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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF CPRE HAMPSHIRE**

The Annual General Meeting of CPRE Hampshire took place in person at Sparsholt College on 20 April 2024 starting at 10.00am.

Present: 27 members

Apologies: 10

Proxies: 3

**Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

The AGM was opened with a welcome by the Earl of Malmesbury. The President welcomed Jo Wyatt, the new Finance Officer, and paid tribute to Martin Gillie, the Treasurer, to whom he had awarded a National Office Volunteer Award at the 2023 AGM and who had sadly died last year. The President then thanked all the volunteers involved in planning, hedge planting and laying, collecting litter, raising funds and helping out more generally. He thanked the staff of CPRE Hampshire, with particular thanks for Alison Talbot, the Operations Manager, for her untiring efforts on the charity’s behalf.

**Item 2: Highlights of 2023**

Alison Talbot, the Operations Manager, then gave a summary of the highlights of 2023. These included the Hampshire Hedge, the Green Match funding campaign, the Star Count as part of the Dark Night Skies, litter picking in Winchester, Rooftop Renewables and the Hampshire Countryside Awards.

**Item 3: CPRE Hampshire Business Plan 2024-2025**

Carole Oldham started by setting out the plans for 2024 in relation to planning. Carole then outlined the projects planned for 2024, including 100 Centenary Trees in a hedge or copse for the 2026 100-year anniversary of CPRE, Hampshire Chalk Meadows, a funding bid for a North Hampshire Hedge, and Community Energy Visioning to explore opinions of renewable energy in local communities. Lastly, a request was made for sponsors for the 2024 Hampshire Countryside Awards, which will have four categories: Hampshire Climate Action Award, Health & Wellbeing in Nature, Grassroots Action Award, and Projects in Hampshire’s Protected Landscapes. The presentation was followed by questions from members.

**Item 4: Celebrating 75 Years of Protected Landscapes**

Margaret Parent, the Chair, then gave a talk on 75 years of protected landscapes and the future of these. This covered the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, statistics about the current status of national parks within Hampshire and the UK, the role and remit of DEFRA, the new obligation introduced by the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and finished by identifying what is needed to protect the future of national parks. The talk was followed by questions from the members.

**Item 5: Apologies for absence**

Neil Henderson, Secretary, introduced the formal AGM, confirmed that there was a quorum and read out apologies.

**Item 6: Re-appointment of the President**

Neil Henderson, Secretary, proposed on behalf of the Trustees that James, Earl of Malmesbury, be re-appointed as President of CPRE Hampshire for a further two years. The proposal was seconded by Dee Haas and carried unanimously.

**Item 7: Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Carole Oldham and seconded by Dee Haas. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Item 8: Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 9: Adoption of Statement of Accounts for 2023**

Jo Wyatt, the Finance Officer, presented the accounts for 2023. Christopher Napier raised a question in relation to the ability to pay staff costs in 2024, which was answered by Jo Wyatt. Adoption of the Statement of Accounts was proposed by Christopher Napier and seconded by Joy Housham. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Item 10: Election and Appointment of Officers**

The President introduced Ben Goodhall, standing for election as a new Trustee and Treasurer. His election was proposed by Boyd McCleary and seconded by Carole Oldham. His election was carried unanimously.

The President then introduced David Rigby, standing for election as a new Trustee. His election was proposed by Bob Wren and seconded by John Rosling. His election was carried unanimously.

Lastly, the President introduced existing Trustees Alastair Clark, Elizabeth Clarke and Neil Henderson, who were standing for re-election as Trustees. Their election was proposed by Carole Oldham and seconded by Dee Haas. Their election was carried unanimously.

**Item 11: Any other business**

Boyd McCleary raised the issue of the Big Green Give and the funding potential for the Hampshire Hedge Project. Bob Wren referred to an article covering designations of ‘Grey Skies’ and the limited number of greenbelt fields in Hampshire.

The President then closed the AGM.