

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTH EAST HAYLING RESIDENT'S
ASSOCIATION HELD IN NORTH HAYLING RECREATIONAL HALL ON FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM

Derek Bowerman (NEHRA's Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the guests: Wilf Forrow, Councillor for Hayling West and Paul Gray, Councillor for Hayling West

Derek also explained the Fire Drill.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Jonathan Hulls, Peter Marshall, Tom and Ruth Dyche, Judy Clark, Mike and Gill Dawe, Alan and Lorraine Viles, Mary Makin and Malcolm Emery, Nicola Wise and Neil Upton-Brown, Peter Martin and Nicki Brooks, Sue Palmer, Harry Pike, Chris and Rob Slidel, Simon Minns, Mary Golden and Derek Ward, Lorna Howarth and Nigel Cole, Penny Walter, Coleen Jackson, Hazel and Julian Sambles, Vivian McCabe, Bill Smith and Madeleine Tredwell.

MINUTES OF THE WINTER GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH DECEMBER 2023

These had been circulated to the members and all were in favour for their approval.

MATTERS ARISING

None not covered by the agenda

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Derek talked through the events since the Winter General Meeting:

Carols in the Village with the St Peter's Singers was held in December 2023. Derek thanked Pam Richards. £315 was given in donations to the Hayling Food Bank.

At the end of January 2024 the Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk was performed. Derek thanked Alan and Fiona Bartlett for all their hard work and also thanked Hannah Williams for her work behind the scenes. £400 was given to First Responders and to the Hayling Food Bank.

In February 2024 a Pop Up Pub was held in the Village Hall. Numbers were slightly down possibly due to a rugby international being played at the same time, but it was a good occasion. Derek thanked Chris Emery for his organisation and Derek also thanked the people who had attended.

Fish and Chip Bingo was held in the village hall at the end of April. This was a great success and Derek thanked Hannah and Fenella for setting up this event so well.

Chris continues to do 'Litter Picks' through the village and Derek thanked Chris and Tom for their work helping to keep the village looking tidy.

Derek thanked Hannah and Peter for their striving with Gridlock. Derek explained that when an accident occurs on the main road then traffic potentially is directed through the village. Gridlock can arise with buses and lorries coming through the village. If the buses and lorries were parked up for a short while or if there was a system of one way traffic through the village then Gridlock might be avoided. Hannah and Peter are attempting to arrange a meeting with Hampshire Highways and the Police.

A 20 mph speed limit through the village is supported by NEHRA.

Derek Matthews looks at Local Planning and NEHRA have commented on the siting of the new stables at Laburnums. We are aware that Councillor Wilf Forrow has contacted Highways and Hampshire County Council about the sleepers narrowing the road at Tinkerville. We understand that Councillor Lance Quantrill is going to follow this up.

Tom Dyche had provided a Flood Report for the AGM. Derek summarised the report as follows: For many years NEHRA has attempted to support the maintenance of surface and sea water defences and infrastructure. In 2023 it was decided the lack of success was due to the authorities being unaware of the true impact of flooding and the lack of accountability for flood protection. We concluded that low cost regular maintenance to the surface and sea water infrastructure could reduce the frequency and extent of potential flooding. It was also noted that Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy will not be providing any improvements for at least ten years.

This Winter, measurement of road flooding at the junction of Gutner Lane and St Peter's Road and also Northney Road between Duckards Corner and North Common car park was started. On at least six occasions both sections were impassable for small vehicles with flood depths of 40cms and 20cms respectively, due to surface water flooding.

In November 2023 Hampshire County Council Universal Services the lead local Flood Authority agreed a partnership with Havant Borough Council and Coastal Partners with a 'commitment to work together to take further action to reduce the risk of flooding.' NEHRA have repeatedly requested a meeting with Hampshire County Council with the aim of finding the responsible parties to act on our flood reporting.

Following NEHRA's request in February 2022 to Hampshire County Council for maintenance to tidal flaps, the flap serving the ditch south of the Langstone Quays Hotel appears to have been serviced and is moving freely and should reduce the chance of flooding there. A chance meeting with the HCC Highways Engineer meant that information about the frequency and depth of flooding along Northney Road this winter was passed on and he initiated an order to clear the French Drain running alongside the road next to the old playing field and again this should reduce the chance of flooding there.

At NEHRA's Winter General Meeting, Councillor Lance Quantrill provided a Briefing Report about the flooding between the bridge and the hotel. He offered to give an update at this meeting. We have not seen any works on the tidal flaps and NEHRA have not received an update for this meeting.

In the early hours of April 9th 2024, Northney and Tye experienced sea water flooding more severe than previous events in living memory. A number of homes were flooded. At Gutner Lane and Northney Road, depths of 120 cms and 70 cms were recorded respectively.

