

CPRE Sussex Lewes District Group

Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 6th September 2019, 1.15pm, Firle Village Hall

Present: thirty-three members (including committee members and Kia Trainor)

1) Apologies for Absence – none were received.

2) The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were adopted and signed.

3) Matters Arising – none.

4) Chairman's Report

This was written by Edmund Critchley but read by Philip Pople. The aims and activities of the Lewes Group were summarised. Jim Greenwood was thanked for his thirty years on the committee. Liz Monnington was thanked for her hospitality in allowing the committee to meet at her house. John Kay was thanked for his work on local planning and commended for his encyclopaedic memory.

5) Planning Report

John Kay reported that the South Downs National Park had now adopted a Local Plan. Progress on the Lewes Local Plan Part 2, covering Lewes District outside the National Park, had progressed slowly, but was now nearing adoption. Greenfield sites around Lewes should largely be protected by the Plan. He commented that allocated brownfield sites tended to be developed very slowly (some having been vacant for twenty-five years) whereas greenfield sites were developed immediately. Developers had forced the previously rejected Mitchelswood Farm, Newick, application through the courts and the legal decision was awaited. The proposed travellers' caravan site at Plumpton Green was being included Part 2. The Newhaven Beach site was currently the subject of consultation.

6) Election of Chairman

Prof Edmund Critchley stood down as chairman and was thanked for his six years of service. Philip Pople was elected as chairman nem con.

7) Election of Committee

The following committee members offered to continue serving and were re-elected nem con: Robert Cheesman, Edmund Crichley, Mary Greenwood, Martin Heath, John Kay, Elizabeth Monnington, Margaret Moore and Margaret Thorburn. Mary Greenwood announced her resignation as secretary and was thanked for her long service. Martin Heath agreed to take over as minute secretary and was elected nem con. Jim Greenwood had announced his wish to stand down and he was thanked for his support. Cllr Roy Burman was elected to the committee nem con.

8) Any Other Business

- a. The next committee meeting was scheduled for 13/11/19 at Upper Stoneham Farm.



- b. Kia Trainor, Director of CPRE Sussex, addressed the meeting. She mentioned problems with litter on the verges of the A27. Responsibility for keeping them tidy was split between Lewes District Council and Highways England and there was a current campaign to have Highways England take over the role fully. A litter pick was scheduled for 11/9/19 and anyone wishing to get involved was advised to contact Kia directly. A “passive house” (low ecological footprint) visit was arranged for 17/9/19 and, again, anyone interested was advised to contact Kia. She felt that the Climate Emergency was not filtering down to local planning. “RIS2” (Road Investment Strategy 2) improvement scheme for the A27 was scheduled for next year, with alterations to junctions. Kia reported that Lewes MP Maria Caulfield wanted improvements to the A27 but had not backed the dualling of the road requested by Wealden District Council to promote development. Highways England has made the business case for dualling. A new group to oppose this had been set up and Kia could provide details on request.

The meeting concluded at 1.52pm.