

# SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of

**Annual General Meeting held on 24 May 2023**

**At St Michael's Hall, Summersdale, Chichester**

[www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk](http://www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk)

*Residents Working Together*

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Chairman Mrs Jill Shaw welcomed all residents attending, committee members and also West Sussex County Councillor Mr Jeremy Hunt, District Councillor Mr Jeremy Brown and City Councillors Mr Craig Gershter (recently appointed Mayor of Chichester), Rhodri More and Shiva Knight, and Chairman of Chichester Tree Wardens Mrs Paula Chatfield. Apologies were received from SRA committee member Mrs Sara Wain and SRA members Mr Michael Thomas, Mrs Carol Knight, Mr & Mrs Marsh, Mr & Mrs Tostevin, Mrs Hilary Swift and Mrs Maureen Corfield.

### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2022.

Approved. Proposed by Mr Patrick Madeley and seconded by Mr John Halliday. Voted on by all present and carried unanimously.

### 3. Chairman's Report

JS said that it was good to be back in St Michael's Hall after the move to St Pauls Church because of lack of space. After comments from members who wanted to be back to St Michael's which they can walk to and enjoy a glass of wine, more chairs were made available and a small marquee erected outside so people can spill out into the warm summer evening with a drink in hand.

She said that having taken over as chairman last year, she would like to thank all the committee for all their support and hard work over the year. Sara Wain as Vice Chairman is her right hand person, willingly picking up anything needed, Peter Bickley is a very professional treasurer, Pauline Sutton supported by her husband Peter as membership secretary and Janet as minutes secretary. During the year Mark Todd took over as Goodwood Liaison and has made his mark already.

The year has seen the usual round of planning matters, mainly small with nothing major like the inquiry over Raughmere last year, but White House Farm phase 2 and the A27 are still bubbling under the surface and we do our best as an Association to keep on top of them and represent Summersdale as well as the Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Thanks go to John Halliday for the hard work put in, particularly as he has not been in Chichester for much of the year. John has been looking for a new home in the area and has now found one in Lavant. John is happy to continue in the planning role for the rest of the year but the SRA is now actively looking for someone to replace him.

A special thanks go to Ray Carter, our very active environment officer. JS said that he had been her environment mentor and had taught her much about the surrounding environment and its history. Several trees had been planted but the long hot summer took its toll on many, particularly the young ones, emphasising the need even more for volunteer waterers. Ray is also our representative for the Friends of Brandy Hole Copse. They were an active group helping with the maintenance of Brandy Hole Copse but as their members have aged they have struggled with support and volunteers. Paula Chatfield has picked up the baton and is trying to build the support back up again. We have invited her to say a few words later.

Mike Steel has been our efficient Webmaster for over 10 years but has decided he would like to step down. He has agreed to stay on managing the website until we can find a replacement, so if anyone is interested or who knows someone who is, please let us know.

Unfortunately this is also true of Mary Quiney who has done an excellent job of producing our newsletter for years. We hope you enjoyed the latest edition. Mary has decided that she wants to make the next one her last, so we are looking for someone who has publishing skills and may be willing to take over. Mary will help with the transition to her replacement.

We also have a couple of representatives on the Lavant Road Surgery Patient Participation Group and would like to support their Wellness Event at the end of June. We have a few notices about it around the room, so if you are interested please talk to Pauline Sutton.

In order to get closer to our membership, both to understand the issues that concern them and hopefully to persuade more people to help, we are trying to build up an army of Road Champions, someone in each road who knows their neighbours and can let us know when new residents move in. We currently have volunteers for over half the roads in Summersdale but are still looking for people for areas such as Stanton Drive, Chestnut Avenue, Maplehurst Road and Ferndale Road. If you live in these roads and can help, please let us know.

Mary and Sara have also produced a new introduction to the SRA leaflet and some of them are available here. If you have volunteered to be a Road Champion or just know of newcomers who may be interested in joining, please take some.

This might be turning into a plea for volunteers, but an organisation such as this can't function without them. Very many thanks go to everyone who already does help and thanks in advance if you would be willing to volunteer for any of these roles.

### 4. Treasurers Report and Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Treasurer Peter Bickley gave further information on the items in the accounts, copies of which were distributed to all members present. Approval of the accounts was sought, and this was proposed by Mr Patrick Madeley and seconded by Mr John Halliday. The accounts were voted on by all present and agreed unanimously.

### 5. Election of Committee Members

JS asked for re-election of all committee members en bloc. Committee members are Peter Bickley, Raymond Carter, John Halliday, Janet Leonard, Mark Todd, Jill Shaw, Pauline Sutton and Sara Wain. Mike Steel was not included. This was proposed by Mr Jeremy Hunt and seconded by Mr Craig Gershter. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.

