



The countryside charity  
Sussex

## **CPRE LEWES DISTRICT**

### **Minutes of 2025 AGM held at Wivelsfield village hall at 7pm on Wednesday 16 July**

Present – John Kay, Dan Osborn, Mary Greenwood, Paul Stevens, Robert Cheesman and about 15 some of whom were visitors but included Councillors Lucy Agace, Sue Morris and Daniel Stewart-Roberts, (LDC) and representatives of Newick, Ringmer and Wivelsfield Parish Councils.

1. John Kay welcomed all those present for coming to the meeting, whether they are CPRE members or not.
- 2, Apologies for absence had been received from Philip Pople, David Taylor, Jackie & Bill Frost, Olivia Honeyman, Margaret Thorburn, Julia Tingle and Peter Varlow as well as LDC Councillors O'Connor, Mellor & Keenan.
- 3, The minutes of the 2024 AGM, which had been circulated in advance, were approved.
4. In presenting the committee report which had been circulated with the agenda, John Kay highlighted the changes that had been made to planning policy by the Government and that the production of a new Local Plan by LDC had been delayed. The District is vulnerable to planning applications by “sharks” on greenfield sites but CPRE oppose them if that is the view of the relevant Parish Council. Where LDC refused an application an appeal was often made but their success rate was mixed. He urged members to let us know about developments in their local area.
6. John Kay was reappointed Chairman, Robert Cheesman Secretary, and Mary Greenwood, Philip Pople and David Taylor committee members for the ensuing year. Since the agenda was produced Paul Stevens had decided not to continue as a committee member.
7. In other business John Kay said in reply to a question that CPRE would be commenting on a Newick application but had not opposed the Plumpton racecourse application as Plumpton PC did not oppose it.

After the formal meeting the first speaker was Dan Osborn, Vice-Chairman of CPRE Sussex. Who in speaking to the attached slides emphasised that to be successful in obtaining changes one needed to research the subject and try to propose alternatives. This gave CPRE credibility and showed authorities that rather than being negative it tries to be positive in protecting and enhancing the countryside. Unfortunately the value it can bring is often not recognised by those in authority as they are mainly concerned about urban issues.

The second speaker was Councillor Richard Morris from Wivelsfield Parish Council who gave the attached illustrated talk about the different parts of the parish and the development threats it faced partly because of its location close to both Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath.

A general discussion then ensued mainly about the planning system and its role in developments.