



Campaigning for Better Cycling

(Formerly SHEPWAY CYCLE FORUM)

Minutes of AGM of Cycle Shepway held on 30 January 2014 at Wards Hotel, Earls Avenue, Folkestone

Present: David Taylor (Chairman), Cllr Russell Tillson (Dep Chairman Shepway District Council), Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Rees (Committee/ Spokes/ Sustrans), Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman), Hugh Robertson-Ritchie (Committee), Mark Tuson (Committee, RMCP), Steve Burton (Committee), Marjorie Findlay-Stone (Sandgate Parish Council), Jeff Findlay-Stone and Rosemary Sanders (Sandgate Residents), Simon Barnes (Hub), Stephen Ratcliffe, Paul Davis, Nigel Kendal, Trevor Hall. (Note: Several others were present but did not complete the attendance list.)

Apologies for Absence: Jeff Lyle, Alex Sansom, Gavin Davis, Cllr Martin Whybrow and Ian Banham.

1. Minutes: Proposed by Paul Rees and seconded by Alan Joyce: the minutes of the Cycle Shepway AGM on 16 January 2013 and the Cinque Ports Cycleway Working Committee and Cycle Shepway meetings on 28 November 2013 were confirmed.

2. Chairman's Report: David Taylor reported on a year of action and inaction. Russell Tillson, deputy leader of Shepway District Council, had been appointed as Shepway Cycling Champion, and with the support of Lynne Beaumont, saw through the adoption of the Shepway Cycling Plan as policy by SDC and confirmed the Council's backing for the Cinque Ports Cycleway. A 1,500-name petition, headed by MP Damian Collins, had been presented publicly to KCC, the MoD, the Environment Agency, and SDC, urging their combined backing of the Cinque Ports Cycleway. Martin Whybrow the new Green KCC member for Hythe, had joined Cycle Shepway. He was a member of the Joint Transportation Board giving the Group a direct voice on that body.

Four signs had been erected on Sandgate seafront by SDC making it clear that cyclists and walkers are welcome to use the prom/maintenance gangway although not as a right of way. CySy had engaged with Sandgate Parish Council's Beach Advisory Group to seek compromise with local opponents of the Cycleway.

On the inaction side, there had been no progress with the MoD on the cycle route, and seafront signage had not yet been put in place. Other than some cycle-path markings and signage around the Three Hills Sports Ground, there had been no progress on improving the general cycling infrastructure of Shepway.

The Chairman urged the Group to capitalise on what had been started. To that end, there was a need for new energy and new blood, in particular to find his successor as Chairman.

3. Treasurer's Report: Alan Joyce circulated details of the accounts. Funds amounted to £2,620.40, of which £343.47 had been donated by members. AJ commented that Standing Orders from members were anonymous, thus making it difficult to identify donors. **Agreed** to consider copying the format of a recent appeal for funds by Spokes. **Action by AJ**

4. Election of Officers and Committee: Peter Wallace, Sara Barnes, Si Ralph and Shane Record had left the Committee. **PROPOSED BY** Jean Baker, **SECONDED BY** Paul Rees and **Agreed:** that the remaining Committee members be re-elected en bloc. Simon Barnes and Nigel Kendal volunteered to serve on the Committee and were welcomed by the Chairman. DT said that he would continue to serve as Chairman at least until the next meeting.

5. Cinque Ports Cycleway

i. Seafront signage: £2,000 was held in funds for the erection of "Respect" signs. **Agreed** that a survey of suitable sites for the signs be prepared by DT, in co-operation with SDC, Marjorie Findlay-Stone and Peter Phillips. **Action by DT**

AJ offered to seek funding for signage beyond Sandgate. **Action by AJ**

ii. MOD negotiations: **Agreed** that DT and Cllr Tillson continue negotiations on the boundary of their site near the Dymchurch Redoubt. **Action by DT, RT**

iii. Sandgate meetings: DT and Marjorie Findlay-Stone reported on a meeting with Sandgate Beach Action Group (BAG) when the needs of cyclists, residents and visitors had been discussed. The problems of inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists, dog walkers and car drivers were to be addressed at a meeting of BAG on 13 February, to be followed by a public meeting on 24 April 2014. Ideas to be considered included a "Bell Stop" on the promenade, a joint application for funding for a Boardwalk extension to the promenade, bike parking and the promotion of "20's Plenty" for the High Street. **Action by DT**

6. Members' activities

i. Spokes Paul Rees reported that the organisation was going through reorganisation following the resignation of the Chairman, but that the programme of monthly rides continued.

ii. Cycle Plan Jean Baker said that she still awaited a response from Bob Porter on the proposed extension of the cycle path from Three Hills Sports Centre to Radnor Park; she had also pressed for a response from South East Trains on cycle parking at Folkestone West station. **Agreed** that Cllr Tillson would pursue these matters **Action by JB, RT**

iii. Hythe Green Alan Joyce reported that, following a positive response from the new Chairman, he hoped to discuss the Group's proposals with the Hythe Green Preservation Society. **Action by AJ**

iv. Planning applications Alan Joyce reported on recent applications:

(a) Ingles Manor, Folkestone – AC suggested that the outcome be monitored carefully, as £5,000 had been allocated under Section 106 for sustainable transport.

(b) Shorncliffe, Folkestone – an environmental statement was awaited.

(c) **Martello Lakes, Hythe** – this would probably be the last section of the Nicholls Quarry scheme to be developed, but a cycleway around the lakes might fit well into the Cycle Plan.

v. **Website** Following discussion it was **Agreed** that the website be retained, but a volunteer was needed to maintain the site.

Next meeting – Wednesday 2 April 2014 at The Civic Centre, Folkestone

Elected Officers and Committee

Chairman: David Taylor
Secretary: Rhona Hodges
Treasurer: Alan Joyce

Deputy chairman: Joe Grey
Spokes Liaison: Paul Rees

Committee

Jean Baker (Founder)
Simon Barnes
Steve Burton
Nigel Kendal
Jeff Lyle
Hugh Robertson-Ritchie
Shane Record
Mark Tuson