

The Sleepers Hill Association

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Association held in the
Conference Room at Highcroft, Sleepers Hill
Sunday 27th October 1996 at 12.00*

Present:

Captain C.J.L.Croft (Chairman), Mr S.J.Osborne (Secretary), Dr & Mrs N.M.M.Buchanan, Mr S.W.Buckley, Mr R.Cherrett, Mrs J.Crabtree, Mrs E.N.Davies, Mr S.Dugdale, Miss J.Elliott, Mrs M.W.Eldridge, Mr I.E.J..Ferguson, Mr I.Fleming, Mr & Mrs E.P.Gilliat, Mr S.D.Harte, Mrs H.N.Jeffery, Mr & Mrs I.W.L.Jones, Mr & Mrs D.V.Leech, Mr D.E.Midgley, Mr S.Patterson, Mr & Mrs J.B.Phillips, Mr M.C.Sollom, Mr & Mrs R.Stahel, Mr & Mrs J.H.Stanning, Prof. W.D..Targett, Prof. Sir B.Thwaites, Judge & Mrs H.J.M.Tucker, Mrs D.I.Wallis Dr & Dr W.D.White, Mr D. Wilmshurst, Mr C.G.Wintrell.

Apologies:

Mr A.P.Ames, Mr P.J.Barlow, Mr & Mrs P.Bateson, Mr A.A.Bath, Dr & Mrs A.G.Bolwell, Mr E.T.Cardew, Mrs N.W.Clark, Mr H.C.Clover, Dr B.J.Doney, Mrs D.Freeborn, Mr P.M.Greene, Mr C.P.Houghton, Mr M.J.Lowe, Mr J.V.Martin, Mr & Mrs D.B.Mathews, Mr M.Mulrooney, Mr J.P.A.Ouvry, Mr J.Pattinson, Mr R.G.N.Pryor, Mrs A.Richardson, Mr B.H.Sharpe, Rev. & Mrs E.S.Shirras, Mr W.E.C.Taylor, Mr C.W.Tulloch, Mrs K.M.Underwood.

1. Welcome to new members

The Chairman welcomed new residents to Charis Holt, Enniskerry, Clownstown and Lamorna.

2. Minutes of the 1994 A.G.M.

There was unanimous agreement that the Minutes were a fair record of that Meeting.

3. Matters arising.

The Chairman invited comments from the Members if any matters arising from the last AGM had not been adequately dealt with by the Committee. Most matters would also be dealt with during the course of the meeting. There were no comments or objections.

4. Election of Officers.

Captain Croft (Chairman), Mr Osborne (Secretary) agreed to continue to serve if elected. There being no other nominations, the current Officers were re-elected.

The Chairman reported that John Phillips was in the process of moving from Sleepers Hill and would thus be standing down from his position as Committee Member and Honorary Auditor. Capt. Croft thanked John for his hard work and support over the previous years.

5. Financial Report.

The Financial Report was adopted unanimously. The Secretary stated that the funds on deposit stood at approximately £3400 which would rise to about £5000 after the current subscriptions had been collected. It was agreed to hold the subscriptions to their current level for the next financial year.

6. Condition of Sleepers Hill.

There was a wide ranging discussion covering many aspects of the condition of the road and verges. Individual contributions by Members were too numerous to list, but discussion centered around three main areas:

i) Immediate repairs to road surface

Members were concerned that a small number of holes had appeared in the road surface and that there were a number of cracks in the gullies which required attention. The Secretary agreed to ask Serco Ltd to effect repairs as soon as possible.

ii) Long Term Upgrading of Road surface.

The Secretary reported that he had attended an inspection of the entire length of the Hill carried out by Serco Ltd. The Serco representative had suggested that the present method of tar and chipping resurfacing that was carried out every 5 or 6 years was not the most suitable treatment for Sleepers Hill - with the large volume of traffic the surface became slick very quickly and it did nothing to improve the underlying irregularities of the surface. It was suggested that a 40mm layer of hard wearing macadam could be applied over the existing surface which would give a smoother profile and would only need resurfacing after about 20 years. The cost of such an operation would be £20,000 to £30,000 for the whole length of the Hill.

