

**MINUTES OF 84TH ANNIVERSARY DORSET CPRE AGM, HELD ON
SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2021, 11 – 11:50 AM, VIA ZOOM**

1. Welcome

Peter Neal, Vice-President, opened the Meeting at 11 am and warmly welcomed 48 members to our second online AGM.

2. Apologies

Mr Rupert Hardy, Mrs Audrey Cowen, Mrs Barbara Bird, Mr and Mrs H. Thomas, Mr David Wilkins

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

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

4. Matters arising and not on the agenda

The spring 2021 edition of our magazine featured an article on Barbara Vance's life and the generous legacies she left to Dorset CPRE. We are launching a School Award's Scheme the 'Barbara Vance Countryside Prize' for Sixth Form students, in 19 secondary schools and colleges across the whole of Dorset, during the Autumn 2021 term.

The campaign against the proposed Waste Incinerator at Portland Port is ongoing, the deadline for objections was 27th September. On 16th October a huge turnout of local people attended a march to protest against the incinerator.

The National Park team has accepted an invitation from Natural England to be involved in the further assessment of the Dorset proposal which has been shortlisted for further evaluation.

5. Chair of Trustees' Report

Guy Dickinson said the next six to nine months are truly interesting times. We have a new Minister, Michael Gove, responsible for planning, a bill on the Environment, the outcome of COP26, the BCP Council Local Plan consultation is likely to start in January and the full draft Dorset Local Plan with resulting changes is expected in Spring 2022. Each of these matters are important for Dorset CPRE and the countryside.

The majority of our work over the past year revolved around the Dorset Council Local Plan. Leading up to the consultation deadline we voiced strong criticism of both Dorset Council's Local Plan, and also the consultation process in the local media and via our monthly e-newsletter. The Local Plan is very important as it will decide the future development of Dorset until 2038 and we urged everyone to respond. Our response to the Local Plan included suggestions for key changes and actions that we believe Dorset Council should consider, in order to produce a truly sustainable and inspiring Local Plan that has the community's interests and the environment at its heart.

Guy went on to say that our member volunteers have undertaken analysis of the responses to the Dorset Local Plan and what they purport to show. We are releasing a series of press releases, our first on 1st November focuses on the way that overwhelming opposition to Dorset Council's housing target is presented in such a way as to appear relatively insignificant. The second press release sent on Thursday focuses on Dorset's green fields under threat from developers. We have also shared our press releases with all Dorset's town and parish councils and ask that the content be raised at scheduled council meetings with their ward councillors and with Dorset's MPs.

We are working on the case to demonstrate, that Dorset has exceptional circumstances which would justify the use for planning purposes of lower housing numbers than the high target adopted by Dorset Council. In addition, the growing concerns associated with the Climate and Ecological Emergencies make the case for a Re-think of the Dorset Local Plan an imperative for us all.

We want to see better-designed homes, including genuinely affordable homes, of appropriate sizes, and developments of appropriate scale, with a serious "brownfield first" policy and built where they are needed.

The challenges for farming and article on the perfect storm bearing down on our Dorset Landscape was also raised. If farmers cannot use their farmland profitably for food production, then they may have to look at diversifying their businesses to use their land and buildings for non-farming purposes. Dorset CPRE favours small community-led solar farms with a maximum capacity of 5 MW that can be well-screened from the surrounding viewpoints.

Guy thanked the Trustees, members of our Countryside Forum, District Group Chairmen, volunteers and our members for their support. With so many dedicated and vigorous defenders of the countryside, we are confident we will prevail and save our countryside from over development.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Norman summarised the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021. £300k of the legacy has been invested to produce future income and growth. Running costs are similar to the previous year. £26k has been spent on campaigns, full details were circulated with the accounts before the meeting. Nearly £16k has been spent on Fingerpost repair grants over the past few years. Richard thanked everyone who has supported him over the years in particular Richard Heaslip, Peter Neal, Richard Nicholls and Linda Williams. John Larkin expressed a vote of thanks for Richard Norman who will continue to the accounts for the North Dorset Group.

Richard asked if there were any questions on the Accounts but there were none. The Accounts were accepted. Proposer Peter Neal, Seconder Trevor Clements, 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:**

The following were duly proposed and elected en bloc, proposer Alistair Chisholm and seconded Bridget Mayes:

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconded
President	Edward Fox	Gerald Rigler	Richard Brown
Vice-Presidents	Richard Nicholls	Peter Neal	Richard Norman
	Peter Neal	Sir Christopher Coville	Dickie Bird
	Richard Norman	Peter Neal	Dr Guy Dickinson
	Dr John Larkin	Peter Neal	Rupert Hardy
Trustees	Dr Guy Dickinson	Richard Norman	Richard Nicholls
	Peter Bowyer	Gerald Rigler	Sandra Brown
	Steve O'Connell	Peter Neal	Jane Westbrook
	Jane Westbrook	Peter Bowyer	Rupert Hardy
	Trevor Clements (Hon. Treasurer)	Richard Norman	Peter Neal
	Neil Matthews	Alistair Chisholm	Linda Poulsen
	Dr Frances Hogwood	Linda Poulsen	Alistair Chisholm

The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the next Trustees Meeting on 10th December. Trevor Clements will be added as a new bank signatory to replace Richard Norman.

9. **CPRE Awards**

Today we recognised the special contribution of two of our long-standing volunteers. Richard Norman, for an outstanding contribution as Honorary Treasurer, for our North Dorset CPRE Group since 1990 and Dorset CPRE since 1993 and Trustee.

John Larkin for his tireless commitment to the activities of Dorset CPRE over the past 20 years, as a Trustee, Minerals & Waste Adviser and representing us on forums. We will present more volunteer awards in spring next year.

10. **Resolution:** No resolutions were tabled this year.

11. **Questions from Members**

Comments were made about the responses to the Dorset Local Plan. The STAND (Save The Area North of Dorchester) petition with 5146 signatures, mentioned by Alistair Chisholm, is recorded under a single name on the Local Plan response site.

The meeting was followed with a presentation by Crispin Truman, Chief Executive of CPRE, covering Planning, Research, Renewable Energy, COP26, Hedgerow Campaigning, Deposit Return Scheme and more.