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## WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE

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**MINUTES** of the Virtual Meeting held via Skype on Tuesday, 1 June 2021 from 7.00 - 8.24 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mike Baldock (Chairman), Monique Bonney, Roger Clark, Nicholas Hampshire, Alan Horton, James Hunt, Richard Palmer, Paul Stephen, Sarah Stephen and Corrie Woodford (Vice-Chairman).

**NOMINATED PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Parish Councillors Graham Addicott OBE (Hartlip PC), Nicola Butlin (Borden PC), Brian Clarke (Bredgar PC) and Vivien Rich (Tunstall PC).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart and Jo Millard.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Cameron Beart, Steve Davey, Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, Ken Ingleton, Denise Knights, Ken Rowles, David Simmons, Mike Whiting and Tony Winckless.

### 24 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members nominated Councillor Mike Baldock to be elected as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2021/22, to be confirmed at the next Western Area Committee in September 2021.

### 25 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Members nominated Councillor Corrie Woodford to be elected as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal year 2021/22, to be confirmed at the next Western Area Committee in September 2021.

### 26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

### 27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021 (Minute no. 499-507) were taken as read, signed and approved.

### 28 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members noted the progress on actions.

A Member gave an update on walking and cycling routes around the villages. It was suggested that a meeting be set up in the Council Chamber to look at maps to get ideas for cycling routes. The Interim Area Committees Coordinator agreed to set a meeting up. Parish Councils will then be asked for their input.

A Parish Councillor advised a proposal for brown signs will be submitted by his parish council for Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway in September.

The Chairman requested any further suggestions for woodland management plans should be submitted in advance of the next meeting.

## **29 PUBLIC FORUM**

No issues were raised.

## **30 LOCAL ISSUES TO BE RAISED**

A Member raised an issue on behalf of Hartlip Parish Council regarding noise from the M2 and other roads. A discussion ensued and the following actions were suggested:

- Bredgar Parish Council to check how they dealt with a similar problem some years ago;
- check with the Environmental Response Team to see if they have received any reports; and
- report back to the September meeting with a proposal to progress the issue.

## **31 PROMOTION OF THE LOCAL AREA - TALK BY THE NEWINGTON HISTORY GROUP**

Sue Flipping from the Newington History group gave a talk on history walks. A discussion then took place and the following suggestions were put forward:

- There was potential for brown signs in Newington, information boards at certain points would also be useful;
- linkages with other villages could be explored as they all have a story to tell;
- Sue Flipping advised that Newington History Group would be happy to be a coordinating body;
- other areas could take inspiration from the work done in Newington and the Committee to see if this approach can be promoted elsewhere;
- join the already completed work of different groups together for the Area Committee strategy;
- this could be taken forward as part of the walking and cycling routes project;
- a Parish Councillor expressed caution when including listed buildings on routes as they were often private homes; and
- the Interim Area Committees Coordinator to check if the Swale Footpath Group is still in existence.

## **32 FUTURE FUNDING**

A discussion took place on potential funding priorities, the following items were suggested:

- Continue with ongoing projects;

- brown signs proposal for Bredgar and Wormshill;
- potential positive activities for young people;
- a conservation area in Hartlip and Bredgar; and
- provide guidance on the Agricultural Bill for Parish Councils to engage with landowners.

The Interim Area Committees Coordinator to investigate youth provision and where to get guidance on the Agricultural Bill to bring back to the September meeting.

**33 UPDATE ON AREA COMMITTEES REVIEW**

A Member who sat on the Area Committee Review Working Group gave an update on the progress of the Review. The Working Group are finalising their report which will be presented to the Committee Chairs. The Working Group recommended that Area Committees consider what their funding ambitions and priorities are for the year ahead. Members commented that they would like more time to consult with residents and would seek their input ahead of the September meeting.

**34 MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY CABINET**

No issues were raised.

**35 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY COMMITTEE**

It was suggested to review the feedback on the issue of road noise raised by Hartlip Parish Council at the September meeting, the Committee would then decide if this issue should be referred to Cabinet.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel