

NORTH EAST HAYLING RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the North Hayling Recreation Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 5th December 2008

Present: Committee Members, 60 members, David Willetts MP, C.Cllr Ted Gale and Cllr David Collins.

Apologies: Mr & Mrs B. Barnes, Mr & Mrs J. Blake, Mr & Mrs D. Bowerman, Mr & Mrs J. Nash, Mr & Mrs D. Rudling, Mr & Mrs A. Spencer and Mr & Mrs M. Stenning

The Chairman welcomed everyone to what had now become the Winter General Meeting, thanked our Councillors and Member of Parliament for attending and invited David to speak.

David began by commending the production of the VDS and congratulated all involved in it. He then reported on the day's meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency and Havant Borough Council. The Agency have £1-2m to spend on Hayling sea defences in the fiscal year 2010-2011 which is earmarked for defences of the A3023 near the Texaco garage, the school at Mill Rythe and parts of the Billy Trail. The prospect for public expenditure on defences around Northney and Tye is remote but he will keep trying to change this. The EA base their contributions on the value of property at risk, the cost-benefit analysis, and, although the village can be isolated by flooding, property damage to date has been comparatively low. We are therefore not a priority but the 20 year view now is for little change in tide levels so we shall be permitted to carry out reasonable defence repair with possibly some improvements.

In the absence of publicly funded defence work, flood defences can be maintained but permission to improve, that is raise the height or rebuild, is required. However, if applications were made to improve the flood defences of the East Shore, the EA said that they would be unlikely to oppose permission. Natural England was not present at the meeting but the EA believe that they would be more flexible than previously in their attitude.

There were a few questions from the members:-

- The insurance of flood affected properties but this was not discussed at the meeting.

The height of sea defences is measured from sea level; as sea level is gradually rising, can the height of defences be raised with sea level. The answer was no.

- Would there be an inner bund? If there was a breach, Gutner Lane would flood each tide. David replied that any EA response would depend on the value of flood damaged properties. Their figures are assumed and David suggested that a formal assessment of property values might be worth considering.

The Hayling Community Board minutes recently recorded that European Funds are available for the protection of agricultural land. David undertook to check this.

Two more non-related issues were then raised:-

- The imminent loss of the telephone box outside the Hall. There have been discussions at the Community Board and Mike Treadwell has had long discussions with the Borough Council. The Council may purchase the box (inoperative) for £1 but liability was the major problem. HBC is unwilling to accept it but will only pass it to a named person rather than an Association. As the box sits on Hall land, the Village Hall Trustees had been asked to consider adding it to their liability insurance but their insurers were not helpful. A show of hands indicated that about half those present wished to save the box, as a non-operational landmark, so David Collins undertook to make enquiries at the Council. BT have no schedule for removal but will not put a freeze on any action so the box could be removed at any time.
- The noise from remote controlled helicopters on Verner Common at any hour of daylight was mentioned. David Collins suggested an official complaint to the Council.

The Chairman thanked David for his contribution and his continuing support for the Association's objectives, and regretted that he could not stay to enjoy the Wine and Cheese party and meet members.

The **Minutes of** the Annual General Meeting held on 4th April 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Local Development Strategy The questionnaire was returned although very little of the document concerned Hayling. Additional points were made about Hayling traffic difficulties and strong objection to any development at Bosmere Field.

The Chairman had not followed up the suggestion made at the previous meeting for a Northney sign at the southern end of the village. The designation 'Northney' strictly applies only to the northern section of the village so he would welcome opinions on this matter.

Chairman's Report

Flooding had been a recurrent problem, especially after the floods of early Spring. To ensure proper attention is given to this, the Chairman had asked Judy Clark to head a flooding sub-group. She kindly agreed and they have been pursuing answers from various bodies.

The major event had been the production of the VDS which became available at the AGM. When the Chairman proposed the idea, three years ago, he had no idea of the effort and man (and woman) hours which would be necessary for completion. However, completed it was and many congratulations were received from various bodies. The Group trusts that all villagers enjoyed reading it and will use it if contemplating any changes. The Chairman again thanked Fenella and the team for the stunning result. The second Havant VDS has recently (July 2008) been published – Emsworth's. The sale of copies additional to the free distribution and donations from many members has enabled all costs associated with its production to be cleared and return a small amount to our coffers.

The Chairman commented on the increasing use of e-mail and website for communication and asked how many members would be happy to receive Meeting papers by e-mail. More than half those present indicated agreement and were asked to ensure that the Membership Secretary knows their e-mail address. Paper copies would continue to be available to those not participating.

The Association's thanks were due to the committee members for their invaluable services and support: Judy Clark (Planning and Flooding), Alyson Griffin (Treasurer), Fenella May (Membership), Derek Bowerman (Minutes), Tom Dyche (North Common Rep.), Chris Emery, Ray Jones, Bob Klitz and Mike Treadwell (Our representative on the Hayling Community Board.)

Treasurer's Report

Income to date this year was £496 and expenditure £317, the deposit account holds £2344, the current £468 with liabilities of £160. Outstanding items were the subscriptions received at the meeting, Wine and Cheese costs and committee members' expenses.

Website Report

Alyson gave the viewing figures for the last six months. The most popular pages were Home, Events, Planning, Carshare, and Contact with visit numbers ranging from 847 to 168. There were 933 downloads of the VDS.

Planning Report

Clark reported the applications which had been of interest.

- Yacht Haven House, Application for a large rebuild. Some objections were raised but the site is very isolated and the proposal was approved.
- Beechgrove, St Peter's Road. Retrospective permission for a shed in the front garden, contrary to VDS guidance. The application was refused.
- Strawberry Fields, Copse Lane. Application for additional caravans, later withdrawn.
- North Corner, Woodgaston Lane. Application for an extension which was in accordance with the VDS. Decision still awaited.
- 15 Spinnaker Grange Side extension. Later withdrawn.

Membership Report

There were 181 members for 2008 to date, the figure last year was 191 and for 2006, 174. Fenella asked members to encourage any new neighbours to join the Association. She thanked all those who had responded to her recent e-mail which carried particulars of this meeting and would collect later in the evening any e-mail addresses outstanding. This was the first e-mail to members and it was encouraging to note that it was a well-used facility.

Fenella had been approached by the Market Town Initiative asking to be able to use some of the photographs from the VDS for their next publication about Hayling. Discussion was continuing.

Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that Neighbourhood Watch had asked residents to be on their guard against unlicensed peddlers who were targeting properties in Hampshire. One so-called 'Nottingham Knocker' had been arrested in Winchester.

Complaints had been received about refuse bins left too obviously on view through the village. Obviously some residents cannot take them through or behind the house but perhaps they could make an effort to render them less visible. They didn't appear in the VDS !

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, then thanked those who had made the Wine and Cheese Party possible Bill Smith and Mike Treadwell for sampling and organising the wine, his wife for organising and collecting most of the food and Ruth Dyche, Dot Hunt and Madeleine Treadwell for the remainder of the collection and preparation. Finally, he thanked all committee wives for their help prior to the meeting before wishing everyone a very enjoyable remainder of the evening

**A General Meeting of the Association will be held on Friday, 3rd April 2009 at 7.30 pm in
The North Hayling Recreational Hall**