

# Minutes of the Annual Lighthorne Parish Meeting

held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2001  
in Lighthorne Heath Village Hall at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Mike Rigby (Chairman)

Mr Bill Betts (Clerk)

Mr Glyn Walters (Land Rover Site Manager)

Mr Clive Dorney (Land Rover Projects & Facilities Manager)

Mr Len Nethercoat (Heart Start GLR)

10 members of the public

## 1. Introduction

Cllr Rigby welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and the two representatives from Land Rover — Mr Nethercoat arriving later in the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the 2000 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2000 were circulated and by a show of hands were approved by those present.

## 3. Presentation by Land Rover

Mr Walters gave a brief history of the site since 1930 and an overview of operations there. He then gave an introduction to the Premier Automotive Group, Ford and Aston Martin.

It was the intention of Land Rover to continue developing the former airforce base into an “Automotive Design Centre of Excellence”. This would include testing and development of all their products as well as providing educational facilities. The intention is to bring Land Rover Headquarters staff as well as Marketing and Services on site so that the whole business (apart from assembly) could be integrated. Eventually the assembly of Aston Martin vehicles would be included on the site as well.

Photographs of the site were shown together with detailed plans of the proposed Aston Martin building. A new site entrance is to be built as well as a roundabout at the Gaydon cross-roads. Building work is expected to commence in early 2002 for use in 2003.

It was mentioned that a liaison meeting would take place with the local community on 12 June when the proposed roundabout and the second entrance would be discussed, along with noise problems, lighting, etc.

Mr Walters emphasised the desire for Land Rover to be seen as good neighbours, to cooperate fully with the local communities and to support local activities where possible.

Mr Clive Dorney then gave a presentation where further details of the site layout were explained. Once more emphasis was placed on Land Rover’s intentions to keep everyone informed of their plans for the future.

#### **4. Questions from the floor**

Mr Keith Sheppard asked about the way the Post Office addresses the site. He will talk further with Mr Walters on this.

Cllr David Booth (Lighthorne Parish Council) asked what would happen in future now that Volvo, Jaguar and Lincoln engineers were reported to be on site (member firms of the Premier Automotive Group). Mr Walters confirmed their presence which was part of the ongoing development of PAG. The possible testing of Formula 1 cars was also mentioned and the noise problem associated with them.

Cllr Tony Rose (Lighthorne Parish Council) expressed his support for the good relationship between the villages and Land Rover and thanked the speakers for their presentation. He said that he was looking forward to discussions regarding the use of the Lighthorne Sports facilities by employees of Land Rover.

The chairman added his thanks to the speakers.

#### **5. Heart Start GLR**

Mr Nethercoat explained that the idea for Heart Start had come 18 months earlier from both the British Heart Foundation and the Ambulance Service. He said that £2600 for the local scheme had been raised in just 27 weeks and it had become fully operational in April. The scheme covered Gaydon, Lighthorne Heath, Lighthorne and Redlands (hence GLR).

It was explained that our rural communities are more than 20 minutes away from an Ambulance Station. The need for local “Responders” to act within this period was vital to improve survivability from a heart attack. Responders are in touch with the local Ambulance Service and take their instructions from them in the event of an emergency.

He explained that a new type of defibrillator had been approved for use by nonmedical staff. He then gave a demonstration of how it was used. He said that all responders were fully trained and insured by the ambulance service and that they had to pass an exam. More volunteers were needed to undertake between 3 and 20 hours duty per week as currently there was only 65% coverage.

Mr Nethercoat felt that a Newsletter would be appropriate to keep the public informed of Heart Start activities and he was prepared to act as a co-ordinator.

The chairman thanked Mr Nethercoat for his very detailed presentation and for all the work undertaken by him and his volunteers.

#### **6. Other Business**

Mr Keith Sheppard raised the question of splitting the Parish. It was noted that this would be discussed at the next Lighthorne Parish Council meeting on 13 June.

The fact that Lighthorne Parish was still in the Harbury and not the Kineton Ward was also raised. This was expected to be the subject of further SDC meetings.

Although he still had concerns about the future of the Sports Association, Mr Sheppard congratulated the Parish Council on progress in the last year and on the Annual Review document which had been made available in time for the meeting.

There being no further business, the chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:25pm.