

NORTH EAST HAYLING RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Winter General Meeting held in the North Hayling Recreation Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th December 2009

Present: Committee members and about 80 members

Apologies: Mr N. Chilcott, Mrs J. Clark, Rear Admiral & Mrs C. Cooke-Priest, Mr & Mrs C. Cutting, Mr E. Davies & Ms L. Hill, Mr & Mrs C. Emery, Mr & Mrs J. Griffin, Mr & Mrs J. Horncastle, Mr & Mrs A. Jennings, Mr & Mrs R. Jones, Mr & Mrs K. Lister, Mr & Mrs G. Lloyd, Mr & Mrs J. Peall, Mr T. Pike & Ms C. Kelly, Mr C. Pym, Mrs P. Tudgay, Mr & Mrs R. Vickers and Mr & Mrs D. Wootton.

The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd April 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman after addition of Messrs. Bowerman and Dyche to the list of committee members thanked in the Chairman's Report.

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that the recently published draft Solent Shoreline Management Plan contained little reference to North Hayling but final comment must wait on the final version.

Chairman's Report

The most noteworthy item of report since the AGM was the self-help repairs to the eastern sea wall. This was made possible by approval from the Environment Agency and carried out after advertising by Fenella and organisation by Judy. We were advised about the method of repair by Jonathan Simm, a sea defence engineer.

He was pleased to thank, on behalf of the village, Stan and Mary Pike for the bulk of the material and use of machinery, the Environment Agency, Mike Burras for sandbags and Brian and George Atkins for soil and other material, those who gave monetary donations-who have already been thanked personally- and all those who provided the muscle to fill, shift and position the sandbags. A film loop was running after business to show some of the highlights, and low lights, of the operation.

The Chairman reminded the audience of the Farm's intention to rebuild and modify the use of Stubbington Barn. To help local residents to examine and understand the plans without a visit to the Civic Offices, Stan and Mary had exhibited the plans here and were available for question and comment after the business meeting.

He alerted the membership to the Constitution requirement for half the committee to retire at the next AGM. For some years now we had bypassed the stated procedure for a paper election-mainly for the lack of new volunteers. So he asked members to consider whether they would wish their names to go forward for election to the committee. Timing will be made clear in good time next year.

Building on the success of the community effort on the sea wall, some committee members had advanced the idea of a village fete. While such an activity is not an agreed Policy of the Constitution as presently written- neither strictly was the sea wall work- the suggestion was the establishment of a separate committee, perhaps answerable to the Association, to investigate the feasibility of the idea. Anyone interested was asked to contact Fenella May or Alyson Griffin.

There had also been a request for volunteers to help with redecoration of the Hall so any DIY enthusiasts with time on their hands were asked to contact Lillian King at 21 Northney Road.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all committee members for their help and support since April. Judy Clark (Planning & Flooding), Fenella May (Membership), Alyson Griffin (Treasurer & Website), Mike Treadwell (Phone Box), Derek Bowerman (Minutes), Tom Dyche, Chris Emery, Ray Jones, Bob Klitz and Bill Smith.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman reported that the deposit account held £2,351.07 and the current account £743.49

The Association's present fixed commitments face the Committee with some unwelcome choices. They are: website fee £40; Hall rental £40; Friends of Chichester Harbour membership £25; committee stationery £20 (at present); Wine & Cheese Party £300; insurance £200. Total £625.

Association running costs are low as some members supply materials and services free. Our income is £400-£ 500 per year.

The recent insurance cost is a major new factor, brought on us for cover during the sea wall work and also required if we become owners of the phone box. The Wine and Cheese evening is the obvious main expense but we are loathe to consider charging for this. Some hard decisions face the Committee and a choice of options will be put to you at 2010's AGM.

Planning Report

Bill Smith reported the Planning Secretary's comments on recent applications.

1 Clovelly Road Large side extension, finally approved with condition that 'materials to match existing.'

The Pines, Copse Lane Suggested reduction in roof height; application refused on grounds of bulk and proximity to neighbours and a sewer. Application has gone to Appeal.

