Institute.**

Present:

5 **Members:** Hubert Carr (Chairman), Hilary Porter (Vice-Chair), Ray Brown (Secretary),
(Treasurer), Cheryl Allen, Caroline Brown, Ann Cardew, Sue Dundas, Paul Hamilton,
Percy Hawkins, Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr, Tom Musoke, Jane Pratt, Fran Smith, Norma
Tatham Thompson, Alan Thornhill, Heather Ward
 Visitors: Cllr David Sharland, Sylvia Sharland

10 **1. Apologies:** Flip Cargill, Ken Dundas, Paula Sabine

The Chairman deferred Items 2 & 3 until after Item 4

4. North Leatherhead Community Group – presentation by Simon Woodhams

15 Simon introduced himself as the “Volunteer Community Development Worker for North
Leatherhead.” He told us that at its Annual general Meeting on 17th March, the North
Leatherhead Community Group would be dissolving itself, as it was no longer suitable
for the needs of North Leatherhead, and a new group called the North Leatherhead
Community Action Group (NLCAG) to provide support for projects. There will be a big
project meeting every other month.

20 Simon then described the structure of NLCAG and how it would relate to other groups in
the area, to the Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) and to Surrey County Council
(SCC), and to various projects in North Leatherhead.

25 After that he talked specifically about the new Community Garden being set up on land
belonging to West Hill School; it is a joint venture between the community and the
school's horticultural project. We were shown slides showing what had already taken
place on the site; and Simon went on to describe how the site would be developed,
including a large polytunnel.

Simon also announced that there would be a Big Tidy-Up at Teazle Wood on Saturday,
30th April and North Leatherhead “Knock Out Day” on Thursday, 2nd June.

30 Cheryl Allen pointed out that joint Royal Wedding & St George's Day events were to be
held in the Town Centre on 30th April and suggested that Simon contact Lucy Hanson,
the Town Centre Manager, about the clash of dates. Simon replied that the tidy-up was
being organized in conjunction with the Geocaching Association of Great Britain who
wanted to hold the tidy-up on that date; he did, however, say he would contact Lucy
Hanson.

35 Simon went on to outline future projects such as the setting up of a 'Friends of Teazle
Wood' group and of the establishment of a cinema club to meet once a month.

There followed a short question and answer session, with questions nearly all
concerning the Community Garden.

40 Finally, Simon told us that he was working on a project to bring together different
community groups of Mole Valley in the UK's biggest ever tidy-up with each group being
responsible for part of the Olympic cycle race route through Mole Valley.

Cllr David Sharland said that plans were well underway concerning the cycle race and he advised Simon to contact Steve Strickland at MVDC concerning the proposed tidy-up.

The Chairman thanked Simon for his presentation.

5 **2. Ratification of Minutes of 10th January & 7th February**

The Minutes of the 10th January were ratified *nem. con.*

In the February minutes:

- on line 41 of page 2, "Highways" was amended to "Highlands"
- The two instances of "Riker's" in the last paragraph of page 2 were amended to "Ryka's."

10 The Minutes of 7th February were ratified *nem. con.* as amended.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of 7th February

15 Alan Thornhill said that two of the three Sainsbury's trolleys he had reported as being in the River Mole at the last meeting had been removed from the river, though apparently not by Sainsbury's. The remaining trolley is under Waterway Road bridge and on Wednesday, 9th March Tony of the Amici cafe will, when he has closed the cafe at 5.30 pm, go down with a rope to remove the trolley. Alan said he will be going with him and invited others at the meeting to join them.

20 Sue Dundas said she was pleased that the High Street was now looking much better.

Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr said that cleaning work had been going on over the past fortnight.

5. Reports from subgroups

(a) Membership

25 Fran Smith said that there were still some outstanding subscriptions

Jane Pratt reported that some Road Stewards are not happy at going around to collect money and would like to have a letter with them.

It was pointed out that all who needed to renew subscriptions had had a reminder included with the last Newsletter; however, it was agreed that a letter for Road Stewards would be useful.

30 **(b) Environment**

Cheryl Allen reported that:

- The next meeting of Transition Bookham would be dealing with bee-keeping (the Secretary said the date would appear in the LRA Newsletter).
- Residents living in the neighbourhood of Sainsbury's continued to be pleased with the recent agreement. There had been two nights when lorries had contravened the agreement, but Cllr Rosemary Dickson had soon sorted out the problems.
- Involvement of MVDC officers in the recent negotiations over Sainsbury's had shown a change of attitude from the idea that town-dwellers should expect noise to one that acknowledged that town-dwellers should not be expected to endure unreasonable noise. It also highlighted the importance of attaching conditions to any future agreements for the establishment of supermarkets in Mole Valley.

