

**MINUTES OF 86th ANNIVERSARY DORSET CPRE AGM, HELD AT THE
CERNE ABBAS VILLAGE HALL, CERNE ABBAS, ON
SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023**

1. Welcome

Peter Neal, Vice-President, opened the Meeting at 11 am and warmly welcomed 51 members and guests. We held a minute's silence in memory of members and volunteers who passed away during the year.

2. Apologies

Mr Shaun Leavey, Mrs Sandra Brown, Mr Richard Brown, Mr Gerald Rigler, Dr & Mrs J A Larkin, Mr Nicholas Whitsun-Jones, Mr Steve O' Connell, Ms Deirdre Flegg, Sir Christopher Coville, Mr Howard Thomas, Mr Michael McAvoy, Mr Peter Williams, Mr Michael Allen, Mrs Jane Westbrook, Mr Mark Sellers, Mr & Mrs C Maude

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to these Minutes. There were none. Proposer Dr Frances Hogwood, seconder Linda Poulsen, all in favour, none against.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

They are covered in the Chair of Trustees' and Treasurer's Report.

5. Chair of Trustees' Report

Dr Guy Dickinson, Vice-Chair, read the report as Peter Bowyer, Chair of Trustees, is unable to attend and we wished him well. Guy started by saying our countryside is extremely important, amongst other things, to maintain the health, both physical and mental, of us all.

We continue to maintain that the government's housing targets are greatly exaggerated. The Green Belts and AONBs (soon to be renamed National Landscapes) are under threat from development. We strongly oppose any attempts to redraw their boundaries. We believe, as we always have, that new houses should be built on Brownfield rather than Greenfield sites.

Last year the Trustees identified a need for an additional resource to assist with planning and responding to consultations. We now have Heidi Poole, our Planning Advisor, working on a self-employed basis. It has been a busy year for both local and national consultations. We submitted responses to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Prospectus Consultation, Dorset Council's consultation on planning for climate change guidance, Dorset Council's Housing Strategy (a joint response with the Dorset Deserves Better Campaign), consultations on Permitted Development Rights and reforms to the Local Plan process.

Guy gave an overview of the major planning applications our local groups have worked on. In West Dorset, Statera Energy Ltd submitted an application for a huge Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) containing 600 shipping containers close to housing in Chickerell. The Portland Waste Incinerator application was refused by the Dorset Council' Strategic and Technical Planning Committee in March, however, the

developer Powerfuel Portland is appealing the decision. Guy will speak on behalf of Dorset CPRE at the Public Inquiry on 14th December.

In North Dorset there was a long and well organised campaign in association with Pimperne Parish Council and the Cranborne Chase AONB against Wyatt Homes' application to build 490 unnecessary houses between Blandford and Pimperne. Sadly, despite a huge amount of hard work, the Northern Area Planning Committee recently approved by 7 to 1 the application - ignoring damage to the AONB and in contravention to Pimperne's Neighbourhood Plan. In July the Pulham/Mappowder solar farm was approved despite strong grounds for refusal.

In Poole much effort is expended in tackling river pollution in to Poole Harbour in terms of reducing it rather than just the proposed pollution neutrality. Dorset CPRE recently become a partner in the [Dorset Catchment Partnership](#).

In East Dorset the Green Belt is vigorously protected from inappropriate developments. We are more hopeful of seeing off two greenfield solar applications on 225 acres of versatile agricultural land within open sight of the nearby Grade II *Listed Horton Tower.

The Sherborne and District Society CPRE continue their work on the proposed western development which some believe should have as many as 1500 new houses with special reference to full infrastructure in place from the start, good design, thermal efficiency, and hopefully including solar panels on roofs. They work with local farmers, stressing the importance of resilient food supplies, and are increasingly concerned at the state of several listed buildings in the market town.

Looking ahead to 2024, BCP Council is pushing on rapidly with its Local Plan which is likely to be released for public consultation in the new year with a view to adoption by late 2024. Dorset Council has delayed publication of the next version of its Local Plan until late 2024 and is aiming for the new Local Plan to be adopted in spring 2026.

Guy went on to thank the dedicated local CPRE members and the Dorset CPRE Team. A huge contribution is made by our volunteers in examining and responding to planning applications, assisting with campaigns, attending and speaking at planning meetings, writing articles and responding to consultations.