Strawberry Fields Application to increase number of static vans and for a longer period refused.
The Langstone Hotel The hotel has taken no action to reduce the intensity of the advertising signs on site so the Council will again contact them and consider enforcement action if necessary.

Beech Grove, St Peters Road. After an appeal, the Inspector quashed the enforcement notice and granted planning permission for the shed. He considered that it has no adverse effect on the street scene.

Land adjoining Mandai, St Peters Road. Following queries about the activities on this site, the Council were arranging an inspection to establish its current usage and appearance and whether this is consistent with its lawful use.

Thorney View The single storey rear extension appeared to fall within the scope of normal 'permitted development' rights and so does not require planning permission.

No objections were made to applications at Eastney House, Langness, Woodgaston Lane, 18 Clovelly Road, 8 Spinnaker Grange and Old Abbey, St Peters Road.

Membership Report

Fenella reported that the membership drive had exceeded expectations, membership now stands at a record 220. 70%.were now contactable from the e-mail list.

Suggestions had been made for alternative methods of payment of dues, standing order or life membership will be considered.

Website Report

The website had again proved very popular during the previous six months, the Village Design Statement receiving 3000 visits as did the Home Page. Events, sea defences and planning received over twelve hundred, the majority (765) for sea defences.

Flooding Report

Judy's account (read by Bill Smith in her absence) commented that the hard work by residents during the summer weekends had proved its worth over the last few weeks of gales and lashing rain. She would be taking levels along the sea wall to check which stretches require topping up and by how much. More voluntary effort might be required next summer.

HBC are still working on the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and we have been asked to comment when it becomes available. The plan centres more on the south coast of Hayling rather than the entire coast line of Chichester Harbour. The South Hayling plans will be exhibited at the Hayling Island Sailing Club next Monday and Tuesday. The Environment Agency hope to produce

their proposals for the Harbour by the end of next year which will include their policy for the East Shore wall. We have been encouraging the EA to retain the *status quo* as the land behind the wall is invaluable for grazing, bird life and a reservoir for rainwater. Unfortunately, even if they abandon the plan for managed retreat, funding is extremely unlikely.

The Village Hall Telephone Box

Mike Treadwell reported that he had finally been able to reach agreement with the Borough's Legal Department about the transfer of ownership of the box to NEHRA. This will be completed by acceptance by the Association, rather than an individual, and payment of the £1 fee.

Any Other Business

North Common Tom Dyche reported that donations had covered the cost of replacing one of the benches destroyed by vandals and the Borough Council would fund the second. The Council had also been granted High Level Stewardship for the care of North Common for the next ten years. The grant will pay for 2-3 days contract machine clearance of bramble and ragwort per year. The Conservancy ran several working parties throughout the year, another would be held on 17th December

Pesi Sorab raised the matter of street cleaning after leaf fall. Failure to clear leaves from roadsides forces pedestrians to walk on the highway, especially dangerous on the narrower side roads. Complaints this year had not produced any action and he requested assistance from the Association.

The Auction

Eight items kindly donated by local residents and businesses were auctioned in a highly entertaining, professional and rewarding manner by Derek Bowerman. The sale raised £368 for the Association's funds.

The Chairman then introduced our local MP, David Willetts, who, on this occasion, would be spending the entire evening with us. Despite his important Westminster role, David is a first class constituency MP, taking great interest in the affairs of Havant. His support for many years over our flooding problems has been invaluable. David then gave a review of the local topics which had occupied him over the past year, chiefly crime, flooding, the coastal path and cycling, including the Billy Trail.

The Chairman then closed business and announced the Annual Wine and Cheese party. He thanked Bill Smith and Mike Treadwell for choosing and organising the wine, his wife, Pam, as chief organiser of the food, ably assisted by Dot Hunt, Ruth Dyche, Madeleine Treadwell, Jane Bowerman and Stella Smith.

NB These are draft Minutes which have not been approved by the membership; this will be done, with any necessary amendments, at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday, 23rd April 2010.