

MINUTES OF 80TH ANNIVERSARY (91ST for CPRE) DORSET CPRE AGM HELD AT THE CERNE ABBAS VILLAGE HALL, CERNE ABBAS, ON SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2017

1. Vice-President's Welcome

Stephen Howard, Vice-President Dorset CPRE, opened the Meeting at 11 am and warmly welcomed about 100 members and guests to our 80th Anniversary AGM. He also welcomed Crispin Truman, new Chief Executive of CPRE and our Branch President, Edward Fox OBE.

2. Apologies

Mr David Gargrave, Commander Robin Bawtree & Mrs Anne Bawtree, Mr Shaun Leavey, Mrs S & Mr R Brown, Mr R Peers, Mrs Janet Healy, Mr Guy Dickinson, Mr John Vanderwolfe (Thorncombe Parish Council), Mrs and Mr C Burnett, Mr David Panter, Major Reginald Hanbury, Mr Terry Stewart, Mr David Wilkins, Mr and Mrs C Maude, Mr J & Mrs E Dewdney-Herbert, Mr Colin Brixton, Mrs D Howell, Mrs J Edwards, Mr & Mrs D Dodge, Mr A McKenzie and Rev. R Jones.

3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The Vice-President asked if there were any amendments to these minutes. There were none. Proposer Gillian Lewis, seconder Rupert Hardy, all in favour, none against.

4. Matters arising and not on the agenda

Re-organisation of local government: The Government has said it is minded to support a move to two unitary local authorities in place of the present nine Dorset councils. Future Dorset plans under which Dorset County Council would cease to exist and Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch would merge. A second authority would also be formed from the more rural councils of East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, Weymouth and Portland, and West Dorset. A final decision is expected in January.

Mapperton Farm Solar Park: Rupert Hardy said as far as we are aware East Dorset District Council is still waiting for a new Environmental Impact Assessment from Good Energy because the EU changed the requirements back in May 2016. There cannot be a redetermination until EDDC has validated the application.

Resolution: 'That WDDC and PDC be required to agree a joint development plan for Crossways for the next twenty years, in view of the fact of massive development proposals across the District Council boundaries.'

Richard Nicholls said he had a meeting with Councillor Nigel Bundy and Mr Ross-Skinner following the AGM. It has not been possible to make progress on this resolution while we await the outcome of the re-organisation of local government.

5. External Relations and Chair of Trustees Report

Richard Nicholls quoted extracts from the 1937 inaugural meeting: *Lord Crawford, President of the CPRE, had said that Dorset was a county endowed with a beautiful countryside and likewise with beautiful towns. The Council were not against development, what they required and demanded was that the development should be on orderly and considered lines, by town planning and country planning, and not the mere haphazard aggregation of houses which did no credit to the past and which, before many generations had passed, would be an emphatic discredit to our day. What the Council stood for was orderly and well-considered development.*

Richard spoke earlier this month at the WDDC planning meeting where outline planning permission was granted for the development of up to 760 houses and other mixed use on Vearse Farm in Bridport. The land is designated for development in the adopted Local Plan. The main reasons why the application should not have been approved include not complying with National Planning Policy Framework (paras 115 and 116), designated AONB, traffic, flood risk and access problems.

He went on to say the countryside, Green Belts and AONBs are under threat from development while little provision was being made for infrastructure, such as public transport, doctors' surgeries and improved roads. There was far too little affordable housing. He said "there should be the right housing in the right places, for the right people, in particular young people". He was also very concerned over the loss of subsidies to farmers, resulting from Brexit, with the threat of the industrialisation of farming and the adverse impact on the countryside.

With the re-organisation of local government we don't know what will happen to existing Local Plans. In the future LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships) may become more region focused. The role of the CPRE branch may have to change. We will have to look at answers as an organisation and see how we will operate over the next ten years.

The battle to preserve our countryside would be much worse if we had no groups or volunteers. He thanked the Trustees and Countryside Forum Members for their support and help in the past year. In essence Dorset CPRE stands for the same things now as when the branch was opened in 1937 - to retain a beautiful, diverse countryside for the benefit of everyone, wherever they live.

He said he is standing down as Chair and Trustee having chaired the Branch for seven of the last nine years. He thanked everyone for coming today and wished everyone well for the future. Stephen Howard asked everyone to show their appreciation for Richard's work on the front line and thanked him most warmly for all the work he had done for the branch over the past nine years.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Norman summarised the Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2017. Copies of the audited accounts can be found on the Dorset CPRE website.

He explained that we made a surplus this year due to an increase in income from investments, however, income from membership is down. We recently started offering grants for the refurbishment of Fingerposts, between £100-£200 per post.

We recently moved funds to the Teachers Building Society in Wimborne to get higher interest on savings. We are also looking for a new sponsor for our review magazine. He thanked the NFU Mutual for supporting the postage of our excellent publications over the past few years. We might look at circulating the The Dorset Review magazine in electronic format in the future to save on postage costs.

The treasurer said he is available for questions on the Accounts. There were none. The Accounts were accepted. Proposer Dr John Larkin, Seconder Dickie Bird.

7. **Election of Officers:**

The following were duly proposed and elected:

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
President	Edward Fox	Terry Stewart	Sandra Brown
Vice-President	Stephen Howard	Lavinia Phillips	Derek Gardiner
Elected Trustees			
Treasurer	Richard Norman	Stephen Howard	Richard Nicholls
	Peter Neal	John West	Felicia Wilde
	Dr John Larkin	Gerald Rigler	Richard Nicholls
	Sandra Brown	Dr John Larkin	Colin Brixton
	Dr Paul Kelly	Dr A G Dickinson	Dr Danielle Wootton
	Dr A G Dickinson	Richard Nicholls	Dr Danielle Wootton

The Chair is elected at the next Trustees Meeting on 8th December.

8. **Election of Examiners.**

Our Examiners, Scott Vevers were proposed and unanimously re-elected for the next financial year.

9. **Resolution:**

No resolutions were tabled this year.

10. **Reading by Edward Fox OBE, Branch President**

Our President read some wonderful poems, including Dorset by John Betjeman, celebrating the county and its countryside. He said he is happy to help where he can with future campaigns.

11. **Any Other Business**

Dr John Larkin drew everyone's attention to the Dorset National Park leaflet explaining how national park status would help Dorset and what the team are doing to keep our county beautiful for all to enjoy.

The meeting was followed with a talk from Crispin Truman, new Chief Executive of CPRE. Members had the opportunity to tell him about key issues affecting their area as well as listening to his priorities for the future of CPRE.