

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting held on 21 February 2019

At St Michael's Hall, Summersdale Road, Chichester

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

RB welcomed all members attending, a record total of 70 households this year, and also welcomed WSCC cabinet member for finance Mr Jeremy Hunt, District and City Councillor Tony Dignum, District Councillor Simon Lloyd-Williams, and Councillor Mr Peter Budge. The Chairman also welcomed committee members Mrs Sue Spooner, Mrs Mary Quiney, Mrs Janet Leonard, Mr Peter Bickley, Mr Dennis Martin, Mr Mike Steel, Mr Michael Berry, Mrs Vanessa Stern and Mrs Pamela Sutton. RB also welcomed the guest speaker for the evening, Ms Hilly Sloan, Historian and professional guide, who will give a talk on the history of Summersdale.

Apologies were received from committee member Mrs Alison Stratton-Baldwin and from SRA members Mrs Jean Goddard, Mr David Sparrow, Mr Nicholas Palmer, Mr & Mrs Dunn, Mr & Mrs Merrett, Mr Phil Ladds, Mr Roger Hitch, Mr & Mrs Patterson and Mr & Mrs Barratt.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 16 February 2017. Agreed and signed by RB.

3. Chairman's Report

RB said that the purpose of his report was to give an overview of the various subjects the SRA committee had discussed over the year. The A27 had taken up quite a lot of committee time, and the newsletter details the latest position. The SRA Committee are positive that the WSCC through Highways England can provide an evidence-based and sustainable solution for the vital A27 upgrade, which must be innovative and not cost the earth financially or environmentally, and yet still support the CDC Local Plan requirements. Goodwood Airfield and race circuit were often on the agenda, particular concerns being the overflying of houses in Summersdale. We have a liaison team who have met with representatives of Goodwood and forged a good relationship. There is a number on the SRA website that can be used to contact the airfield to report overflying or excessive noise. Planning matters continue to take up a large part of the committee's time, and we have a very competent committee member who keeps close eye on all potential new developments and planning applications in the SRA area, and objects on our behalf where appropriate. Broyle Road and Lavant Road are under pressure due to increased traffic and the building of multiple buildings on large single plots. Two plots in particular which had held 8 bedrooms now have a total of 38. The application to develop 154 Broyle Road has been refused. We have not been given the promised new surgery in Graylingwell, so it is now taking 6 weeks to get a non-emergency appointment. In 2008 SRA undertook a neighbourhood character appraisal, which showed Summersdale needed special planning consideration with its unique housing stock and tree-lined environment. The creation of a conservation area would help to mitigate the amount of new building, but the lack of staff in the Conservation office has meant no progress can be made. The SRA is privileged to act as consultee over planning issues such as the Housing and Economical Land Availability Assessment, the Local Plan and White house Farm. We were represented on the BABA27 group meetings and we are consultee on the SDNP Centurion Way extension and the CDC Chichester Parking Management Plan. We have sought a reduction in the speed limit on the Lavant Road entering Chichester to 40mph and this is ongoing. We contribute to the planting of new trees in the Summersdale area, with some residents contributing as individuals. We had a litter picking party in the Winterbourne Road area and collected a considerable amount of litter. There is a proposal to reduce the no. 50 bus service around Summersdale, which will certainly meet with protest. We now have approval to fit a defibrillator unit in the porch of St Michaels Hall. there will be an initial cost of £200, the remainder being paid by charity. There will be a regular cost every 3-5 years of £300 for replacement of pads and batteries. The question of whether SRA should pay for the unit was put to members, and the overwhelming vote was that it should.

4. Treasurers Report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018

Treasurer Mr Peter Bickley presented the accounts for the year, with explanation of the various items of income and expenditure. The total reserves now stand at £14,457.29, an increase of £1003.35 from last year. A query was raised as to how high this figure might rise, and PB said that it was really a 'fighting fund' which could be used if, for example, a barrister was required to help fight a case such as the gravel extraction or the daffodil field scenarios, in which case £14,457 would not go very far. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mr Jeremy Hunt and seconded by Mr John Halliday. A vote was taken by members present and the accounts passed.

