

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting held on 27 April 2022

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

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Chairman Mrs Vanessa Stern welcomed all SRA members attending and also Councillor Tony Dignum and Richard Plowright. Apologies were received from WSCC Councillor Jeremy Hunt and SRA members Mr & Mrs Butler, Mr & Mrs Irwin, Mrs Duke, Mr Stiles and Mrs Jill Robinson.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 18 February 2021

Agreed as presented. Proposed by Mrs Sue Spooner and seconded by Mrs Pauline Sutton.

3. Chairman's Report

Mrs Stern opened by saying how pleasant it was to be able to meet again in person. It is such a good opportunity to meet new people with a glass of fizz in ones hand. Last year's event on Zoom was a sorry affair.

Our main focus this year has been on the appeal from Berkeley Homes on land at Raughmere. We are thrilled that the appeal was dismissed and I would like to thank Jill, Sara and John for their sterling effort in liaising with Lavant Parish Council and for getting flyers out. But also to you the members who supported us by sending in so many objections and for joining the appeal meeting I think the Inspector was quite impressed by the numbers of local people attending.

We are also pleased that after so many years of Brian Towner and SRA trying to get a Speedwatch group going, it is finally in place, so please watch your speed. Another ongoing issue is the pollution in the River Lavant one of our precious chalk streams now sadly suffering sewage outfalls. Lavant Parish council are now looking into this and a drone has been seen up and down the river monitoring the situation. Lavant Road developers are a constant problem, knocking down some iconic houses to build a block of flats, and replacing gardens with hard standing. John and Sara do their best putting in constructive objections. John is not in Chichester at present but he is actively looking here for another home.

Peter Bickley has been in post longer than me, and keeps our accounts very professionally. Ray Carter has been very active as our environment member, working hard to obtain trees, to decide where they are to go and as with the whips that were recently planted plants many by him with helpers. John Halliday despite moving away, we hope only temporarily, still keeps us up to date with planning and makes objections when appropriate. Janet Leonard is our minute taker. The minutes are on my email first thing the next morning. Roy Littleford attends meetings and keeps us up to date with Goodwood activities. Mary Quiney does an excellent task of producing the very professional Newsletter. Pauline Sutton aided by her husband has taken over the Membership secretary's job. Mike Steel looks after the Website and it is so rewarding to see that it is always up to date with much interesting information. I should also like to thank our newsletter deliverers a very loyal group, but we are always seeking more so that Mary has some options if someone cannot deliver, it is only twice a year and usually small number of houses, so please find Mary afterwards. Jill Shaw and Sara Wain are taking over the Chairman and Vice chairman's post. I am retiring after 16 years as a membership secretary and 3 years of Acting chairman. as I feel it is time for younger people to take the reins. I have enjoyed my years on the committee, they are so friendly and we co-operate so well, so I shall be sad in a way to go but the time is right for me to find other interests. I seem to have been volunteering since before my teens.

4. Treasurers Report and adoption of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021

Copies of the accounts were circulated to all members attending and treasurer Peter Bickley went through the figures and gave more detail on the items contained. The accounts were prepared by Peter Bickley and certified by independent examiner Clive Gaut. A proposal to adopt the accounts was made by Peter Sutton and seconded by Yvonne Graham and voted unanimously by all present.

5. Election of Committee Members

Mrs Vanessa Stern is to step down as chairman and introduced Mrs Jill Shaw who has sought election as the new chairman. She addressed the meeting to introduce herself. She said that she is a relative newcomer to Chichester, having moved in 2020 from Hertfordshire. She is married with 3 children. She has held senior positions in hi tech industries and is now retired. She has always been involved in here community, has been a Guider for many years, was a school governor and a founder member of her local residents' association, formed primarily to fight a large planning application. She volunteered to join the SRA to become more involved in the community. She is particularly interested in influencing the larger Chichester projects that may affect Summersdale and to encourage community spirit. She joined a group of volunteers to help spread gravel on local muddy footpaths and contributed to the Chichester neighbourhood Plan. She organised the input of the SRA to the objection to the development of the Daffodil Field and worked with other organisations to develop the case, delivering leaflets and encouraging residents to object. Over 200 objections were received which was sure to have influenced the Planning Inspector's decision.

In January, Vanessa decided that it was time for her to retire from the SRA committee after her huge contribution for 16 years and although a relative newcomer Jill was encouraged by a number of members of the committee to step forward as chairman. It is her hope that she can lead this hard-working committee to continue to serve the Summersdale community by representing their views on large and small planning applications, encouraging the preservation of the spacious and leafy character of the area, help build and improve amenities and community spirit in Summersdale and work with other residents' associations in Northern Chichester so they become a force to be reckoned with. She said that she would love to grow the SRA base from representing around 400 households to get the majority of residents to be members, particularly younger people and to this end she would be very happy to hear what residents really want from their residents' association.

As her last act as Chairman, Mrs Stern asked Jill Shaw to leave the room whilst the vote took place to elect the new chairman. The proposal to elect Jill Shaw was made by Vanessa Stern and seconded by John Herniman. A vote took place and Jill Shaw was voted in unanimously. She was asked to rejoin the meeting and was congratulated by all on her appointment. She then took over chairmanship of the meeting.

