Campaigning for Better Cycling

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Cycle Shepway**

held on 15 March 2018 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone

Present: John Letherland (Chairman), Rhona Hodges (Secretary), Jean Baker (Founder), Paul Rees, Dave Kesby, Alex Sansom, Katie Cullen, Colin Hart, Bernadette Bell, David Bell and James Hammond.

Apologies for Absence: Joe Grey (Deputy Chairman), Alan Joyce (Treasurer), Steve Burton, Hugh Robertson-Ritchie and Tony Gilbert.

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 7 December 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017 were approved. There were no matters arising which were not included on the current agenda.

1. **Chairman's Introduction and Welcome**

John Letherland described the Group's shock and sadness at the recent death of David Taylor, former Chairman and inspiring campaigner for Cycle Shepway. He proposed to establish a memorial at the site of new Sheffield stands on Princes Parade, which had been provided by KCC, and **agreed** to circulate a sketch of a metal memorial work by Jonathan White once it had been priced by an engineering company.

JL suggested that the 10th anniversary of Cycle Shepway was an appropriate time to review the aims of the organisation and consider ways of recruiting "new blood", particularly in view of the fact that the Secretary had decided to resign as minute-taker at future meetings. He thanked Rhona Hodges personally for all her help, commitment and hard work over the years and presented with her gifts in appreciation of her 10-year stint. Alex Sansom suggested that a mentor could be appointed to assist the organisation to move forward which was welcomed. As the evening’s meeting agenda was already very busy, the suggestion that this should be a topic for discussion at the next meeting was **agreed**.

1. **Cycling and Walking Initiatives in Shepway**

James Hammond reminded members that Shepway had been successful in bidding for DfT funding for technical support to prepare a cycling and walking strategy**.** Liaison with Ashford BC had led to proposals to extend the Military Canal route as far as Hamstreet.

The ~~first~~ main initiative discussed was to maximise opportunities for cycling and walking in Otterpool Town, as well as connecting it to the surrounding district including Folkestone and Ashford. At a meeting with the Otterpool masterplanner (Gary Young) and the consultants, he had discussed the need to challenge the Otterpool masterplan, based on best practice in Europe. KC pointed out that the creation of a sustainable design would be key to obtaining funding. Members suggested that links to the A20 and further to Cheriton were very important, and JB hoped for more work on routes into Folkestone town.

JH requested two names of CySy members with detailed local knowledge of the Lympne area to help with the design works. Alex Sampson commented that when working with Lympne villagers they had been hoping to see a safe footpath to Sellindge. JH said that the development of the proposed lorry park was the subject of legal challenge but promised to keep CySy informed of developments. JL said that he knows Gary Young very well and will invite him to present the Otterpool proposals at a future meeting.

**Agreed** JL to consult further with JH along with two other CySy members.

1. **Cinque Ports Cycleway**

Katie Cullen reported that the Hythe Green application for village green status was held at the top of a queue; no further progress on the design of the path across the Green to Palmarsh primary school was possible until this issue was resolved.

The problem of clearing pebbles from the maintenance gangway at Sandgate was discussed. SDC clears the path several times each year, but often the storms return the pebbles almost immediately. Members suggested that CySy again supports the Sprucer with a view to asking him and his team to clear the gangway when it is particularly badly obstructed.

JB described a challenging ride with Linda Simon of KCC along Stage 1 of the Cycleway to examine the possibility of a video promoting the route. Despite the conditions her reaction had been very positive.

1. **New Paths in Folkestone**

KC reported that work was in progress on the path from Harvey Grammar School to The Leas. The new crossing near Morrisons would be complete in 4 weeks.

6**. Election of Officers**

**Proposed by:** Alex Sansom, **Seconded by:** Jean Baker and

**Agreed:** That John Letherland be re-elected Chairman;

**Proposed by:** Paul Rees, **Seconded by:** Bernadette Bell and

**Agreed:** That Alan Joyce be re-elected Treasurer;

The position of Secretary remained vacant; **agreed** that ~~minutes~~ action notes be taken temporarily by Alex Sansom ~~or~~ with the assistance of Jean Baker, while Rhona Hodges continues to carry out other secretarial duties.

7**.**  **Members' Activities**

* Bernadette Bell described plans for a new system she aimed to trial in 2018 for locking hire bikes based on a computer app. She asked for suggestions for safe areas along the Cycleway route for bike parks. **Agreed** to ask members to send suggestions with photos to Bernadette at: folkestoneharbourbicyclehire@gmail.com.
* Paul Rees suggested that members use the app: countryeye.co.uk to report problems such as fly-tipping in the countryside.
* Jean Baker had discussed cycling on the Marsh with Stan Smith. **Agreed** JB to invite him to the next meeting; AS to invite Cllr Tony Hills.

8**.**  **AOB**

JB asked members to consider recruitment opportunities. AS said that SDC was preparing a database of community organisations; Colin Hart suggested contacting local cycle clubs and attending an event in May organised by Hythe Sailing Club.

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 7pm**