

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting held on 12 February 2020

At St Paul's Church, Churchside, Chichester PO19 6FT

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Acting Chairman Roger Hobbs welcomed all members, some new, and committee members attending, and also welcomed Chichester Mayor Richard Plowman, WSCC Councillor Jeremy Hunt and Chichester District Councillor Tony Dignum. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Bevan Thomas, Mr & Mrs Hebblethwaite, Mr & Mrs Madeley, Mr & Mrs O'Hea, Mr & Mrs Hitch, Mr & Mrs Hollis, Mrs B Purdy, Mrs M Rhodes and committee members Mrs Vanessa Stern and Mr Peter Lines. RH announced that former chairman Mr Richard Bramall was seriously ill and complimented him for his work for the SRA especially the installation of the defibrillator. Acting Chairman Mrs Vanessa Stern had stood in over the past meetings but as she was indisposed RH had taken the chair.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 21 February 2019.

Agreed. Proposed by Mr Peter Bickley and seconded by Mrs Mary Quiney. All voted to accept.

3. Chairman's Report

RH commented on the excellent attendance of 112 members at the new venue of St Paul's Church which afforded much more space. He reported that the SRA was in a healthy state, with some sad news but much good news also. Planning matters continue to be high on the agenda especially the city plan which is now ready for publication. A representative from WSCC had visited to discuss the suitability of Summersdale as a conservation area but had reported that the properties of special interest were too diverse and spread out, but that some buildings were identified as of special interest. An old conservation status report is now been updated. SRA has kept a close watch on planning applications and has objected to some proposals, eg flats, to which the Chichester Society has also objected. However, there are also many new projects proposed with quality housing which will enhance the area. SRA has also consulted on the proposals for the A27 upgrade, undertaken planting of trees with more planned, implemented a controlled crossing and shared cycleway outside Wellington Grange and the access between Winterbourne Road and Graylingwell, contributed to benches on Centurion Way and at the Broyle Road bus-stop, and implemented the installation of a defibrillator unit at St Michael's Hall. Goodwood continues to be a somewhat noisy neighbour, but relations are now good with our two liaison representatives who attend meetings on our behalf. SRA produces two newsletters a year and hosts a website. RH asked for any issues members might have to be made known to the committee for consideration. He thanked committee members for their efforts, especially Vanessa Stern for standing as a chairman, Michael and Gillian Berry for their work in distributing newsletters and to Mary Quiney for editing and producing the newsletters. He also thanked Jeremy Hunt, Tony Dignum and Richard Plowman for their support of SRA in keeping us informed of council matters.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Peter Bickley went through the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019, copies of which were made available to members, with explanations of items of expenditure and the totals in the balance sheet. The figure of £8,500 in the Fighting Fund was set aside in case a barrister had to be retained if another case such as the gravel extraction plan or the daffodil field development should arise, in which case that sum would not go far. PB asked for a proposer to agree the accounts, with Jeremy Hunt proposing and Michael Berry seconding. All voted in favour of agreeing the accounts as presented.

5. Election of Officers

The position of chairman is currently vacant, and RH reported that Mr Gavin Barrett has come forward to fill the role. He wishes to attend a couple of committee meetings before taking up the post formally, so Mrs Vanessa Stern will continue as Acting Chairman for the interim. RH read a resume of Mr Barrett's career, which has spanned music production, writing and lecturing and with a return in retirement to music with particular emphasis on organ music. Other members of the committee as detailed in the Agenda were voted in en mass.

6. Election of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that Mr Len Macey should continue as Independent Examiner, Proposed by Mrs Sue Spooner and seconded by Mr John Halliday. All voted, passed unanimously.

7. Guest Speaker. His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon

RH introduced His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon and said that our guest had a knowledge of racing and cars second to none. He said that the Duke would speak on the aims of the Estate and future plans.

The Duke addressed the meeting and said that the estate was originally bought for the purpose of foxhunting at Charlton in the 17th century. The Kennels was purchased first, then Goodwood House. Racing really put the estate on the map, with the first meeting open to the public in 1802. The golf courses were opened in the early 20th century and were now back under the estate's control. In 1948 the car race track was created on the former RAF airfield, with a chicane created in 1949 to slow the track down. The estate is unusual in having car racing, horse racing, golf and cricket all in one area and under one control. The events at the car race track are now of major importance to the estate's business. The Duke said that he had been given a book as a small boy with illustrations of classic cars, all of which had subsequently raced at the Goodwood track. Environmental concerns are important to the estate, with the farm run on organic principles and after 20 years of work is a 'closed system' meaning no animals are bought in and feed is produced on the estate itself. In 2019, 55,000 trees were planted on the estate, with more planned for 2020. The estate is a business and has to make a profit, but such profit is put back into the business. The estate is the largest employer in the Chichester area. With a million visitors in 2019, it drives the local economy with 750 employees and local business involvement. Rolls Royce also puts Chichester on the map and the investment by BMW has helped to secure its future. New events are proposed for 2020, one of which is a dog show in May. The plan for the estate is long term as it is part of the community, but the estate must be profitable. It has been in existence for 350 years, it will continue to be so, and it will progress.

RH thanked the Duke for his most interesting talk, and asked how important horse racing was to the estate. The Duke said that it was very important but was a complex event to stage. Large investment had been made in the new buildings on the race course. A further 5 years' sponsorship by Qatar had been obtained. John Halliday asked whether racing with electric cars was being considered, and the Duke replied that he had already seen some extremely fast electric models. A question was put concerning the effect on the estate if the A27 should be re-routed through it, and the Duke replied that it would destroy it.

8. Other Speakers

Mr Tony Dignum spoke first, and commented on the local plan of 2015 which had seen a lot of housing development such as Graylingwell, Rousillon and White House Farm. There is now pressure in 2020 as there is no new provision for more housing. There had been some difficulty in gathering facts, especially for the proposals for the A27. The 2020 plan shows mitigation is required for new housing developments where they meet the roundabouts on the A27. A 5 year land supply is needed and 3,500 new homes are required, but it is unlikely that the northern part of the city will be affected.

Mr Jeremy Hunt then spoke concerning the WSCC budget for 2020 which will be presented this Friday. The need to balance the books is ever present, with spending emphasis on children's services, fire service, adult care and highways. Council tax will rise by 1.99% - the maximum allowed, plus an additional 2% for adult social care, making a total increase of 3.99%. A new chief executive and council leader have been appointed after a challenging year. More public meetings are planned so that local people can be more involved. Crowd funding initiatives have been created and have raised £0.75m. Campaigns to stop trips and falls, to promote recycling, solar farms and solar panels on schools have been implemented. A 40mph speed limit has been agreed for Lavant Road, resurfacing of the Drive has been undertaken, the cycle path between Winterbourne Road and Graylingwell has been approved and will be completed in due course. The Chichester Road Space consultation will start soon, with introduction in the most congested areas first.

9. Other Resolutions

None

10. Open Forum

Covered after the Duke's talk.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm, when all were invited to enjoy canapes and sparkling wine.