It was agreed that the Committee would look into the possibilities for upgrading the road surface, obtain estimates and suggest methods of funding.

iii) Verges

Several Members were unhappy about the state of the verges and a discussion followed as to which surface was the more suitable - grass or hoggins. A show of hands favoured hoggins. Mr Stahel asked what surface residents would like him to use if he were to relay his verge. Mr & Mrs Stanning were concerned that a grass verge outside St Marys would become muddy and unsafe. The Chairman agreed to seek solutions through the Committee.

Concern was expressed about the verges on the north side of the Hill which had in places become impassable. Mr Croft urged frontagers to keep their verges tidy so that a continuous walkway was provided on both sides of the Hill.

7. Traffic Conditions on Sleepers Hill

There was general concern at the perceived increase in traffic levels on the Hill.

Mr Harte told the meeting that he was working on a simple plan for traffic calming involving a number of width restrictions formed by enlarging grass verges. He was in informal discussion with experts at the County Council and would continue to seek a cheap effective solution to the traffic problem.

Prof. Thwaites suggested that with the number of traffic calming schemes to be introduced in the roads surrounding Sleepers Hill, it would be prudent to observe the effect these schemes, once completed, had on the Hill before embarking on any calming scheme of our own.

Judge Tucker thought that a more effective solution could be to seek to reinstate the status of Sleepers Hill as a private road with limited public right of way. He agreed to investigate this possibility.

8. Cable TV on Sleepers Hill

The Chairman opened a discussion as to the desirability of having cables laid on the Hill. He had been in discussion with the local cable supplier Videotron, who would not only require the unanimous approval of frontagers for the cable laying operation, but a commitment from a reasonable number of households that they would become subscribers. After a brief discussion a show of hands was against having cable laid on the Hill. Mr Stahel pointed out that this view may be short sighted and that in years to come the absence of cable to a household might be a great disadvantage.

9. Any Other Business

Mrs Eldridge asked if a new 'Dawn Gardens' sign could be supplied to replace the previous one which had been removed. The Secretary pointed out that as Dawn Gardens was an adopted road the responsibility for signs lay with the City of Winchester.

Dr Buchanan asked if the Council could salt the road more often after it became contaminated with ice and snow. The Secretary said that he had approached the City over this subject before and had been told that the Council would salt the road after snowfall, but Sleepers Hill was a fairly low priority after most other roads in the City. The present arrangement was less than satisfactory but it was gratis - there being no requirement to treat private roads. Mr Osborne was loath to bring the matter up with the Council again in case they were reminded that the current service was free and they decided to start charging. Derek Wilmshurst offered to ask his staff at Highcroft to salt the top of the hill whilst they were treating their car parks. The Chairman thanked D.W. for the offer.

Pam Jones asked if telephone numbers could be added to the list of Members. The Secretary agreed to look into this (even though it would require a large amount of extra work on his behalf).

Ian Fleming had experienced problems with rowdy youths on the Hill on several occasions. Mr Cherrett (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) agreed that this was a problem and urged residents to call the Police if at all concerned.

The Chairman thanked Derek Wilmshurst and the Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare Trust for supplying the venue and coffee for the Meeting and for their continued support in photocopying the Associations' notices.

There being no other business

Meeting closed at 1320.

Secretary's Note

In response to the item in AOB about changes to the List of Members, I am working on a new list that would contain the following information on each resident:

For Example

House Name	Manor Cottage
Surname	Osborne
Titles	Mr S.J. & Mrs E.
Christian Names	Steve & Bish
Telephone Number	865935

If any Resident does not want any of the above information about them, or their spouse or partner, to be included in the list please let me know. In the absence of any adverse comment, I will try to circulate the new list soon.