

North East Hayling Residents Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the North Hayling Recreation hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th April 2008.

Present: Members of the Committee and about 50 members

Apologies were received from: Cdr N Chilcott, Rear Admiral & Mrs C Cooke-Priest, Mrs J Dawe, Rev Ann Leonard, Dr & Mrs Linton, Mr & Mrs J Phillips, Mr & Mrs D Rudling and Mr & Mrs D Taylor

The Minutes of the general Meeting held on 7th December 2007 were read, approved and signed by the Chairman

Matters Arising

Sea Defences: The Chairman had received from David Willetts a copy of a letter from the Environment Agency stating that the latest study for flood protection for this area would be available this summer – fifteen months later than originally promised.

The Chairman had written to the Environment Agency emphasising the urgency for an upgrade of defences after the previous months serious flooding and that discussion of this area's defences had been ongoing for at least 125 years. He had also requested information from the Borough Council about their role in our defences and conveying criticism of failure in the vital job of maintaining free flowing ditches. No replies to date

The Council had published the latest section of the Local Development Framework – the Core Strategy for Development and Allocations, the proposed land useage. The documents are available on the HBC website and there would be an exhibition at the URC Church on April 18th. The Chairman urged as many as possible to examine these papers and make their views know via the questionnaires (www.havant.gov.uk/havant9352). The committee would be considering these reports at its next meeting; the consultation period ends on 25 April. Disturbingly for Hayling, the Allocation Paper advances Bosmere Field as a potential site for employment use. This will meet strong objection from HIRA, Langstone and ourselves, if not others.

Chairman's Report

The topic of flooding and the Local Development framework were covered in Matters Arising.

The Association's major effort of the past 2½ years had been the Village Design Statement. This has survived four Council committees and is now available for collection at the end of this meeting. This represents the summation of a great deal of hard work by a large number of volunteers which was distilled by the Steering Group into the final product. Aside from the human input, it had involved a fair cost. It has been supported by grants from HCC, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and NEHRA totalling £5100 but this falls several hundred pounds short of the final total. The excess will be met by NEHRA if necessary but we are asking for donations from those who feel able to help as indicated in a letter included in copies of the VDS. Fenella, the project coordinator would give a further account of the VDS later but the Chairman, in advance of that, thanked all those involved on behalf of the Association. The Group trusts that everyone enjoys reading the VDS, will use it if planning any building works and that it will prevent HBC making any poor planning decisions in the area.

There had been discussion in committee about the efficiency of communication between committee and members. Reliance in the past had been on personal knowledge of committee members and this had served without complaint although, as said in the December Report, we receive very little feedback. This indicated either great satisfaction with our performance, residents' apathy or the lack of a mechanism. The internet had been suggested as an answer; details of committee members, phone numbers, précis of minutes etc would make life easier for some members but not all. However, a show of hands indicated that most present were internet users. A newsletter had also been considered, the problems being cost, frequency, the large variation in reportable events in the area and personnel willing to do the job.

Alyson Griffin has had to resign from the post of Planning Secretary so the Chairman thanked her for the work she did and also for replacing Bill Smith as Treasurer. Judy Clark had volunteered to fill the breach and we are fortunate to have the benefit of her expert knowledge and experience as an architect.

As usual, the Chairman thanked the committee for their invaluable services over the past year; Judy Clark (Planning), Fenella May (Membership), Bill Smith (Treasurer), Alyson Griffin, Derek Bowerman, Tom Dyche, Chris Emery, Ray Jones, Bob Klitz and Mike Treadwell.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007. After deduction of the VDS grant and current liabilities of £142, the balance stood at £2294. There were 194 paid up members. The Treasurer explained the committee decision to raise the membership fees to £5 for family membership and £2.50 for single. The fees have been unchanged for many years but rising prices and costs have dictated a small increase. The new fees were proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Mike Dawe. Approval was unanimous.

The Chairman regretted the Treasurer's decision to resign. He had served the Association since its inception and his careful husbandry will be greatly missed. He thanked Bill on behalf of the Association for his long service.

Planning Report

Judy Clarke reported that the proposed Marina sign at the bridge had been refused. No objection to the extension to the White House, Copse Lane but the proposed car port is considered to be too close to the road. The trees which screen a side extension in Northwood Lane should be retained. The initial plan for a side extension to Upper Tye Farm was refused but had been modified by a proposal for black timber cladding. Judy had referred the Conservation Officer to the VDS and sent coloured drawings of the proposal and preferable alternatives. The decision was awaited.

Village Design Statement

With completion of the VDS, now standing as a Non Statutory Planning Guidance Document, Fenella May thanked members for their support and input over the last 2½ years, a long time but faster than most, four years being the average. She thanked the team; Judith Millman for her hours spent as editor and work on the photo team, Alyson Griffin for creating the website and a member of the photo team, Colin Richards for starting the whole thing off and his historical research, Dave Clark for tree and bush identification and being the keenest delivery man on the Island, Ruth Dyche, the voice of reason throughout the project and the Treasurer, Colin Pim for stunning photos and the Highways and Byways piece, Martin Rhodes for his expertise on conservation and obtaining funding from the Harbour Conservancy. She also thanked all those who donated photos and those who helped in the initial stages after the workshops and stated that copies could be obtained the next day from Eastney Farmhouse if not collected at the end of this meeting. Extra copies are available if required.

Election of Officers

Chris Emery, Bob Klitz, Alyson Griffin, Bill Smith, Mike Treadwell and the Chairman were required to resign as per the Constitution. Both Alyson and Chris volunteered to serve at the last AGM and required to be formally elected and Bill had volunteered to stand down to enable Judy Clark to be formally elected. He will continue as an ad hoc appointee so his experience will not be lost. There were no other nominations so all were elected en bloc unanimously.

Any Other Business

The Conservancy had arranged guided walks around Northney Farm on April 27

The Chairman had received a letter from John Phillips suggesting that one of the news signs should be placed at the entrance to Northney. The proposal received no support when put to a vote.

The absence of a Northney sign at the south of the village was mentioned. The Chairman undertook to write to the Council but there is some controversy over the southern boundary of Northney.

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm and refreshments were then served.