

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting held on 18 February 2016

At St Michael's Hall

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

Chairman Roger Hobbs welcomed all attending, with special mention to Mr Mayor Councillor Peter Budge, WSCC Councillor Jeremy Hunt, District Councillor Simon Lloyd-Williams, District and City Councillor Tony Dignum, County Councillor and City Councillor Margaret Evans and City Councillor Len Macey. He also welcomed guest speaker for the night Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Evans, Councillors Derek and Ann James, Sue Spooner, Mary Fairfield, John Yates, Betty Purdy and Valerie and Peter Scott.

2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 12 February 2015.**

Agreed and signed by RH.

3. **Chairman's Report**

RH welcomed the making of the **CDC Preferred Local Plan**, which would create controlled development. The announcement of funding for **improvements to the A27** by way of a northern by-pass or improved southern route was of concern, especially as the SRA had fought to keep the strategic gap between Summersdale and Lavant. RH reported that he was first made aware of the plan after being invited by Lord March to discuss the implications of the scheme. Little information is yet to hand on the scheme apart from the leaked plans made available locally. Highways England have said they wish to consult with local communities, and local pressure has resulted in the consultation period being increase from six weeks to seven. However, as firm proposals are not yet to hand, it was felt that SRA could not start objection on the basis of rumours. RH to ensure that Lord March is kept informed of our position. RH and SS were invited to a workshop on managing the future of the city streets and to an upcoming workshop on **A Vision for Chichester**. RH is still waiting to be consulted on the sites included in the **WSCC Minerals Local Plan** and to try to ensure that the Lavant and West Stoke gravel deposits do not feature therein. The **Lavant Road Surgery** still continues to cause concern to members with regard to appointments, and after the last AGM a representative from the surgery reported that NHS England had asked GP surgeries to submit proposals to receive grant funding to extend their premises. The surgery submitted a plan but response has been slow. NHS England have now appointed consultants to look at the bid and help to progress it. Coastal West Sussex is looking at the possibility of providing a new large health centre in the White House Farm development where existing surgeries would combine, and Lavant Road surgery is also looking at that proposal. On the question of the **White House Farm development**, RH met WSCC Leader Louise Goldsmith and officers concerning the development, with particular concern about the access to the development all being served from Funtington Road, with the implications that could have on the Northgate roundabout, Parklands and Orchard Street. The new Colton Care home known as **Wellington Grange** is nearing completion, and RH has received a number of favourable comments on the appearance of the building. The SRA committee have been invited to visit the new facilities before the first residents arrive in April. RH has already made a brief visit and reported that the quality of the finishes was excellent. The Customer Advisor at the facility was confident that the parking on the site would be adequate for the staff as cars could be block-parked at busy times. The SRA continues with **new tree planting** in Summersdale, with our funds being matched by CDC. We continue to monitor progress on other facilities such as the **cycleway** from Graylingwell through into the city centre along Broyle Road. The **Goodwood Motor Circuit** continues to be a noisy neighbour, but we have had communication with Lord March as well as meetings with representatives, and this will continue. However, the race track does have planning permission for its events. A recent event did attract a complaint, but the Motorsport Director Lloyd McNeill responded immediately to an email from our Liaison Officer to explain what the event was and how the noise levels were monitored and controlled. They appear to be trying hard to be good neighbours. RH paid tribute to the work of the SRA committee members, with particular mention of **Vice Chairman Sue Spooner**, who gives up a lot of her time, **Mary Quiney** for her work in preparing the excellent newsletter and **Vanessa Stern** who keeps the records of the membership. **Gillian Berry** was mentioned for her work with the Neighbourhood Management Panel reporting on crime in the SRA area (very low), as were **Mike Steel** for revamping the SRA website and sending emails to members and **Dennis Martin** who is the Goodwood Liaison officer and who has done much to ensure that the Goodwood Estates become good neighbours. Treasurer **Peter Bickley** continued to do an excellent job not only in maintaining the accounts but acting as minutes secretary when required, and **Andrew Birch** and **Trevor Owen** were thanked for their very thorough monitoring of planning applications that affect the SRA area. RH also welcomed **Mrs Hannelore Thomas** who has agreed to join the committee as a member without portfolio. RH said that as he had served three years as chairman and was only staying on for an additional fourth year to deal with the A27 question, he hoped a new chairman would be forthcoming from the committee this year.

4. **Treasurers Report and Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015.**

Copies of the Report and Accounts were handed out before the meeting, and Treasurer Peter Bickley made explanation of various items contained therein. Some expenditures had reduced for the year – PL insurance and newsletter printing – and the overall surplus carried to the balance sheet had risen to £11,707.39. RH said that he would prefer the balance to be put to good use rather than sitting in the bank, and trees, benches or an A27 fighting fund were mentioned. It was moved that the accounts be approved, and this was proposed by RH and seconded by Jeremy Hunt.

5. **Election of Officers**

RH left the room and PB took charge of the meeting whilst the matter of the re-election of the Chairman was discussed. RH was unanimously voted in to continue as Chairman, proposed by JH and seconded by Margaret Evans. RH returned to the room and thanked all members for their support and said he hoped to serve his committee well. The remainder of the committee had previously agreed to continue in their present roles, and were all voted in unanimously, proposed by ME and seconded by Patrick Madeley.

6. **Election of Independent Examiner**

John Wilford had previously agreed to continue to act, and was proposed by Janet Leonard and seconded by Vanessa Stern, and voted in unanimously.

