
CPRE HAMPSHIRE

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of CPRE Hampshire took place at Colden Common Community Centre, St Vigor Way, Colden Common, SO21 1UU on Saturday 18th May 2019 starting at 10.30am.

MINUTES

Present: 36, Apologies: 9, Proxy Votes 36

1. At 10.34, The Earl Of Malmesbury, President of CPRE Hampshire opened the Annual General Meeting. The President extended a warm welcome to all members and new Trustees, and new Chief Executive George Sallis. He gave thanks to all Trustees and volunteers for the work that they do and commended all involved for such a successful year.
2. Apologies: 9 apologies received
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21 April 2018. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Caroline Dibden and seconded by Phillip Todd. President signed minutes from 2018.
4. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
5. Adoption of Statement of Accounts 2018. The Honorary Treasurer Martin Gillie explained that copies of annual accounts (summary income & expenditure account and Balance Sheet) for 2018 were sent as part of the annual report ahead of the meeting.

Mr Gillie thanked the previous Treasurer Paul Richards and commended him on his work, which had made his transition into this role far more easy. The Treasurer offered thanks to Denise Messenger from Branch Office for the hard work she has contributed in particular with the introduction of a new accounting system for the charity. The new system is hoped to improve the accounting and payroll process.

Mr Gillie then summarised the main outcomes of the financial year as follows:

- It has been a good year for the charity, with Paul Richards having left the finances in a very good condition.

- Overall surplus £10,210
- Unrestricted surplus £19,420
- Restricted funds used £9,210 net

The surplus in restricted funds has been allocated towards the Green Belt campaign - and it is anticipated that any remainder will be used this year.

The decline in membership has slowed, but not at a complete halt. However, the situation has improved on previous years. This is in part due to a successful drive made by the North Hampshire District Group to increase membership, and the more positive campaigns the charity are championing attracting more members.

The Treasurer highlighted the importance of membership to us as a charity and emphasised that increasing membership would need to be a focus moving forward.

Funds raised by District Groups have continued to be strong this year - primarily from events organised by The North and South Downs and Central District Groups.

The 2018 Appeal continued the lowering trend seen over recent years and this needs to be further explored to halt this decline.

Looking ahead, some big projects being considered in particular - Connecting Urban Communities with the Countryside on their doorstep - a project over two years - costing around £60,000.

Funding has been secured for this via the National CPRE Strategic Collaboration Fund and match funding will need to be found. Newly appointed Chief Executive George Sallis has already made inroads into securing this funding from Trusts such as the Spurgin Trust.

The Treasurer reiterated the importance and need for all members to support the drive to increase membership.

Questions from the floor.

Russell Webb - representative of the New Forest District Group - asked for further clarification on where the income from District Group contributions comes from.

Treasurer Martin Gillie and Chair Dee Haas explained that District Groups with the capacity, such as North and South Downs and Central organise fund-raising events which produce income.

Mr Webb also questioned the source of Donations appearing on accounts. Mr Gillie clarified that this referred to ad hoc donations presented to the charity.

The Treasurer asked for the Statement of Account 2018 to be adopted: Proposed by Caroline Dibden, Seconded by Patrick Taylor. Accounts agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers
 - a. Honorary Officers

The Earl of Malmesbury	President
John Cooper CBE	Vice President
Countess of Portsmouth	Vice President

Proposed by: Edward Dawson

Seconded by: Phillip Todd

Carried: agreed

Standing down; Admiral Sir Brian Brown KCB, CBE

A tribute to Admiral Sir Brian Brown was read by President - who is not seeking re-election due to health reasons. Thanks were given to Sir Brian Brown and his wife for all the hard work and support they have given to CPRE Hampshire.

b. Trustees for election

Martin Gillie (Treasurer) - Trustee

Patrick Taylor - Trustee

Boyd McCleary - Trustee

Proposed by: Peter Bedford

Seconded by: Peter Prag

Carried: all in favour

Standing down; Christopher Napier, Paul Richards

7. Any other Business

Mr Terry Henderson proposed an annual social get together, such as a dinner for members. Mr Henderson has been involved with other organisations which run similar events which have been most successful. It would help members and District Groups to know one another better, solidifying friendship and helping to create a fighting force.

Chair, Dee Haas responded positively to the concept - but highlighted this was a question of resources. However, would be delighted if a group of members/volunteers would be prepared to organise this.

Philip Todd suggested that as Hampshire is such a large place and evening events are not always favoured by our members, it could be possible to instead hold a countryside picnic - which could be a real family event and may appeal to a wider group.