### 6. Re-Election of Independent Examiner Mr Clive Gaut.

This was proposed by Mrs Janet Leonard and seconded by Mrs Mary Quiney. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.

### 7. Proposed change to the Constitution

The item in the agenda should read "In Clause 6.1 newsletter – substitute "twice a year" for "Quarterly". This change was proposed by Peter Bickley and seconded by Jeremy Hunt. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.

## 8. Other Resolutions

None

## 9. Open Forum

Paula Chatfield was invited to speak in her role of representative of Friends of Brandy Hole Copse. She said that the copse was an area of ancient woodland with some scheduled monuments and was a local nature reserve. A diversity of volunteers was needed to keep it the attractive place it is, from “meet and greet” volunteers to raise awareness to hand-on work. Last September, the group only had one member, the treasurer. A few volunteers still helped with a CDC member, then Paula herself became involved. The aim is to reinstate working parties, with the first one due to be held on 1 June to reduce the laurel growth. CDC need to write a management plan and an AGM needs to be held, hopefully by the end of September or early October. Educational activity would also be welcome as long as it accords with the constitution. Paula is also a tree warden, and information on Brandy Hole Copse can be found on the tree wardens’ website.

A letter has been received by SRA from Mrs Hilary Swift asking if we could bring any influence to bear on the quality of service at the post office in the One Stop in The Broadway. JS said that although many people had their own stories of the service at the post office, a complaint would be best followed up by councillors. She had spoken to Craig Gershater who had spoken to the One Stop complaints department and explained the issues residents had. A reply has been received and passed to Jill Shaw. Craig and Jill will continue to pursue the issue.

## 10. Local Councillors

**Mr Jeremy Hunt** addressed the meeting in his capacity as West Sussex County Councillor. He said that it was a pleasure to be back in St Michael Hall in the centre of Summersdale. He gave some insight into what the Council do. In February the budget was set for the year at £709m. More is actually spent, including the schools grants from Government, bringing the gross budget to £1.9 billion for West Sussex. Supporting children’s services is £175m, and in the county, 94% of schools are now rated good or outstanding. Social care takes £435m, and infrastructure costs for fibre optic cable installation also comes from the budget. Highways have had demands on the budget with the heatwave followed by the cold winter taking a toll on road surfaces with over 11,000 potholes reported. Closures of the A29 and the centre of Midhurst also need repair work, with the rescue of the frontage of the Angel Inn now started and estimated to take 6-8 weeks. Government funds are to be given to help with repair work. The paving in East Street and North Street in the city centre needs attention and is an ongoing project. On the plus side, Ofsted reports have been good and the fire service is back on track and rated excellent, along with the success of the appeal against building in the Daffodil field.

**Mr Jonathan Brown** of CDC addressed the meeting and introduced himself. He grew up in Southbourne and established an environmental group. He said that councillors were not experts but represented residents and visitors and provided an oversight. Planning matters were most important with a rather contradictory system. The local plan has been updated but still presented a challenge. He said that he stood in Chichester North and is now deputy leader. Another important item on his agenda is to tackle carbon emissions and wishes to liaise with WSCC on this. Water quality continues to be an issue due to lack of investment but Southern Water are not the only ones at fault in this regard.

**Mr Craig Gershater** then addressed the meeting. He said that he now has the distinction of being the first American mayor of Chichester, as he has dual nationality. He has a scientific background and is also a public governor for the NHS trust. He plans to address the needs of residents and support charities, and a business plan is needed. He is involved with the First Start organisation. His wife is also a councillor for Chichester South.

**Shiva Kight** also a City councillor stood up to introduce herself and said that she would be pleased to speak to any residents who had any queries or questions she could address.

## 11. Speaker – Mr Henry Potter of South Downs National Park

Mr Potter gave a wealth of background information on the national parks movement, encompassing parks such as Yellowstone in Utah to Dartmoor in Devon. He explained the ethos behind the parks themselves and how the South Downs National Park affects our area, from rewilding to vineyards. He also explained how the popularity of parks was leading to erosion and footpath damage and that government help was needed but not always forthcoming. Centurion Way needed investment also, and loss of trees especially on the Goodwood estate was becoming a problem. Members learned much about their local national park, and Mr Potter’s talk was received with warm applause.

Mr Mark Todd, SRA’s Goodwood Liaison representative, thanked Mr Potter for his insight into the running of the park and said how pleasing it was to hear of the work done there. The importance of the park to our area could not be underestimated.

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.45pm and drinks and canapes were served to all attending.**