

THE SHERBORNE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY (CPRE)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Raleigh Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne
Saturday 26th November, 2022

The Meeting was attended by 17 members.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Robin Bawtree, Anne Bawtree, Richard Bethell, Barbara Bird, April Browell, Anne Bruncker, Amanda Dooley, David Gidney, Anne Gidney, Peter Grosvenor, Hilda Grosvenor, Jenny Harding-Rolls, Rev Richard Kirlew, Hilary Leavey, Shaun Leavey, Thelma Neale, Maevis Rogers, Anthony Saw, Mr and Mrs Selby, Egerton Skipwith, Deirdre Skipwith, Mary Stanford, Patricia Stewart, Mike Sugg, Gwynneth Sugg, Adrian Thorpe, Miyoko Thorpe, John West

3. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Election of Chair

The election of Sir Christopher Coville as Chairman was approved by the Meeting.

6. **Chair's Report**

Sir Christopher Coville gave a presentation on Big Issues for Sherborne, including town centre enhancements, protection of local villages and national resilience for food supply.

The Presentation was followed by questions and observations from several members. The Chairman welcomed the suggestion that eminent Sherborne residents might be asked to give talks to young people, now that the pandemic has receded. It was noted that younger residents in West End have different interests and that the challenge is to establish initial contact. Mrs Gibbons proposed that the CPRE should have a meeting in the West End Hall, which the Chairman endorsed. A comment was made that generous donations to Dorset CPRE had come from non native residents who clearly appreciated the landscape. It was suggested that deserving individuals might be nominated to be Freemen of Sherborne.

7. **Accounts**

Copies of the accounts were made available to the meeting. After a brief resume by the Treasurer, they were approved by Jane Edward and seconded by Paul Austin.

8. **Election of Officers and Committee**

The nomination of Officers and Committee members was proposed by Mrs Gibbons and seconded by Felicia Wilde.

President	Mr P Neal
Life Vice President	Captain L Bird
Chairman	Sir Christopher Coville
Vice Chairman	Vacancy
Hon Secretary	Vacancy
Hon Treasurer	Mr J Boodle
Hon Membership Secretary	Mr R Hartley
Committee	Mr P Austin, Ms J Findlater, Mr S Leavey, Mr M Smallwood, Major General J Stokoe

9. Appointment of Honorary Examiner

Paul Austin volunteered to take on the role of Honorary Examiner, which was approved by the Meeting.

10. Resolutions

None put forward.

11. Any Other Business

None.

The Business Meeting closed at 7.20pm, followed by updates by Committee members.

Heritage

Julia Findlater reported that she kept a watching brief on planning applications and encouraged members to advise her of any suspected unauthorised works. She thanked Amanda Dooley for her efforts in regard to Newell House (Kitt Hill) which is now on the SAVE Risk Register.

She informed the meeting that she has worked with local businesses on the planning applications which included the sympathetic enlargement of Abbey Pharmacy and put forward the Railway Station, Rawson Hall tabernacle and the Fire Station for the Heritage Assets list. One challenge is to ensure shop signage is in keeping with the façade, successfully done by Sherborne Antiques Centre and not so at Oxfords Bakery.

She answered questions on the conversion of the former bank opposite the Conduit, a railway bridge [which?]and signage by the station. Fiona Hartley suggested a guided historic walk of the town centre might be of interest to members in spring or summer 2023.

Dorset Local Plan and housing

Ray Hartley set out the original proposal for the Local Plan for 39,000 homes including 9,000 overspill for Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole (BCP). Dorset Council had recorded 9,000 responses to the proposals but did not state the percentage of objections. The Dorset CPRE had had an unsatisfactory meeting with the Council in November 2022 to discuss the Plan, which has now been delayed until 2024 with implementation in 2026 – without provision for further consultation.

Census 2021 had shown a decrease in the Dorset population but an increase in the over 65s. “Affordable” housing is not a solution for young aspiring buyers, while social housing might be a realistic alternative. Peter Neal observed that the price of land is a big issue including for Community Land Trusts.

Conclusion

Sir Christopher Coville thanked the Committee for their work.