

**Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Lower Henlade and Stoke Road Residents Association  
held on Thursday 22 October 2009  
at The Mount Somerset Hotel**



Present: Gill Ellis (Chair)  
Mike Westlake (Treasurer)  
Paul Stroner (Vice Chair)  
Jacqueline Cairns (Committee Member)  
Lisa Ashbaugh (Committee Member)  
Richard House (Chairman, Ruishton, Thornfalcon & Henlade Parish Council)  
Kelly Durdan (Ruishton and Creech District Councilor)  
David Fothergill (Somerset County Councilor)  
11 residents of Lower Henlade and Stoke Road

**ACTION**

Gill opened the meeting and thanked The Mount Somerset for the use of the room and refreshments.

**1 TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 1.1 Mike Westlake gave a presentation of the accounts for the Association, total income for the year to date stands at £214.04, with expenditure of £96.31, leaving a balance of £117.73. A full copy of the accounts is available on the Association's website at <http://www.lowerhenlade.co.uk/Treasurer'sReport,October2009.pdf>

**2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- 2.1 Gill Ellis gave the Chair's report as follows:

- ❖ Association had been born 18 months ago primarily out of worry;
- ❖ Members' ages range from 3 months to housebound elderly and include people working, working from home and retired.
- ❖ There was good membership with 40 households signed up out of a total of 51, plus one honorary member;
- ❖ Some notable successes during the year
  - Barrow Corner (views of the Association members had a significant impact on the final decision);
  - Social events have enabled people to meet and get to know one another;
  - Keeping people informed about local issues such as Neighbourhood Watch and planning applications.
- ❖ Some less successful things during the year (though no regrets at having tried them)
  - Table top sale – nothing sold;
  - Swaps – no real interest in this.
- ❖ Future Successes
  - Hopeful that Speedwatch will have an impact.
- ❖ Future Strategy
  - Do more to help ourselves

- ❖ Pet Lost and Found (an addendum to the Chairman's Report)
  - In October Gill Ellis was told of a guinea pig found in Lower Henlade. The e-mail then sent out to members resulted in the owner reclaiming this pet which had escaped from its hutch at the top of Stoke Road some 3 months previously.
  - Members were encouraged to inform the Association in similar circumstances.
  - The meeting was then informed of a missing cat: quite small, fluffy black fur, wearing either a silver collar or no collar at all. (Not the very similar cat with a gold collar, which is the brother of the missing pet and which is not missing.) Members seeing a cat of this description were asked to contact the Residents' Association.

### 3 CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

- 3.1 The Committee proposed changing the wording of Clause 5 of the Constitution to allow the Committee to consist of 3 Officers plus a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 Committee Members, ie 4 to 6 members in total.
- 3.2 This proposal was unanimously approved by those present and those who voted prior to the meeting.
- 3.3 The Committee proposed changing the wording of Clause 8 of the Constitution to allow payments to the Association to be held by the Treasurer or paid into a bank account.
- 3.4 This proposal was unanimously approved by those present and those who voted prior to the meeting.
- 3.5 A full copy of the revised Constitution is available on the Associations' website at  
<http://www.lowerhenlade.co.uk/constitution.html>

### 4 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The following stood for re-election

Chairman	Gill Ellis
Vice Chairman	Paul Stroner
Treasurer	Mike Westlake
Committee Member	Jacqueline Cairns

All were re-elected unanimously.

- 4.2 Lisa Ashbaugh, having joined the Committee only 6 months ago, did not need to stand for re-election.
- 4.3 Following the agreement to change Clause 5 Keith Hammond became the sixth Committee Member.

## 5 SPEEDWATCH

- 5.1 Gill Ellis reported that the Association had agreed to run a local Speedwatch initiative in an attempt to reduce excessive speeding in the area. We will be able to make use of the camera from Creech St Michael. The annual cost of recalibration of the camera is £200.
- 5.2 Five members have been trained in the use of the equipment, with Mike Westlake to undertake the training at a later date. Kelly Durdan also volunteered to be involved.
- 5.3 Speedwatch will be co-ordinated by Keith Hammond who reported that a potential six locations had been identified as suitable for use of the camera.
- 5.4 Members were reminded to be aware of their own speeds when driving in the area.
- 5.5 A general discussion followed on speeding and the question was raised about speeding between Lower Henlade and Haydon and the extent of the 30 mph limit. David Fothergill undertook to clarify the regulations, but the consensus at the meeting was that this was probably dictated by the siting of street lighting.

David  
Fothergill

## 6 NOTICE BOARD

- 6.1 Gill Ellis reported that Somerset Highways had no objection to the siting of the notice board at Barrow Corner and a notice was on display at the site.
- 6.2 The cost of the notice board would be £750. Somerset County Council agreed to contribute £350, with the additional £400 and £150 incidental costs being met by the Parish Council.
- 6.3 The Parish Council will own the notice board.
- 6.4 Councillors Fothergill and House were thanked for their support in this endeavour.

## 7 SOCIAL

- 7.1 Paul Stroner reported that the social events organised by the Association during the year had been well received and well attended. It was agreed that the events should be repeated.
- 7.2 The following dates were agreed
  - ❖ Walk in Thurlbear Woods, 8 November 2009;
  - ❖ Mince Pies at Mount Somerset Hotel, 20 December 2009.

- 7.3 The following events were agreed with dates to be announced
- ❖ Pub Games Night and Quiz, January 2010
  - ❖ Summer Barbecue, June 2010.

## 8 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- 8.1 Mike Westlake reported that we continue to enjoy very low levels of crime but we should not be complacent. Common sense precautions should be taken, such as closing all windows when you are out and reporting suspicious people.
- 8.2 Mike further reported that there had been several recent theft of equipment from the agricultural buildings on Stones Cottage land. Gill Ellis reported that lead had been stolen from the roof of her garage at some point in the last few months.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### A 358 Dualling

- 9.1 Gill Ellis reported that the Highways Agency "is no longer pursuing the dualling" of the A358.
- 9.2 Further details can be found on the Highways Agency web site:  
<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/14075.aspx>

### Litter

- 9.3 Gill Ellis reported that David Sweet clears the litter from Stoke Road on a fortnightly basis and he was commended for his community spirit. David, Keith Hammond, Roger Pullen and Gill had also cleared the stretch from Lower Henlade to the golf course. Following discussion it was agreed that this was something which should be undertaken by the Council. Kelly Durdan agreed to take this forward.

Kelly  
Durdan

### Ditches and drains

- 9.4 The issue of clearing the streams either side of the road in Lower Henlade was raised. These can become clogged with silt and other debris causing problems with water run off during periods of heavy rain. David Fothergill undertook to raise this with the County Council.

David  
Fothergill

## 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 22 April 2010, 7.30 pm at the Mount Somerset Hotel.

With thanks to Paul Stroner for these notes.