

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CPRE SUSSEX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 1st October 2022 at 10.30am at The Shoreham Centre, Shoreham-On-Sea BN43 5WU

1. Introduction

Lord Egremont welcomed attendees and opened the meeting. He mentioned there may be some late arrivals due to problems on the A27. Lesley Wilson pointed out housekeeping items.

2. Apologies for Absence

George & Jo Gordon, Barbara Summerfield, John and Virginia Hinze, Mr & Mrs P Hamerton, Andy & Pat Watkins, Julian Marshall, Jeannette Towey, Brian Kilkelly, Roger Smith, Sally Pavey, David Pierson and Tony Whitbread

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

No matters were received pre-meeting and none at the meeting.

Proposer: Penny Hudd, Seconder: Lawrence Keeley

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of approving the Minutes. The Minutes were signed by Lord Egremont.

4. Chairman's Report

Dan thanked the attendees for coming to the AGM and commented that it was lovely to be able to meet face to face! Dan passed particular thanks to Lesley Wilson for her enormous efforts keeping the office running and dealing with emails and queries that come into the office. Executive meetings continue to take place online. Dan also thanked Duncan for all his hard work and Claire Lloyd for support with fund raising which has helped to stabilise funds.

As the organisation continues to engage with social media – thanks were also passed to Marilyn, Sheena, Jessica Sternberg and Katie Townsend.

The effects of increased media/press coverage were felt with the 'Plant a Postcode' initiative. This attracted a lot of press attention in Brighton and consequently some great working relationships were formed. The new Mayor of Brighton has made CPRE Sussex one of her chosen charities of the year.

Dan thanked Lord Egremont for his support and commented on his enjoyable visit to Petworth Park. Thanks were also passed to all the Trustees for their hard work. Roger Smith continues to advise and lead with planning issues. He has great knowledge in this field and has also established some very useful press links. As Vice Chairman, David Johnson provides great support and back-up and attend COP26 on behalf of the Branch.

Sadly, there are some 'goodbyes' this year:

- Lord Egremont will be standing down at the end of this year after many years as President. Dan thanked him for the years of loyal support to CPRE Sussex.
- Rodney Chambers stood down as Trustee this year but has kindly agreed to remain a Vice President. Grateful thanks were passed to Rodney for all his tireless work over the years on behalf of the Branch.
- Michael Brown – Trustee – who established policies particularly with regard to fracking and climate change – is stepping down. Michael will be greatly missed for his knowledge and expertise particularly with regard to planning in Mid Sussex
- Stephen Hardy – Trustee - has provided excellent legal and governance support to the Branch over many years as well as planning expertise in Rother and will be greatly missed.

[Campaign to Protect Rural England Sussex Branch CIO, Registered Charity Number: 1156568](#)



- Bill Freeman has stood down as Trustee and was thanked for his great encouragement and mobilisation of local groups in fighting planning applications. Bill will continue to monitor planning in Adur & Worthing for which much appreciation was expressed.
- Jeanette Towey will not be standing for election.

The meeting thanked all above with a hearty round of applause!

Dan commented that an interim Director had been recruited during the year – Brian Kilkelly. One of Brian's first tasks was to carry out a review of the Branch's 'purpose' and a new strapline for the future has been devised 'Shaping a Greener Future for Sussex'. Dan concluded that collaborations with local, likeminded groups (large and small) was an effective way of working.

5. Director's Review Video

Although not present at the meeting Dan welcomed the interim Director, Brian Kilkelly, who provided an interesting update on Branch activities via a previously recorded video – this will be available to view on the Branch website. Highlights from the video are:

- Over the winter members were involved with a tree planting collaboration with 'Trees for Cities' working with Brighton and Hove Council - planting 102 trees across 4 locations. Dan passed particular thanks to Penny Hudd for her involvement in this initiative.
- The Branch has been actively involved across the whole of Sussex tackling planning threats. For example, Centre Parcs have been looking at sites in mid Sussex that could destroy ancient woodland.
- We have been looking at political and landscape changes particularly considering the 'Levelling Up' Bill coming forward.
- A lot of work has taken place tackling the unsustainable housing targets imposed within the County. This is a campaign that will continue to run as we engage with Councils.
- During the summer there were several fundraising events and enjoyable walks arranged by the Branch.
- The Branch has been involved in trying to influence water companies to do all they can to protect the natural environment as wastewater is released into Sussex rivers and our seas.
- There was a successful overturning of a major housing development between Goring and Ferring in the High Court. CPRE Sussex worked with local action groups in opposing this development.
- Brian enjoyed a meeting with campaigners Maureen and Colin Holt who are working hard to protect Toad Hole Valley – 98-acre greenfield site where the Council propose to build 1000 homes.
- Brian commented that CPRE Sussex needs to continue to look for ways to increase resources and the membership so that we can support local groups in their campaigning work. Brian also commented that the work of the Branch is extremely varied – both in terms of protecting and promoting the countryside. The Group recently worked on a 'purpose refresh' project and unanimously agreed on a new vision statement 'Shaping a Greener Future for Sussex.' Brian emphasised the need to ensure that the public understands the work of CPRE in order to encourage new membership and increased financial support.
- Finally, Brian requested help from the members! This year CPRE Sussex is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Please contact the office if you have any ideas of how we can mark this special occasion.