NEHRA believe that if there had been regular maintenance of the sea defences then this would have reduced the extent and impact of the flooding. NEHRA have decided to conduct a Flood Survey covering Northney and Tye. The purpose of the survey is to quantify the information and have facts about the true impact of the flooding on the community. The data will be anonymous and will not be published. The data will only be used to make a case with the Council for repairs to the sea defences and infrastructure.

Mike Tredwell suggested we raise an invoice and charge the Council for any work done.

Andy Biltcliffe said he used to work for the Council and would be happy to join a Flooding Sub-group. Councillor Wilf Forrow said he would also like to be involved.

Derek commented that the Environment Agency had visited and that they were going to come back at low tide and do some repairs to the tidal flap.

Colin Hunt asked about the flooding strategy for Northney. Councillor Wilf Forrow said that 75% of the coast is privately owned so it is the responsibility of the private land owners.

The Coastal Management Strategy from 2022 has no plans for any work in the short term. Andy Biltcliffe said he had written to them but had not received anything constructive in reply.

Derek referred to NEHRA's Surface Water and Sea Defence Strategy from November 2023. A copy of this was sent to Hampshire County Council.

Fenella commented that strategies about flooding have been going on for twenty years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lesley had produced accounts for the years 2022 and 2023. A copy of the accounts accompanies these minutes. There were no questions from the floor. Lesley remarked that both NEHRA's accounts look healthy. The accounts were proposed by Mike Tredwell and seconded by Derek Matthews.

PLANNING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jane is involved with Chichester Harbour Conservancy as the NEHRA representative. Jane meets regularly with them to consider Planning Applications.

Jane said that Chichester Harbour Conservancy are compiling a new Management Plan for 2025-2030. This will be open for consultation in the summer of 2024 and NEHRA will be invited to comment.

Jane stated that Northney residents were consulted on the Site Management Plan for North Common and Saltmarsh produced by Chichester Harbour Conservancy in 2022. Havant Borough Council were also involved who advised that the Government had a scheme of land credits, whereby developers can buy credits to offset development elsewhere. Havant Borough Council had plans to use the funds raised by this scheme to maintain North Common. In the meantime Havant Borough Council are doing some maintenance but have indicated at a meeting that they would be willing to support voluntary work on the common providing permits are obtained.

Jane commented on the coastal footpath in Langstone for interest and information as this area is beyond the remit of NEHRA. In January 2024 a statement was achieved of common ground between the parties involved (Havant Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Coastal Partners, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and others). Hampshire County Council will put a footbridge where the sea wall has failed and Coastal Partners will maintain the remaining sea wall for twenty five years. The reason for a footbridge was because of the SSSI's involvement.

Becky Smith suggested because of the difficulty with walking on North Common whether there would be interest for a Working Party to be formed to work on the Common.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Derek thanked Fenella for her close scrutiny of the membership as well as her excellent newsletters. Fenella commented on membership numbers, 245 in 2022, 237 in 2023 and so far this year 230. When new people move into the village Fenella encouraged us all to ask them to join NEHRA.

Fenella is thinking of doing a workshop on fraud and scams and she was also prompting everyone to do a scarecrow for The Scarecrow Festival. Entries need to be submitted by the 22nd June 2024.

WEBSITE REPORT

Derek thanked Tom for his work on the website. He keeps the website up to date and liaises with Fenella about local events. Tom is willing to receive advertisements about events taking place in the village for display on the website.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Derek said that Committee Members retire by rotation after two years.

Judy Clark has decided to retire and she will be greatly missed.

The Committee Members up for re-election are: Mark Glasgow, Fenella May, Alan Bartlett, Lesley Shayler and Chris Emery. It was proposed that they should all be re-elected. This was proposed by Derek Matthews and seconded by Stan Pike.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chris explained that the John Griffiths Telephone Kiosk will now house the Northney Book Exchange. Angharad (Harry) Pike will be in charge of the books. The Village Hall will still be open on the last Thursday of the month between 10.30 and 12.30 to swap books.

Joy Forrow asked if anyone had spare accommodation for a woman whose house had been flooded in Gutner Lane.

Becky Smith thanked NEHRA for the money that had been given to First Responders.

Councillor Paul Gray suggested any queries raised from the meeting should be directed to Councillor Wilf Forrow who lives in the area.

Mark told a story about Neil Armstrong and thanked Derek for his commitment to NEHRA and his leadership of the Committee. Derek was thanked by everyone present in the usual way.

The evening finished with tea and coffee which was kindly organised by Jane Bowerman.

63 people attended the meeting.