Mrs Haas agreed that a Summer picnic would be a great addition to the event calendar - with invites to volunteers and members in addition to AGM and volunteer celebration held at Christmas.

8. Highlights of 2018 and what the future holds.

CPRE Hampshire Chairman Dee Haas stated 2018 had been a very good year for the charity, achieving a lot.

This included some real progress in our positive campaigning. This approach has resulted in getting some real traction with Decision Makers and doors opening for us, with the CPRE Hampshire view really being listened to.

This has been achieved despite the difficult backdrop of increasing housing numbers from government directives. We are not just facing a housing crisis in South East - it is an affordable housing crisis. The environment is really on the public agenda, and at a time when the government is frozen due to Brexit.

Mrs Haas emphasised the difficulties of this and how we remain relevant, grow and achieve work ahead.

The Chair offered sincere thanks to the President, Trustees and Volunteers for all their support as well as the staff in Branch Office.

Mrs Haas commended the work achieved by former Chief Executive Charlee Bennett, who brought a high degree of enthusiasm and professionalism to our campaigns in particular.

Mrs Haas then presented a summary of the Highlights and achievements of 2018. This included the positive steps in the Green Belt Campaign, the Strategic Vision for Hampshire and resulting invitation to attend the Commission of Inquiry into Hampshire 2050, The Countryside Awards 2018, the Rural Affordable Housing Conference and the events and achievements of all our District Groups.

The Chair then updated all members on the CPRE National Office Purpose Project and strategic objectives.

Mrs Haas shared some of the new branding and visuals and the thinking behind the re-brand.

Key elements of this are:

- Need to be on front foot in national debate
- Holistic in our thinking
- More people focussed
- Importance of accessibility for low income groups.

Part of this approach includes an emphasis on more positive campaigning, something which CPRE Hampshire is already leading on. Including our new project to reconnect Urban communities with the countryside.

What lies ahead for CPRE Hampshire

Positive campaigning

Strategic Vision for Hampshire updated in line with outcomes of the Commission for Hampshire 2050.

Socio-economic benefits of a green belt report

Local Plans working group

Strategic Collaboration Fund. A way to fund Branch activities from the National Charity's funds. CPRE Hampshire have been successful in securing funding from National Office for a project - reconnecting our urban communities with the countryside and are working towards gaining match funding.

Dee Haas then introduced George Sallis, Chief Executive CPRE Hampshire. Mr Sallis is an experienced fundraiser, who will be working closely on the positive campaigns of CPRE Hampshire, as well as attracting new members.

Mr Sallis summarised this exciting initiative which will be working in unison with new branding. This will inspire new demographics and new groups to get involved.

Although having started only recently, Mr Sallis has already made positive contacts with prospective stakeholders - including University of Winchester, Hampshire County Council, Arts Council Hampshire, Cycling UK and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

All are very excited and receptive and have pledged funds and support in kind on this project.

Questions and comments from the floor

Edward Dawson - Mr Dawson congratulated the Chair on such a good year.

Mr Dawson raised some concerns about the new strapline of 'The Countryside Charity' as felt this may not resonate widely with the public - often as not interested in the countryside next door as a concept.

He also raised potential difficulties of re-engaging urban communities with the countryside and felt this would be a challenging task.

He also suggested that the post Brexit political landscape would prove challenging as new governments will be seeking to grow economy - particularly in areas such as Hampshire so we must be prepared for the additional pressures of this.

The Chair agreed that there may be additional pressures and shared insight from the Commission 2050 that one of the major areas we need to tackle is the rejuvenation of inner cities and towns to tackle the decline of the high street and urban centres and attract people to live and work in a lively centre.

Start thinking on how we do this.

Mr Terry Henderson raised concerns about CPRE nationally and felt they may not be responding adequately to national issues they should be commenting on - such as food security.

He felt that they need to be more active and modern in approach to reach out to the wider public.

Mr Alan Drinkwater - a long term member - attended the Kit Malthouse event and agreed with comments made that new developments should be developing the conservation areas of the future.

Such guidance on suitability of style, place and environmental impact should also be available to all Neighbourhood Plans. This could support the suitability of

developments to the character of an area as well as promoting use of nature friendly materials, planting and hedging.

Comments were also made on need to link in more with other organisations such as the WI to help promote CPRE Hampshire.

Adrian Emck then provided an update on aviation - with particular focus on the Lasham Gliding Society's Judicial Review challenging the CAA's decision to implement the Farnborough airspace. Hugh Sheppard will be updating the PPG on this subject at their next meeting.

The AGM closed at 11.30am.