6. Treasurers Report – Julian Hill

Unrestricted income in 2021 (£67,274) was £1,049 below 2020 (£68,323). There was a small decline in membership income. In 2020 we had a donation from the Chalk Cliff Trust of £4k and the Autumn Appeal generated £7k more than in 2021. This was offset by a generous legacy of £7k and a donation from Swire Trust of £3k.

Unrestricted costs in 2021 (£64,739) were £11,357 below 2020 (£76,096). This was due primarily to lower staff costs (£6,717 - director post vacant for part of 2021). We now have Brian Kilkelly as our interim Director.



- Gains on investments in 2021 (£2,151) were £1,763 higher than in 2020 (£388)
- Overall, the movement in unrestricted funds in 2021 was a surplus of £4,686 (in 2020 it was a deficit of £7,385)
- Unrestricted reserves ended in 2021 at £153,480 (in 2020 it was £148,794)

Again, our emphasis this year is to improve earnings from corporate sponsors; grant funding and local fundraising activities. Legacies are still an important source of funds. The Trustees are responsible for raising the funds but all members can assist by identifying any contact that may be help to support our aims financially.

John Kay commented that the Annual Appeal was a significant part of the Branch's income and asked that members be as generous as possible!

Vivane Doussy asked if the Swire Trust donation was 'ring-fenced' – Lesley Wilson agreed to check.

Resolution to adopt the Financial Report for the period ending 31st December 2021:

Proposer: Stephen Hardy, Seconder: David Johnson
For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain: 2 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved.

7. Appointment of President and Vice Presidents

a. On the Resolution to re-appoint the President Lord Egremont, votes received as follows:

Proposer: Penny Hudd, Seconder: Janet Dale
For: 39. Against: 0 Abstain: 1 (postal)
Dan Osborn declared the resolution approved

Lord Egremont commented that this would be his final year as President.

b. On the Resolution to re-appoint the Vice President Rodney Chambers, votes received as follows:

Proposer: Lord Egremont, Seconder: Stephen Hardy
For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain: 2 (postal)
Dan Osborn declared the resolution approved

c. On the Resolution to re-appoint the Vice President Margaret Moore, the votes received as follows:

Proposer: David Johnson, Seconder: Maureen Holt
For: 39 Against: 0 Abstain: 1 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved

d. On the Resolution to re-appoint Prof Dan Osborn as Trustee, the votes received as follows:

Proposer: Penny Hudd, Seconder: Rodney Chambers
For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain: 2 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved

e. To re-appoint Prof Dan Osborn as Chair for a 1 year period.

Proposer: Stephen Hardy, Seconder: Lesley Wilson



For: 37. Against: 1 (postal) Abstain: 2 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved

f. To appoint David Johnson as Vice Chair for a 1 year period

Proposer: Claire Lloyd, Seconder: Penny Hudd
For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain: 3 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved

g. The meeting was advised that Jeanette Towey is not standing for appointment as Trustee due to other commitments.

h. To reappoint Penny Hudd as Trustee

Proposer: Stephen Hardy, Seconder: Maureen Holt
For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain: 2 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved.

i. To reappoint John Kay as Trustee

Proposer: Penny Hudd, Seconder: Marilyn Rawson Ekblom
For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain: 2 (postal)
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved.

j. Appointment of Members present to all appointments above en bloc.

Proposer: Roy Coppard, Seconder: Lawrence Keeley
For: 26 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Lord Egremont declared the resolution approved

8. Questions/Comments (sent in advance and from the floor)

Robert Cheesman congratulated the Branch on its activities over the past year. As a member of the transport forum TFSE (Transport for South East) he asked how involved CPRE Sussex had been in influencing sustainable traffic schemes. David Johnson commented that the Branch continues to act as consultees where relevant. DJ attended an investment strategy meeting in Guildford recently; Stephen Hardy had been in contact with the Eastern Wing Group where CPRE emphasised the need for 'active travel' (walking and cycling.) Lesley agreed to pass on CPRE's consultation response to Highways England.

Julian Marshall raised the question of the need to review the formulas that the Government uses for housing numbers. It was pointed out that CPRE National had been successful in halting the problematic algorithm previously being used.

Barbara Chandler raised the point regarding the importance of redeveloping brownfield sites. CPRE NO do meet in Parliament and strongly encourage this viewpoint. It is estimated that over 1M houses could be built on brownfield sites.

Cathy Gallagher mentioned the Neighbourhood Plan for Peacehaven and Telscombe. This Plan has been prepared over four years with the aim of trying to protect the beauty of the area.

9. Any Other Business

No points were formally received before the AGM.

Laurence Keeley handed out a leaflet that he had produced entitled 'Building a Better Future'. He commented that District Council elections would be taking place in Spring next year and how important it is to support likeminded candidates. He also commented that food security is not, in his opinion, taken



seriously enough due to a complexity of reasons namely a shortage of farm workers. Dan commented that CPRE is watching and waiting to see how the Government’s relationship with the agricultural sector will ‘pan out.’

10. Speaker – Geoff Barnard SECA

Dan Osborn closed the formal part of the meeting. Following a short break, the meeting reconvened for a talk by Geoff Barnard from South East Climate Alliance - ‘Creating Partnerships for Climate Action.’

Signed 15th July 2023