7. **Guest Speaker: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner**

KB outlined the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and explained that policing policies were set by government and the police authority held chief constables to account, but failed because they did not connect with the people. The public did not know who to complain to if they had a grievance, because only 8% knew the police authority existed. After the Police and Crime Commissioner was appointed, 62% of people knew they existed. The police authorities are now disbanded and commissioners appointed, their role being to reform policing, with particular emphasis on local accountability and priority, which in West Sussex is road safety. Also, if the public do not like the direction a commissioner is taking, they can be voted out. A commissioner sets priorities for the police according to the needs of the community, and sets budgets, currently £240m in West Sussex. The county pays the 4th lowest amount in the country for its police force, with neighbouring Surrey paying the most. The two counties run in conjunction on policing matters, benefitting West Sussex. KB explained that the nature of crime was changing. It is no longer person on person for crimes such as theft or fraud, but on line, and could be by criminals out of the country. Criminals do not need to run the risk of burgling a home when they can take your money remotely on line. It is estimated that 75,000 paedophiles can be on line at any one time, so children can be at risk. The elderly are at risk from on line scams encouraging them to part with bank details, which then results in them being put on criminals 'suckers lists' to be targeted by other scammers. Cyber-crime takes a large amount of police time to investigate, and it is suggested that an additional £5 a year will be added to the council tax to help to pay for this. Neighbourhood policing has to adapt to meet modern needs, and although police are not visible on the beat, they are still in the community and information passed to them can be disseminated instantly using smart phones to the whole area, including Surrey. Body cameras have been issued to all officers in West Sussex, and are an invaluable aid to prosecution. KB then invited questions from the floor. Her view on police bail was sought, and she reported that this was under review by the Home Secretary and could be brought down to 28 days. This meant that the police had less time to prepare a case, and the fact that the CPS computer systems were not compatible with the police did not help. The closure of the County Court building in Chichester was mentioned, and KB said that as Commissioner she had no influence in the matter. Funding was being sought to video links in prisons, the CPS and police stations so that 'virtual courts' could be held and the whole process speeded up. When the summer riots occurred some years ago, 24 hour rolling courts were in operation and sentencing was quickly done. The link between the police and the British Transport Police was discussed, and KB said that they were an independent body and did work with the police, although not to the extent she would like. A question was raised about help for vulnerable people subject to fraud, and KB reported that 'Operation Signature' existed to help with this, with resources to be targeted. The question of whether the police had co-operation from the banks on the matter of fraud, and KB reported that the City of London police mostly deal with fraud cases at a national level, but Sussex police also have contact with banks when necessary. Data protection was a problem in this regard, with the health authorities being the most difficult, although this was improving somewhat. RH brought the question session to a close, but said that if there were further questions for KB, he would relay them to her and send answers back to members.

8. **Other Resolutions.** None.

9. **Open Forum.**

RH invited JH to speak. The matter of the PCC taking over the Fire Service was discussed, and JH said that this was embedded in the WSCC and any take-over would be fought. JH reported that the cycleway along Oaklands Park was imminent. On the question of a connection between Winterbourne Road and Graylingwell – a matter that has been ongoing for some time – there is now an unofficial route through. Hyde Martlett have now admitted that there is no Section 106 agreement funding available to make a proper access, so funds will hopefully be provided by WSCC. JH reported that the rugby club intend to make their carpark a pay and display, and Mr Mayor Councillor Peter Budge said that he had asked that three free places be provided for dog walkers or carers of children using the playground. JH said that he thought the rugby club now looked very attractive. A cycle access down the side of no. 9 Wellington Road will now not be created. This should have been laid along the front of the new care home, but turf had been put down instead. JH reported that White House Farm and the proposed A27 improvements still presented problems. He will be objecting to the northern route for the A27, and has written to Mott McDonald asking for an extension to the consultation period. This has now been extended by one week to 7 weeks. The budget for 2017 is to be set on 19 February. Due to a new formula, West Sussex will be worse off. An increase of 2% can be made to the council tax provided it is used for adult social care. Tony Dignum was invited to speak, and reported that he had been re-elected for the North Ward and also to the position of Leader of CDC for 4 years. The Local Plan has now been adopted, and housing numbers kept down, although a review will have to be made in 2020. 3 new sites are identified; Shopwhyke, Westhampnett (Madgwick Farm) and White House Farm. Lower Graylingwell will also have 160 homes, with 80 starter homes sold at a 20% discount at a maximum cost of £200,000. Government cuts continue, and savings must be made so no reductions in services will occur. The outsourcing of the running of the Westgate Leisure Centre will give a saving, with services there guaranteed for 10 years. Savings will be made at the Novium Museum, and the Guildhall is now a wedding venue. A vehicle test centre will be created at Westhampnett to generate income. A question was raised from the floor to ask whether Chichester had any provision for asylum seekers. TD reported that two families a year would be housed. JH reported that one resident in the Downs had given up a property there to house a refugee family. RH then opened the forum to the floor. The question of the A27 was raised. RGH said that we cannot do much until the consultation period as we do not have enough information to make formal objection. Our MP has written to the Secretary of State to object. Councillors are not able to speak on the matter as yet. The cost and benefit to the local area of each scheme is assessed before decisions are made. RH said that members should object as individuals to maximise the impact, as a petition signed by many members would only count as one objection. Lord March's influence on the scheme was questioned, and RH said that he had to assume he had influence although he could not confirm this. The question of all residents associations working together was raised. Again RH said that there was little we could do until more information was to hand. The nature of the southern by-pass was questioned. The southern alternatives are upgrades to roundabouts or a loop road. The major cost of a southern route would be the traffic management work required, whereas a possible cost to the northern route would be the compensation sought by Lord March for the disruption or possible ruin of the estate's businesses.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm, when drinks and canapes were served to all attending.