- The LRA has a representative on the Norbury Park Liaison Group and the LRA Environment subgroup is actively involved with the current problems regarding the Surrey Wildlife Trust. Cheryl referred members to a new website: <http://www.swtaction.org.uk/>
- As a future project, the subgroup would like to work towards having flowers in the High Street.

(c) Planning

Caroline Brown reported that:

- The owners of Leckie in Fortyfoot Road are now appealing against the refusal of MVDC to allow a pair of semi-detached houses on the site. An appeal against a large detached house is already lodged.
- The BP garage (formerly Shell garage) on the Kingston Road near George V Gardens is going to be completely demolished and then re-built.
- No. 1 Elmer Cottages wants to have a single storey front and side extension and a two-storey rear extension.
- The waste facility on Randalls Road is seeking permission to extend and improve its operations.

The Chairman referred to the seminar on Localism held on the 16th February. There were two interesting presentations:

- i. Bookham Vision.
- ii. A development in Headly where bungalows and terrace houses are being built on the site of the disused sewage works; these dwellings will be available only for people who can show that they were brought up in the area.

The Chairman reminded us that the Localism Bill was currently going through Parliament and was expected to become an Act in late summer.

(d) Highways

The Chairman reported that at the Highways Forum on 25th February he had raised the following:

- The LRA are against the installation of parking meters on the street.
- The sign to Leatherhead Hospital needs to be restored to Epsom Road.
- There is need for explicit wording on the no-cycle notice on Church Walk as this notice is often misunderstood.

Cllr David Sharland said that at that meeting he had brought up the problem of inconvenience caused by the poor siting of the give-way notice by the bus stop outside the Lidl store.

The Chairman said that at the same meeting he had learnt that SCC are about to resurface By Pass Road from the roundabout at Junction 9 of the M25 to the Plough Roundabout.

Hilary Porter asked about the questionnaire which has been sent to residents of Epsom Road concerning the possible reinstatement of an Epsom Road cycleway. Not much appeared to be known about this questionnaire, though Cllr David Sharland did confirm that it had gone out.

There followed a general discussion about the pros and cons of the Linden Pit Path *vis-à-vis* Epsom Road as cycleways.

6. AGM & Newsletter

The Secretary reminded those present that the Annual General Meeting of the Association would be held on Monday, 9th May. He urged that as many as possible attend and asked those present to urge others to attend.

5 The Secretary said that he had hoped to announce at this meeting that the Newsletter was now printed and would be distributed during the coming week; however, there had been a hold-up regarding articles on Localism and on the High Street. The Secretary was hopeful, however, that the Newsletter could be collated and printed before the end of the week and be ready for distribution in week beginning 13th March.

10 7 Any Other Business

Cllr David Sharland said he was still in talks with SCC to find out what is going on regarding the Mansion House Car Park.

15 Cheryl Allen asked if it would be helpful if he had a copy of a letter from SCC regarding its instructions to the wheel-clamping company and the wording that should be used on notices.

Cllr Sharland said he would welcome a copy of the letter and Cheryl promised to send him one.

Norma Tatham Thompson brought up problems of work not being completed properly in Kingston House Garden flats. Percy Hawkins elaborated on the problems.

20 Cllr Sharland said these problems should be taken up with the Mole Valley Housing Association (MVHAS) and stressed that this was nothing to do with the MVDC. Heather Ward also confirmed that the MVHA was the correct body to approach.

Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr wanted to know the details of the problems so she could up take the matter and said she would discuss these with Percy and Norma after the meeting.

25 The Chairman reported that the Hawthorn Leslie 3837 locomotive had now been moved onto the car park at the Leisure Centre and would be moved next Monday morning [14th March] between 10.00 and 12.30 to be taken to Isfield near Lewes in Sussex, where it is to be restored.

30 Tom Musoke asked what the economic reasoning was behind the installation of automatic checkouts at Sainsbury's during a time of rising unemployment.

The Chairman said the LRA did not know Sainsbury's economic reasoning.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36 pm

[Next meeting: Monday, 4th April]