As he said earlier, our very beautiful but vulnerable countryside must be protected for the health of all who live in Dorset especially, but also those who visit.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Bowmer said the finances remain robust. Bob summarised the Accounts for year ended 31st August 2023. Donations remain constant and we are expecting a legacy next year. The investment income is performing well and has come back following the drop in the value we reported in last year's accounts. We have no plans to move current investments and it is hoped there will continue to be better returns on our investments over the next two years. We opened two higher rate cash deposit

accounts with Flagstone Investment Management to reduce our cash balance in our Barclays current account.

A slide was displayed detailing fingerpost grants we have paid out and recent work with schools. Following visits to seven schools, the Trustees have set aside £2,500 for a 'Barbara Vance Countryside Prize', enough to fund a minimum of 10 schools, if they are all successful in receiving the maximum of £250, for wildlife related projects with evidence of outdoor learning and introducing children to the countryside/rural life.

Bob asked if there were any questions on the Accounts and there were none. The Accounts were accepted. Proposer Rupert Hardy, Seconder Richard Norman, all in favour, none against.

7. Election of Examiners

Our Examiners, Scott Vevers in Bridport, were proposed by Peter Neal, seconded by Richard Norman, all in favour, none against.

8. Election of Officers

The following were duly proposed and elected en bloc, proposer Gillian Lewis and seconder Linda Poulsen, all in favour, none against:

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Seconder
President	Kate Adie	Peter Neal	Sir Christopher Coville
Vice-Presidents	Peter Neal	Dickie Bird	Sir Christopher Coville
	Richard Norman	Bob Bowmer	Mike Madgwick
	Dr John Larkin	Colin Brixton	Gerald Rigler
Trustees	Peter Bowyer	Neil Matthews	Mike Madgwick
	Neil Matthews	Linda Poulsen	Rodney Alcock
	Dr Frances Hogwood	Linda Poulsen	Giles Watts
	Bob Bowmer (Hon. Treasurer)	Richard Norman	Peter Neil
	Mike Madgwick	Peter Neal	Dr Guy Dickinson
	Peter Neil	Bob Bowmer	Richard Norman
	Jeremy Hughes	Dr Frances Hogwood	Dr Guy Dickinson

Peter Neal thanked Guy for his role as Trustee over the past seven years, having stayed on an extra year, and remaining active as Chair of the West Dorset Group.

Peter said that we are absolutely delighted that Kate Adie has agreed to be our President. Kate, who has lived in Dorset for over 12 years, spoke about her passion for the countryside having first fallen in love with the countryside while growing up in Sunderland. She went on to say, we lead busy lives, we need to make our mark, stand up for our principals and be happy to have a chance to help it. Peter will write to Edward Fox to thank him for being President of Dorset CPRE for the past 10 years.

The Trustees Meeting to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair was held immediately after the AGM, where it was decided that no Chair or Vice-Chair would be elected but responsibility to be delegated. This would then be further discussed at the Trustees Meeting on the 8th December.

9. **Resolution:** No resolution was tabled this year.

10. **Any Other Business and Questions from members**

A concern was raised about the Flood Cede Risk being forced onto owners of Grade 2 Listed Thatch properties by Insurance Companies even though the specific properties have never flooded. All insurers pay into Flood Re through an industry levy. If an insurer considers a customer to be particularly high risk, it can 'cede' that customer's flood cover to Flood Re - meaning Flood Re will pay out if that customer goes on to make a flood claim.

A question was asked about where is the best place to build an incinerator if Portland is the wrong place and what to do with the waste? An incinerator is also proposed at Canford Resource Park and unlike Portland it has an active waste management site. Incinerators are divisive as some believe we shouldn't build Incinerators anywhere regardless of locations as they are seen as a health risk. We all need to do our bit to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce and recycle as much as possible.

The Meeting was followed at 12:05 pm with a presentation by Roger Mortlock, CEO at National CPRE. Roger, who joined CPRE in May 2023 after 15 years in leadership roles for environmental charities, spoke of the challenges facing the CPRE as it campaigns on many fronts to protect the countryside, the road to our centenary in 2026 and our general election Manifesto.