MEETING OF THE LOWER HENLADE AND STOKE ROAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY 05 OCTOBER 2015

Stoke RA

In Attendance: Gill Elllis (Chair)

Paul Stroner (Vice Chair) Mike Westlake (Treasurer)

John Ashbaugh (Committee Member) Karen Goldstone (Committee Member)

8 Residents

Apologies were received from: Shirley Cozens

1. TREASURERS REPORT

Mike Westlake reported that the Association accounts currently stood at £206.63 in credit. Main expenditure in the current financial year was for two storage boxes to protect the marquee.

Post meeting note: further monies were subsequently found which brought the current balance to £262.15.

2. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Gill Ellis noted that there was little to report on for this meeting. Membership currently stands at 37 paid up members but this could rise to 46.

3. RE-ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

All committee members were up for re-election. Following a vote all of the committee were re-elected with unanimous support. The committee had a vacant post for which Karen Goldstone, was proposed, seconded and elected.

4. FLOOD COMMITTEE

Gill reported that Andrew Lukes is now Chairman of the Flood Committee. Robert Powell has stepped down from the Committee but has indicated he will help in Lower Henlade should the need arise. Xanthe Lukes is now the Coordinator of Operation Ganex. In the event of key Committee members' absence, decisions to close roads can be taken locally according to the trigger plan.

The clearing of the ditches locally was welcomed, though the effectiveness of the approach will be watched with interest.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

It was reported that it was unlikely that there would be any physical work undertaken with regard to the A358 bypass before 2020, though improvements to Junction 25 are likely to take place sooner. Taunton Deane are conducting consultations with various bodies regarding the proposed employment site east of the M5.

Karen Goldstone reported that the development of the affordable houses on Stoke Road could last for several more months yet. The issue of the precise siting of a drainage pipe for surface water to Lower Henlade was discussed but remains unresolved, and it has been ascertained that the housing association, Stonewater (previously Raglan Housing), will be responsible for the surface water drainage system, including the pump(s).

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mike Westlake stated that there was nothing to report and he had received very few alerts for the Police. The usual plea was made to remain vigilant and not leave valuables on display in cars

7. SPEEDING

All in attendance were agreed that this remains a problem, and that traffic volumes are increasing. Mike Westlake suggested that we try to get speed bumps installed, though not all were in favour. It was agreed to re-instate the Speedwatch patrols, and to raise the issue with the Parish Council with regard to potential traffic calming approaches.

8. SOCIAL

Following discussion it was agreed that we should hold a Quiz Night in January with a buffet. A number of potential venues were discussed, with the majority in favour of The Nags Head.

It was further agreed that the Bar B Que would be held on Saturday 18th June 2016. There will be no live music this year, and the games element would be re-instated.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Westlake enquired whether anybody had any update on the situation regarding the caravan parked in Haydon for the last few months. Mike has enquired but has not had a satisfactory answer. Other residents agreed to make enquiries with the council.

Post meeting note: At 17:50 on 8 October there was no caravan and no rubbish at the site.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14, 21 and 28 April 2016 were suggested, with 28 April favoured.

Post meeting note: 28 April 2016 now booked with the Mount Somerset but, given that we pay nothing, we must be prepared to be flexible.