Election of Committee Members

All existing members have said they are willing to stand and Sara Wain has indicated her willingness to take over as Vice Chairman. Jill Shaw asked for them to be elected/re-elected en bloc. They are:

Vice Chairman Sara Wain; Treasurer and Second Minutes Secretary Peter Bickley; Minutes Secretary Janet Leonard; Webmaster Michael Steel; Goodwood Liaison Roy Littleford; Planning Secretary John Halliday; Assistant Planning Secretary Sara Wain; Membership Secretary Pauline Sutton; Environment and Trees Ray Carter; Newsletter Editor Mary Quiney. The proposal to re-elect/elect the committee en bloc was made by Peter Sutton and seconded by Yvonne Graham, and the vote was unanimous.

6. Re-election of Independent Examiner

Mr Clive Gaut kindly agreed to be our independent examiner last year and many thanks go to him for doing the accounts this year. He has agreed to continue for the 2022 accounts. Proposed by Vanessa Stern and seconded by Roy Littleford. Voted unanimously.

7. Proposed change of Constitution

Our constitution stipulates that the AGM should be held by the end of February each year. We would like to propose a change in the constitution to amend Article 5.1 to read:

“The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held not later than the last day of June in each year.”

In order to make changes to our constitution we need a two thirds majority at a General Meeting. A show of hands was requested and obtained. The change was proposed by Peter Bickley and seconded by Pauline Sutton, Voted unanimously.

8. Other Resolutions.

None

9. Open forum - questions submitted 10 days prior to the meeting

None

As there were no other formal resolutions or submitted questions, the formal part of the meeting was closed.

10. Local Councillors

Mr Tony Dignum for Chichester District Council addressed the meeting. He paid tribute to those who had worked so hard through the Covid emergency and who were now stepping up to help address the Ukrainian resettlement situation. Chichester is a leader in providing help to displaced families. Mr Dignum said that his wife worked with a charity that would help families wishing to move into the area. He said that he had worked on the local plan which was created in 2015 but had to be revised 5 years later. This date has now passed and no plan is yet in place. With 20 bodies to agree on its content it has not been easy to reach a conclusion. 600 houses a year have to be planned for outside the national park and the Inspector wants more sites to be found. Sites in the north of the area have run into problems because of water consumption issues and some sites house rare species. A 5 year land supply must be in place, and some of the land is not suitable for development as housing cannot be built within the 5 year window. No funding for improvements to the A27 is forthcoming either. The city centre is changing with shops such as Top Shop being redeveloped as The Ivy. Rents are only 60% of pre-covid levels. However, the city is very vibrant and several events are planned for the coming year. A bid for levelling up funding at level 2 is sought for 3 main projects – pavement improvement, a covered market area and investment in leisure centres.

Mr Richard Plowman from the Chichester City Council addressed the meeting and thanked all for the way everyone coped during the pandemic, which led to a low infection rate in the city. He said that he had been put forward for and had reached the level of finalist as Councillor of the year. The neighbourhood plan is now in progress with place assessment leading to policies such as protecting Arts and Crafts houses. The timescale for the new plan is December 2023. The plan carries weight for planning decisions. The plan is voted on and if passed becomes planning law. He praised the support shown for Ukraine, with 220 visas already in place, the highest in the area. Schools were already creating a curriculum for the Ukrainian children. Traffic, especially in Lavant Road, was still an issue and a campaign is in place to make it a 20mph zone. A speed watch scheme was in place also, both of which does help to reduce speeding.

11. Speaker PCSO Jason Lemm – Local officer – Scams

PCSO Lemm gave a very interesting and thought-provoking talk on the many scams being experienced by people falling victim to the more sophisticated criminals, many of whom operate from outside the UK. He showed a video of the experiences of several victims of fraud, and a newspaper cutting showing a member of the Barclays banking group who was also a victim of a scam. Booklets with information on avoiding the more common scams were made available after the talk.

Before the meeting closed, Chairman Jill Shaw paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman Vanessa Stern. She told the meeting that Vanessa had joined the SRA committee 16 years ago and straight away took on the role as membership secretary, which she continued with until Pauline Sutton took over last year. Along with that role she became Vice Chairman in May 2019, taking over from Sue Spooner, and within 6 months became acting Chairman when the then Chairman Richard Bramall fell ill and sadly later died. She had a brief gap in that role when Gavin Barrett took over the job for about a year but then picked it up again when he retired last year. So there is no doubt that Vanessa has done her stint in specific roles in the SRA but not just that. She has been a brick over all that time. She knows everyone and everything there is to know in the area and is the eyes and ears of the committee in the community as she is always walking her dog around the area, stopping to chat to people and noticing things that need doing. Hopefully she will continue to do that and pass on her knowledge. She will be a hard act to follow. As a sign of our thanks we would like to give you something for your new garden. It was suggested that we got you a Daphne to fill the garden with beautiful scent throughout the spring but it's the wrong time of year to get these, so we have resorted to a garden voucher so that you can choose whatever you wish. But we did not want you to leave without a plant so we have brought along a Peony which we hope will give her pleasure. A huge vote of thanks was given to Vanessa by all present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm and drinks and canapes were served to all.