

LANGSTONE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Langstone Sailing Club on
Thursday 16 May 2024 at 7:30pm
Chaired by Angela Armstrong

Prior to the meeting the Club Commodore, Owen Davies, welcomed everybody to the LSC and advised about emergency exits and general housekeeping rules.

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman welcomed 38 members to the meeting, including Ward Councillor, Gillian Harris, and Hampshire County Councillor, Lulu Bowerman. 8 apologies were received, and full details are retained on the file.

2. Minutes of the Last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 18 May 2023 were reviewed having been previously approved by the Committee. Ian MacLennan proposed their adoption which was agreed.

3. Matters Arising – Not Otherwise on the Agenda

None.

4. Chairman's Report

AA referred to her decision to stand down as Chairman noting the privilege it had been and adding that she had some regrets having fulfilled the role for about 20 years with just a single break of 18 months. Reference was made to a number of matters dealt with over those years, some successful, like the Boundary Commission Consultation and some less so, like the Southmoor Seawall. Actions had been taken over the Railway Cottages, the Millpond and Langstone Technology Park. Most recently assistance was provided when catastrophic flooding hit the High Street.

The Chairman thanked the Committee members for their support over the years and finished by expressing her confidence that the Association will continue to thrive. Her full report is appended to these minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report

Margaret Hellowell presented her report and the Income and Expenditure accounts for 2023/24. She noted more than 150 members now pay by direct debit and that £638 was received in subscriptions, including £83 in donations. The accounts show a small surplus for the year. The membership remains steady at just over 300 households of the 515 registered in Langstone. She recommended the subscription be maintained to £2 per year, noting that if a particular need arose members would be asked to increase this sum.

In reply to a question from Neil Paterson, the Treasurer advised the sum reserved for the Langstone Flood Watch Group remains ready to be called upon. The accounts were approved by the Committee prior to presentation to the AGM. The full report is appended to these minutes.

6. Langstone Conservation Report

In the absence of Mike Combes his report was presented by Nigel Armstrong. Members were informed that the Group had been active for many years and were part of The Conservation Volunteers. The TCV provide training and advice and carry out inspections to ensure activities are carried out in a safe manner and they provide risk assessments as required. The Group is fully insured and is not a registered charity.

The primary activity is litter picking, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. On average 10 sacks of rubbish is collected. Other activity has been undertaken, and the Group is keen to respond to suggestions from members for new projects.

The full report is appended to these minutes. Beryl Francis proposed a vote of thanks to the Group, which was approved.

7. Reports from the Councillors

a) Havant Borough Councillor Gillian Harris.

GH noted that changes are likely to the Council following the election results, but said it was too early to say what was likely to happen.

She advised she has been appointed to Langstone Harbour Board and to the Chichester Harbour Conservancy but has yet to

experience those organisations. Work is ongoing relating to the Sea Defences and the Mill Pond Seawall with a funding shortfall to be resolved. She reported a project is underway with Portsmouth City Council to regularly test the water in Langstone Harbour. Concluding she invited questions.

Ann Griffiths asked when will a footpath be finished across Southmoor? Andy Lewis asked if testing is proposed of the defunct unofficial refuse tip on Southmoor.

In replying the meeting was informed that work was progressing on the new path and £390,000 had been allocated to monitor the condition of Southmoor.

b) County Councillor Lulu Bowerman

LB began by referring to the recent flooding of the High Street and the quality of the flower bed. She had visited during the event and noted the speed of vehicles on the A3023 may have exacerbated the effects of the flood water. Since HCC is responsible for the highway, she will raise this with County Officers.

Mention was made of proposals to fully pedestrianise West Street, the section from the Meridian Centre to the War Memorial. Negotiations continue and a Road Traffic Order will be sought. LB said such action would benefit everyone and mentioned the Carol Service.

Concluding she referred to the Mill Pond and the joint responsibility shared between Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council for this matter. She reported HCC are dealing with the footpath while the Environment Agency must resolve the other question relating to the Lymbourn Stream which feeds the pond. There appears to be an ownership dispute, but it is acknowledged that this aspect of the matter does impact the horse paddock causing it to flood.

She invited questions.

Ray Hepworth mentioned the footpath towards Tesco and the conflict between pedestrians and cyclists. The "No Cycling" sign needs to be replaced. LB agreed to pass this enquiry to Councillor Liz Fairhurst.

Nigel Armstrong pointed out the problem of access to Davies Pharmacy by disabled people if West Street is closed to vehicles. LB advised alternatives are being investigated.

Beryl Francis commented on the many potholes in local roads across the area. LB acknowledged the problem and said that work was

being considered by Hampshire County Council, but they were prioritising areas where the problem is deemed to be the greatest.

8. Developing the LRA – The Future

DP presented a paper, appended to these minutes, providing an overview of the activities of the LRA since its inception in the 1980's. Now a mature community he noted that challenges remain with an even greater range of agencies involved. The changing nature of the problems to be faced require a different method of working and more input from members. A new management structure has been proposed with volunteers requested to assist the Committee in meeting its ambitions and a discussion was invited.

Comments referred to the need for more joint working with other Associations, including the Havant Borough Residents' Alliance. Cllr Harris noted the value HBC puts on the involvement of Residents' Associations.

Various topics were raised which further highlighted the LRA work, and it was noted these matters need to be passed to the whole membership, with the aim of encouraging anyone with a particular interest to take on that issue under the LRA umbrella.

Peter Hellowell volunteered to take up the question of pedestrian crossings and the speed limit on the A3023.

The report was noted.

9. Election of the Committee

The Secretary advised that he had not been notified of any nominations for new members. However, Margaret Hellowell, Sarah Maclennan, Carolyn Holland and Mike Combes have agreed to continue for another year. Their election was therefore proposed by Nigel Armstrong and seconded by Ian Maclennan. The motion was passed.

10. Election of Officers and the Independent Examiner

Margaret Hellowell has agreed to serve as Honorary Treasurer and Owen Davies as Honorary Independent Examiner. However, there were no other nominations. It was noted the Constitution requires three officers but can function with one. It was therefore proposed by Angela Armstrong that Margaret Hellowell be elected as Treasurer, the motion being seconded by Carolyn Holland. Attempts will continue to find a

Chairman and Secretary. Owen Davies was confirmed as the Honorary Independent Examiner for another year.

11. Any Other Business

No further business had been notified for consideration by the meeting.

- 12.** Before closing the meeting MH made a presentation to the retiring Chairman and Secretary, thanking them for their efforts over several years.

The meeting was closed at 9:00pm with thanks to the Langstone Sailing Club for hosting the meeting.

David Pattenden
Secretary LRA
DGP/JRP
26 May 2024