

# SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 5 January 2017

At St Michael's Hall

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

Residents Working Together

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Roger Hobbs – Chairman</b>	<b>Mike Steel - Webmaster</b>
	<b>Mrs Sue Spooner - Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Mrs Janet Leonard - Minutes Secretary</b>
	<b>Peter Bickley – Treasurer</b>	<b>Dennis Martin – Goodwood Liaison</b>
	<b>Trevor Owen – Assistant Planning Secretary</b>	<b>Michael Berry – Newsletter Distribution</b>

1. **Welcome to members attending.**  
RH welcomed committee members, and members Ray Carter, Phillip Ladds and Jeremy Hunt.
2. **Apologies for Absence**  
Received from Mary Quiney, Vanessa Stern, Andrew Birch and Alison Stratton-Baldwin.
3. **Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 24 November 2016**  
Approved and Signed by RH.
4. **Any matters arising from the minutes not covered below.**  
None.

## 5. Chairman's Report

**Lavant Southbound Bus Stop Seat (near Plainwood Close).** A seat made from recycled plastic was offered by CCC. However, RH was informed that CCC budgets were limited and CCC asked if SRA would be prepared to contribute the full cost of the seat (£453) while CCC would pay for the installation. The SRA only received £5 per household so £453 was considered too much for the SRA membership to contribute. SS asked whether funds could be sought from WSCC and JH said that nothing could be expected from this source. It was agreed that a figure of £250 would be offered as this was considered appropriate and proportional.

**Centurion Way Amphitheatre.** New benches have been installed and new bulbs planted. Hopefully the tables will follow shortly. The SRA has offered to contribute but that offer has not been taken up yet. The South Downs National Park and CDC have agreed to contribute so SRA funding may not necessary.

**Brandy Hole Copse.** Some concern has been expressed by members about the woodland clearing being undertaken, thinking that it may be for residential development. RH reported that he had met the contractor who confirmed this is normal coppicing, a method used to manage woodland. It is usually undertaken on about a 20 year cycle when the new growth has matured. Coppiced wood is a sustainable resource and the company undertaking the coppicing manage woodlands throughout Sussex and Kent. Some large specimen trees are being left untouched as are a line of trees bordering Brandy Hole Lane. The wood is not being cleared for development.

**A27 consultation.** At a recent Conservative Party function in Chichester, which was attended by Chris Grayling the Secretary of State for Transport, he indicated that if there was sufficient local interest he might be prepared to re-run the consultation process which would include the northern route options. RH understood that following on from that function, Louise Goldsmith, Leader of WSCC, had written to the SoS requesting a re-run and Tony Dignum Leader of Chichester District Council had subsequently proposed a motion to go before his Cabinet and, if passed, to the Full Council to the effect that CDC requested that the consultation including the northern options should be re-run (post script on 10<sup>th</sup> January the cabinet members agreed the motion which is expected to be ratified towards the end of January at full Council). Tony Dignum had also written to JH to the effect that the SRA considered the northern route would have no significant impact on the area. Clearly, this is not the official SRA's position, as the SRA had not considered the northern options as they had been withdrawn prior to the commencement of the consultation exercise. RH is to write to TD for clarification. JH and PD suggested that the SRA committee write immediately to Tony Dignum effectively requesting that he drop the motion on the A27 from the cabinet agenda. RH viewed this as an internal CDC decision to vote on this motion. However, because the motion had already been proposed and seconded and was on the Cabinet's agenda that writing to TD would have no effect on stopping the process. RH acknowledged that the SRA memberships view on the northern options had not been canvassed before, and therefore considered that the first course of action should be to ask members for their opinion on the northern options by way of a questionnaire survey delivered to every house. RH felt that without that mandate, committee members adversely affected by the northern option could be challenged and accused of operating in their own interests. These may not turn out to be in the interests of the membership as a whole. He also said that more information such as the cost and benefits of the options, together with an understanding of the effects any changes to the traffic movements would have on members may be necessary to assist members make a decision. That information is not currently in the public domain. Some members were concerned that the delay that the consultation would bring could see the loss of an improvement scheme altogether. However, RH felt that it was up to the relevant elected bodies to determine their own course of action. The

Leaders of both WSCC and CDC are likely to have taken that into consideration when embarking on their strategy and had still deemed it necessary for transparency. It was agreed that SRA members would be balloted shortly, the wording of which was to be discussed and agreed. Replies could be either by return of the slip or by email.

**NMP Meeting.** MS reported that his wife Carolyn had attended the latest meeting. The minutes of these meeting is to be made available to SRA committee. A new chairman is in place.

**18 Lavant Road.** RH reported that planning permission had been refused under delegated powers by the CDC planning officer who considered it to be an overdevelopment of the site. RH and AB had met the developer and discussed his plans. They were satisfied that the proposals improved the housing stock and complimented the street scene. The view from the road would be similar to the development already approved at No. 22 Lavant Road. The City Council and the Chichester Society both considered the proposals and raised no objection. JH felt that the planning document written some years ago by an SRA member advocated against the intensification of development and passing this application could set a precedent and result in intensification of development on large plots in Summersdale. RH said that every application is considered on its own merits and therefore did not consider that a precedent had been set.

**6. Treasurers Report**

Bank balances

Treasurers a/c	£4,281.21 including £75.10 held for NCRA
Balance at bank has risen by £1,567.00 since 31 December (one person paying a SO of £2)	
Lloyds Business Instant Access a/c	1p.
United Trust Bank	£10,189.86

The draft accounts were presented and approved subject to examination by Carlos Santander who has agreed to examine the accounts for the year following John Wilford's retirement. PB asked whether any of the surplus on general fund should be transferred into a fighting fund, but it was agreed that this would not be done. It was agreed that the excess funds should be used to improve the Summersdale area, e.g. more tree planting.

**7.**

**Membership Secretary's Report.**

The membership secretary was not present, so no report.

**8.**

**Website Webmasters Report**

The website received 246 hits in November and 232 in December. The full AGM minutes from 2016 will be put on the website. MS asked whether it was appropriate for the website to advertise the rugby club, but it was agreed that only information on the club's community facilities could be included, and a link would be created to it from the website. MS asked members to inform him of any broken links on the website so these could be rectified.

**9.**

**Planning Matters,**

The planning representative sent apologies.

**10.**

**Newsletter.**

SS asked whether Alison Stratton-Baldwin's name was on the list of committee members, and it was confirmed that it had now been included. All agreed that the latest newsletter was very good. Roman Fields resident Phillip Ladds offered to distribute the newsletter to members in his development.

**11.**

**AGM Thursday 16 February 2017**

Judi Darley from the Chichester Harbour Conservancy is the guest speaker at the AGM. RH requested committee members to arrive at the venue at 6.15pm to help set up. SS asked whether the chairman still had to leave the room when voting took place for his position, and it was confirmed that he did. JL to make name badges for committee members to wear at the AGM.

**12.**

**Updates from Representatives.**

**a) Dennis Martin – Goodwood Consultative Group Meeting and recent follow up meetings**

Nothing to report.

**b) Sue Spooner – NCRA Update and Graylingwell**

No meeting has taken place. SS did report the sad news that local man Tim Rooth has died. Tim Rooth was a founder member of the Chichester Society and was a constant campaigner for protecting the quality of Chichester's environment.

**13.**

**AOB.**

None.

**14.**

**Date of next Committee meeting.**

Thursday 23 February 2017.

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.05pm**