



The countryside charity
Sussex

CPRE SUSSEX LEWES DISTRICT

Minutes of 2023 AGM held at Barcombe Village Hall at 7pm on Monday, 17th July

Present: John Kay, Paul Steedman, Liz Monnington, Mary Greenwood, Philip Pople, Paul Stevens, Robert Cheesman, Councillor Lawrence O'Connot (LDC) and about 40 others some of whom were visitors.

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 Maria Caulfield MP, Sylvia and Gordon Bain, Jason and Jenny Bell, Miles Holford, Olivia Honeyman, Marc Munifer, Pauline Porter, John and Rosalyn St Pierre and Margaret Thorburn.
3. The minutes of the 2022 AGM, which had been circulated in advance, were approved.
4. The committee report which had been circulated with the agenda was also approved.
6. John Kay was reappointed Chairman, Robert Cheesman Secretary, and Mary Greenwood, Philip Pople and Paul Stevens committee members for the ensuing year. Reference was made to the need for other members to come forward to serve on the committee as the current members are of an advancing age.
7. Philip Pople made a presentation of an indoor plant to Liz Monnington who was stepping down from the committee having been a member since it was first established over 30 years ago.
8. John Kay spoke to the attached presentation about the District Local Plan which is currently being drafted to replace the existing Local Plan that, by Government decree, now expires this year. The next formal step would be a consultation on the preferred options for housing sites. Within the LDC area, the target was to provide some 15,700 houses in the next 5 years of which about 12,000 would be needed in those parts of the District outside the National Park. For the draft Plan to be approved by the Planning Inspectorate, all potential sites must be considered even if it was decided to reject them as unsuitable. At present the lack of an approved Local Plan had caused a significant number of planning applications for housing on greenfield sites in and around the low Wealden villages. Although most of these had been refused by LDC, an appeal to the Planning inspectorate was usually made and their decisions, though varied, tended to be in favour of the development.

Councillor O'Connor, who is the lead member for planning at LDC, supported the presentation and said that no decisions have yet been taken on the preferred options for housing sites in the forthcoming Local Plan. Opposing developments had to be justified by relevant evidence. The



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government target for LDC was not realistic and so they would be seeking to persuade the Planning Inspectorate that it was unjustified and should be reduced.

In a question and answer session that followed the provision of adequate infrastructure on potential housing sites was raised and should be considered in the planning process. In particular the availability of tap water and waste water facilities were mentioned.

9. Paul Steedman, Director of CPRE Sussex, spoke to the attached slides which highlighted the direction that CPRE hope to be taking in the future.

After the meeting non-alcoholic drinks and savoury snacks were served.