

**MINUTES OF 83RD ANNIVERSARY DORSET CPRE AGM, HELD ON
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2020, 11 – 12 NOON, VIA ZOOM**

1. Welcome

Peter Neal, Vice-President, opened the Meeting at 11 am and warmly welcomed 38 members to our first online AGM. We look forward to returning to the Cerne Abbas Village Hall for our 2021 AGM once social distancing restrictions are lifted.

2. Apologies

Mr Richard Nicholls, Mr Edward Fox, Mrs Linda Poulsen, Mr Rodney Alcock, Mr Stephen Howard

3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to these minutes. There were none. Proposer Dr John Larkin, seconder Jane Westbrook, all in favour, none against.

4. Matters arising and not on the agenda

Sarah Carney said ADVEARSE lost the Judicial review in April 2020 and are very grateful for the support offered by Dorset CPRE. Sarah has now left ADVEARSE in view of her role as a Bridport Town Councillor. She is on the Planning Committee and part of a Working Group liaising with Hallam Land to get the best out of the S106 obligations put in place. In June the development was put up for sale and has not yet been sold.

ADVEARSE has now moved on to a new phase focusing on ensuring the planning obligations and promises made by Hallam Land, such as the provision of 35% affordable housing and improvements to the A35 Miles Cross junction, are honoured. They are also exchanging information with other campaign groups who have come to them for advice.

Peter Neal said we managed to host a very successful conference on 'How to achieve well-designed and better-planned new housing' on 13th March just before lockdown. 87 attended including the county's leading landowners, out of an expected 120 attendees. Peter went on to say that landowners are taking notice of the recommendations to make sure higher standards are observed and that new housing fitted better with local traditions. The individual presentations are available to view on the [Dorset CPRE YouTube](#) channel.

5. Chair of Trustees' Report

Peter Bowyer's report covered the highlights of the past year. To meet our growing challenges, Dorset CPRE has evolved a refreshed and dynamic strategy, which will guide the Branch as it addresses issues including planning, landscape, rural economy and farming, campaigns and projects, membership, organisation, influencing, climate change and nature emergency.

On planning we continue to campaign for more realistic housing targets for Dorset, which better reflect local need. We recently commissioned a Housing Needs Report, based on data and research by Opinion Research Services, which shows that the Dorset Council and BCP Council could be forced to plan for excessive numbers of new housing. A PDF copy of the report was circulated to Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors and timely coming before the new proposed planning reforms announced in August. The Dorset Council Local Plan will be out for consultation in the New Year following a cabinet meeting on 8th December. Peter said this represents an opportunity for Dorset Council to develop a Local Plan that meets local needs.

Dorset CPRE supports the designation of a National Park to the benefit of all Dorset and wants to see early progress. The Government made a manifesto commitment to create new National Parks and Dorset is widely regarded as the outstanding candidate.

In July Shaun Leavey, Farming Adviser to Dorset CPRE, drafted our response to the Environmental Land Management (ELM) policy discussion. We emphasised the need to integrate environmental objectives into a framework for farming that considers the role of food production. We continue to promote quality local food producers.

Peter thanked the Trustees, members of our Countryside Forum, volunteers, Linda Williams for running the office and our members for their support.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Norman summarised the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020. We paid £15k for the Housing Needs Evidence Report, £2.5k to Stop Portland Waste Incinerator campaign to pay for a professional report and balance of £4k for ADVEARSE Judicial Review. Copies of the audited accounts were circulated in advance of this meeting and will be made available to view and download from the Charity Commission Website.

Richard reported on a substantial legacy we received this year from the late Mrs Barbara Vance, with another payment to come in due course. The Trustees are looking at project ideas which the legacy could support. These need to be costed and we will then update our reserves policy.

Richard said that this is his last year as Treasurer, having served his full term. He asked if there were any for questions on the Accounts but there were none. The Accounts were accepted. Proposer Stephen Larcombe, Seconder Robin Bawtree, all in favour, none against.

7. **Election of Examiners**

Our Examiners, Scott Vevers in Bridport, were proposed by Richard Norman, seconded by Peter Jones and unanimously re-elected for the next financial year.

8. **Election of Officers:**

Peter Neal said it is a great pleasure to ask members to confirm the appointment of Stephen Howard as a Life Vice-President. Stephen served as the Chairman of the

North Dorset Group for some 15 years and as such was also strongly involved in Dorset wide issues. Peter listed Stephen's notable planning successes and tireless enthusiast for CPRE. He is a worthy Life Vice-President.

The following were duly proposed and elected en bloc:

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconded
Life Vice-President	Stephen Howard	Peter Neal	Richard Norman
President	Edward Fox	Gerald Rigler	Richard Brown
Vice-Presidents	Richard Nicholls	Dr Guy Dickinson	Stephen Howard
	Peter Neal	Sir Christopher Coville	Ray Hartley
Trustees	Richard Norman (Treasurer)	John Holiday	Roy Phillips
	Dr John Larkin	Peter Bowyer	Sandra Brown
	Sandra Brown	Dr John Larkin	Peter Bowyer
	Dr Guy Dickinson	Richard Nicholls	Peter Bowyer
	Peter Bowyer	Sandra Brown	Dr John Larkin
	Steve O'Connell	Rupert Hardy	Jane Westbrook
	Jane Westbrook	Rupert Hardy	Steve O'Connell
Examiners	Scott Vevers		

The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the next Trustees Meeting on 11th December.

9. **Resolution:**

No resolutions were tabled this year.

10. **Questions from Members**

Robin Bawtree asked a question about the need for an incinerator in Dorset to deal with household waste. Previous applications have not been successful or were abandoned as not being financially viable. Modern incinerators now use advanced technology. Dr Guy Dickinson explained the reasons for not supporting the Portland Waste Incinerator proposal, it is in the wrong location and the high number of HGV journeys through narrow streets.

What progress has been made with National Park status?

Sandra Brown said the government announced this week their Green Industrial Strategy and 10 Point Plan, including the very welcome commitment at Point 9, namely 'We will protect our natural environment through the creation of new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We will start the process for designating more of England's beautiful and iconic landscapes as National Parks and AONBs, safeguarding these areas for future generations and bringing more people within closer reach of nature.' As members recall, the Glover Review recommended that Dorset be seriously evaluated for National Park designation and we look forward to Natural England progressing this compelling case.

Stephen Larcombe said securing the Dorset National Park is a critical endeavour for Dorset CPRE. It would, he suggested, benefit the whole county and increase the influence of Dorset CPRE with councillors and others.