5. Election of Officers

As is customary, Chairman Mr Richard Bramall withdrew from the room and Vice Chairman Mrs Sue Spooner took over the chair for the process of re-electing the chairman. She said that RB had been an excellent chairman, and had a varied career with the BBC, as a pastor then as a lecturer in Portsmouth University. She proposed him as chairman, seconded by Mr Roger Hobbs, and a unanimous vote of SRA members followed. The remaining committee members

(as listed in Item 1) were also voted in unanimously en bloc by members present, with proposal by Mr Jeremy Hunt and seconded by Mrs Margaret Evans.

6. **Election of Independent Examiner**

Accounts Examiner Mr Len Macey was elected in his absence to continue as the SRA Independent Examiner.

7. **Guest Speaker – Hilly Sloan (Historian and professional guide) – “Summersdale”**

A most interesting talk accompanied by maps, documents and photographs of the Summersdale area was given by Ms Sloan, and many members present learned things about their area that they had never known before, the origin of the name of Brandy Hole Lane referred to the activities of smugglers hiding contraband, and the location of gravel pits where Stanton Close now stands being but two facts many residents were unaware of.

8. **Other Speakers**

District and City Councillor Tony Dignum spoke, firstly on the A27 situation. The BABA27 process came up with two routes, the mitigated northern route and the amended southern route. A meeting was held in January with Highways England who said that neither option was acceptable as the cost was nearly double the previous budget. The northern route was also rejected as it was not possible legally to implement it because of the incursion into the national park, which is against national policy. The community was seen to have rejected the southern route even though there was actually a vote in favour of it being the second acceptable option after the northern route. We must continue to press for a solution to the problem, and a meeting is scheduled in March with the Roads Minister which hopefully will see the A27 included in the 2020-2035 plan. The 2015 local plan does allow for improvement to the highway if more development is allowed in an area. Currently the Chichester area has to build 650 new houses each year, but the money made available from this will probably only cover ‘hamburger’ junctions and improvement to existing junctions. The work will be done over a 15 year period. In terms of requirement for new housing, the city has got off fairly lightly apart from the Whitehouse Farm development which will not be completed until 2036. Creating a conservation area would help to mitigate the housing load. To comply with new regulations on waste recycling, green bins could be provided free of charge and small food waste bins provided so that the 50% recycling target can be met.

WSCC cabinet member for finance Mr Jeremy Hunt spoke about his concerns, as chairman of the Harbour Conservancy, over development close to the harbour conservancy area along the coastal strip, with the addition of wildlife corridors being ineffective because of the roads in the area. He reported that £200m had been saved on the annual budget of WSCC, but that council tax for 2019/20 would rise by 4.99%. The council had opted for three increases of 2% over 3 years to help fund adult social care, in line with government policy, and £200m of the total £556m budget of the council goes on adult social care. Potholes continue to be an issue and are costly to repair. The damaged edges in Brandy Hole Lane are to be repaired soon. On the question of the 40mph speed limit in Lavant Road near the garage, a survey needs to be undertaken before this can be implemented. If traffic generally slowed down at this point, it would help the process. It is hoped that resurfacing of The Drive can take place, but the £60m given to WSCC for road repairs came with the proviso that it was used by March 2019, a somewhat tight timescale. The cycle path through Graylingwell continues to be unfinished as there is a 20m strip owned by Hyde Martlett and progress has stalled. Chichester parking Space Audit will now take place between 1-31 March, not 25 February as previously planned, details on the WSCC website. Zoned parking in residential areas will be discussed, and residents associations can attend the meetings and make presentations. Parking in The Avenue is of concern, mostly because of vans belonging to tradespeople working in the area.

9. **Other Resolutions.** None were put forward for discussion.

10. **Open Forum**

A question was asked concerning the road repair fund and whether it could be spent on the road into Lavant village, and Mr Jeremy Hunt said that it could not.

The meetings between SRA liaison committee and Goodwood were welcomed, and it was requested that the results of these meeting be made public. RB confirmed that this would be done.

Mr Peter Evans asked whether residents in areas where zoned street parking was implemented would need to purchase residents parking permits. Mr Tony Dignum said that revenue from parking was a vital resource for the city and council tax would have to rise if that revenue ceased. He also said that revenue from parking had to go back into road projects. It was questioned whether the cycle route through Graylingwell was a public right of way as it is currently blocked. Mr Jeremy Hunt said that it probably was not, although it was a somewhat grey area. Mr Tony Dignum said that the council received £4,000 for each new house built in the area and some of this money could be used to sort the problem out, and suggested that SRA members could put forward a request for the money to be used for this purpose.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm when drinks and canapes were served to all members present.