

MINUTES OF 88TH ANNIVERSARY DORSET CPRE AGM HELD AT THE CERNE ABBAS VILLAGE HALL, CERNE ABBAS, ON SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2014

1. Vice-President's Welcome

Dickie Bird, Vice-President Dorset CPRE, opened the Meeting at 11 am and warmly welcomed members and their guests. He explained that Edward Fox is unable to attend due to play rehearsals.

2. Apologies

Mr John Holiday, Mr Rupert Hardy, Mr Edward Fox, Mr Gerald Rigler, Mr & Mrs B. Warren-Peachy, Mr Ian Willis, Mr J. Eliot, Miss H. Mousley, Mr David Gargrave, Mrs D.T. Silk, Mrs June Fraser (Beaminster Society), Mrs Janet Healy, Mr Richard Brown, Mr and Mrs S. MacGregor, Mrs A. Cowen, Mrs Ann Schofield and Mrs Barbara Bird.

3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

The Vice-President asked if there were any amendments to these minutes. There were none. Inadvertently, a proposal to vote for the accuracy and approval of those Minutes was not made. *After Meeting Note: The Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved at the Trustees Meeting on 5th December. Proposer Stephen Howard and seconder John Larkin.*

4. Matters Arising

There were none.

5. External Relations Report

Richard Nicholls said he deals with issues at Regional and National level. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted to ensure that CPRE are working with 'one voice' including Branches, Regions and National Office.

Richard spoke about concerns for house building, outside development boundaries, been proposed in districts without an approved Local Plan. Kingston Maurward College want to build 70 houses on parkland at Lower Bockhampton, near Dorchester, a hamlet with 28 houses. With no agreed Local Plan to refer to, residents need to protest as vigorously as possible. High quality agricultural land is being lost to developments which may result in a problem with food supply in the future.

With a general election taking place next May CPRE will be calling on all parties to develop better policies so that we have the right housing in the right places, the right infrastructure for the right reasons and a beautiful countryside to sustain us all.

6. Chair of Trustees Report

Richard Heaslip said it was nice to see such a good turnout. If we didn't have a four figure membership we couldn't have the voice that we do.

He thanked Richard Nicholls who in effect is our foreign secretary, and after 5 years as our chairman he knows all the players. He does a great job travelling tirelessly up and down the land flying our flag and keeping us in touch.

It has been a year of progress and some of the highlights include:

- We're settling down into our new way of working. We now have a small group of trustees in charge of the administration and our responsibilities to the Charity Commission and to CPRE's National Office. And we have a large group of

countryside knowledgeable people in the new Countryside Forum, developing our policies and priorities.

- We're supporting vigorous village groups, each with their own website and fund raising activities, who are campaigning against intrusive and unsuitable wind farm proposals at Tolpuddle, Charminster and Winterbourne Whitechurch.
- We supported opposition to a monstrously large solar farm on Richard Drax's land at Mapperton, near Sturminster Marshall, and the plan was subject to a Judicial Review. East Dorset DC and the developer conceded defeat in the legal battle – but we fear it may come back again.
- There are some interesting ongoing ventures – Sandra Brown is piloting the important early work on a new Dorset and East Devon National Park. Bournemouth University wants to spread its wings into Dorset and has chosen us as a partner. Dorset CPRE sponsors a new class 'Best Village Shop', in the Best Dorset Village Competition run by Dorset Community Action.- it got good publicity. Hats off to Rupert Hardy, for promoting Dorset village shops.
- After some 10 years in our office at the Little Keep in Dorchester we had to move - the County Council wanted the building for a new Arts Centre. The costings and the paperwork were complex, a lot of historic files had to be moved to the nearby History Centre -our Secretary, Linda Williams, managed the move virtually single handed, and our business didn't miss a beat. We have a star secretary. The office is now at her home. And thanks to our far sighted treasurer, Richard Norman, who always had contingency plans for this, our finances are still on a stable footing.
- We have some star volunteers. We are fortunate to have among our number two PhDs, John Larkin, Minerals and Waste Adviser, and David Peacock who has done important ground breaking work on renewable energy projects – wind farms and solar farms – and has shown that Dorset Councils have made such progress against their targets they can now afford to look carefully at the countryside aspects of any new proposals.
- Another star member this year is Peter Neal, from Sherborne, who won the 2014 CPRE National Countryside Champion of the Year award.
- The heart of our CPRE operation in Dorset are the local Groups, which monitor planning applications and countryside problems in their areas. Members are encouraged to lend a hand to their local group or urge others who might be interested.

In summary, Richard said we are always going to be facing infrastructure projects, roads, wind farms, solar farms, waste facilities and so on – the necessary backdrop to modern life. In Dorset's particular case these projects are almost bound to collide with our magical small scale landscape dotted with hills, rivers, streams and timeless villages. We cannot set out our stall to stop all infrastructure projects in their tracks. Neither can Dorset's Councils cover the countryside with projects regardless of residents concerns, or they wouldn't stay in office very long. Councils and residents need to understand each other and he thanked Mr Harries for taking the time in his busy job to come and talk to us, and looks forward to hearing how he grapples with these dilemmas. Richard thanked everyone who has volunteered their help in any way and said it had been a pleasure to serve as Chair of Trustees over the past year.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Norman summarised the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2014. Copies of the audited accounts can be found on the Dorset CPRE website. He explained that we have paid the final rent invoice on the office at The Little Keep. Total amount spent on grants for projects and campaigns was £6k, there is a lot of campaign expenditure in the pipeline for next year. Peter Chance thanked Dorset CPRE for contributing £300 towards a Woodland Survey for the Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan. The Vice-President asked for questions on the Accounts. There were none. The Accounts were accepted. Proposer Terry Stewart, Seconder John Larkin. All in favour, none against

8. **Election of Officers:**

The following were duly proposed and elected:

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
President	Edward Fox	Gerald Rigler	Terry Stewart
Vice-President	Dickie Bird	Elizabeth R. Bell	Ann Featherstone
Treasurer	Richard Norman	Richard Nicholls	Peter Neal
Elected Trustees	Richard Nicholls	David Peacock	Caroline Nicholls
	Dr John Larkin	Gerald Rigler	Terry Stewart
	Richard Heaslip	Peter Neal	Dickie Bird
	Stephen Howard	Linda Williams	Richard Norman
	Peter Neal	Richard Heaslip	Lorna J. Heaslip

9. **Election of Examiners.**

The Fund examiners, Scott Vevers, were unanimously elected.

10. **Any Other Business.**

No resolutions were tabled this year. CPRE Members were encouraged to propose some in advance of next year's AGM.

A member mentioned that CPRE Gloucestershire are holding a workshop on planning early next year. Another member is concerned that a local party candidate makes no mention of the countryside and farming in their election campaign.

A member also said that easy access to printed copies of draft Local Plans is essential for residents who have no access to the Internet.

Julien Turner said that he has written documents on how to fight wind turbine applications and can provide them to action groups.

The meeting was followed by a presentation on 'Environment & Economy Finding the balance' given by Mr Mike Harries, Director for Environment and the Economy, Dorset County Council.