

**CPRE Sussex Branch**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Held at**  
**The South Downs Centre**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**1. Welcome**

The President, Lord Egremont, welcomed the members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for attending on this extremely hot day! The President welcomed Crispin Truman OBE, CEO of CPRE National Office (NO) to speak.

Crispin thanked the Branch for inviting him and commented on how impressed he was by the content and quality of our "Sussex Review".

In his first ten months in the post, Crispin's overriding feeling is that although CPRE has a great track record, there are huge challenges ahead. He feels that it is important to focus efforts on developing positive/collaborative/solution-focussed outcomes. As an organisation we need to be clearer as to '*what our vision is for rural communities and why is it important?*' He believes that National Office needs to reappraise its purpose and by doing so assist local branches and also work harder to promote the organisation and consequently increase membership. He also commented that CPRE wants to work increasingly in partnership with other organisations with shared objectives.

National Office needs to:

- Broaden the organisation's appeal
- Promote integrated/focussed campaigns
- Support local branches more.

Some campaign priorities include:

- Rural affordable housing
- NPPF Response
- Agricultural Bill
- Environment Act
- Bottle deposit return
- Transport choices
- Protecting Landscapes

Crispin informed the meeting that a new Director for Volunteering and Partnerships was being appointed in September and that person will travel around Branches providing assistance where needed. He also reported that a Strategic Collaborative Fund was now open for bids.

Questions and comments from the floor related to the importance of using the countryside to help those with mental health issues; Conflicts over the NPPF between Branches and NO; Feelings that NO need to push for more regulations (CT commented that this was not a regulatory government!!); The need for NO to coordinate Educational Projects for Young People (CT agreed that we need to encourage the young inner city pupils 'out' into the countryside!)

Lord Egremont thanked Crispin for updating the Branch on his views and thoughts for the future of National Office and the organisation.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from; Mr & Mrs Hinze, David Willingham, Vic Ient, Pamela Rihal, Bernice Ryan, Stephen Hardy, Sir Freddy Sowrey, Worthing Society, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, Gerald Summerfield, Liz Beeney, Tony Whitbread.

## **3. Resolution to approve and sign the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (which had been previously circulated) were proposed by Lesley Wilson and seconded by Sas Drury. All approved the minutes and a copy signed by Lord Egremont.

## **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

## **5. Chairman Report**

David directed the delegates to his previously circulated report in the Sussex News. He commented on how important it was to focus on how we can 'add value' - making best use of our scarce resources – 'Making Places' is a good example.

As touched on by Crispin, David also commented that we need to work in partnership with similar organisations when appropriate. A good example being the successful outcome of the Horsham Incinerator Campaign – David thanked Sally Pavey for her hard work in helping to successfully stop the plans.

David also feels that our Branch needs to publicise and communicate NO's activities/objectives better.

The need to promote, as well as protect, the countryside continues – particularly as so many town and city dwellers no longer see the intrinsic work of the countryside.

David passed his grateful thanks to the team, and particular thanks to Sas Drury who is to retire. He presented gifts to Sas and thanked her for the years of dedicated service to the organisation.

Thanks were also passed to Lorna for her fantastic visits!

## **6. Directors Report**

Kia Trainor thanks everyone for coming today in the heart of the South Downs National Park.

Kia provide a short history of CPRE Sussex and how, 10 years ago, it received a large legacy which enable the organisation, for the first time, to employ a part time Director. This move enabled the organisation, working at a local level, to make a big impact and become increasingly effective. Kia, as Director, has particularly focussed on broadening the volunteer network and is helping to strengthen district groups. The Branch has a fund-raising strategy and wishes to make bids for funding rather than relying solely on the membership funds and legacy funds.

We would like to recruit a Trustee leading fundraising initiatives – for example, looking into making charges for training programmes.

Kia welcomed Crispin's plans for a "Purpose Project" to broaden our appeal and help from NO with volunteers. These initiatives will hopefully support an increase in membership.

Finally, Kia passed her thanks to Sas saying that it had been a great privilege to work together and wished her a happy retirement.

#### 'Sign Up a Friend' Competition

Kia presented bottles of wine to the winners of this initiative to Michael Warden, Alan Smith and Julia Tingle (not present.)

Lord Egremont, on behalf of the Branch, thanked David and Kia for their commitment and hard work in the past year.

### **7. Treasurers Report**

Julian Hill highlighted some key points from the previously circulated Financial Report.

- No great change in membership fees
- Expenditure had increased slightly resulting in a £44,000 deficit.
- Investments from the legacy were down.
- The need to increase funding in all manner of ways! (Grant funding/local fundraising/sponsorships/legacies.)

There were no questions, and the Report and Financial Accounts were adopted at the meeting.

Proposed by Penny Hudd

Seconded by Michael Warden

### **8. The Election of Officers and Trustees**

- (a) That *Lord Egremont* is re-appointed as President of the charity for a 1 year period:  
Proposed: Sally Pavey  
Seconded: Penny Hudd
- (b) That *Margaret Moore* and *Rodney Chambers* be re-appointed as Vice-Presidents of the charity for a 1 year period.  
Proposed: Lord Egremont  
Seconded: David Johnson
- (c) That *David Johnson* be re-appointed as Chair of the charity for a 1 year period.  
Proposed: Michael Warden  
Seconded: Sally Pavey
- (d) That *Julian Hill* be re-appointed as Treasurer of the charity for a 1 year period.  
Proposed: Roger Smith  
Seconded: Sas Drury
- (e) To re-appoint the following members of the Executive Committee as Trustees en bloc:  
*David Johnson*  
*Julian Hill*  
*Sally Pavey*  
Proposed: Sas Drury  
Seconded: Michael Warden

**10. Any Other Business**

Edmund Critchley, Lewes Branch took the opportunity to promote the walking tours through villages connected to the Pelham family on Sunday 8 July.

Michael Warden updated the meeting on the work of the Arun District Branch. Michael and his team have been working hard to promote the organisation at Fayres and had also been presenting to different organisations through the District. He feels that it is important to look into working with educational establishments.

Michael complimented the Sussex Office on how supportive they are to the branches, particularly Arun, and he presented flowers from the Arun branch as a 'thank you' to Lesley and Kia!

David Johnson promoted the forthcoming event 'Walk the Bryson Line' (596 miles from top to toe of the UK!) The walk will pass through Sussex on Sunday 8 July. Monies are being raised for five charities (CPRE being one of them.)

To conclude, David Johnson thanked the Board of Trustees, office staff and membership for their continued support and hard work.

The meeting welcomed Clare Blencowe, Manager of the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre who gave an extremely interesting talk on 'Sussex's Flora & Fauna – recording it today keeping it for the Future.'

Signed..... Date.....