

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

MINUTES

of the meeting held on Sunday 26 January 2025
at 6pm at The Rising Sun

(venue kindly offered by Regan Howard)

Those present	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Brian White – Chairman	Bob Allison – Treasurer
Elisabeth Eatwell – Secretary	
MEMBERS AND GUESTS	
Lynn White – Nutbourne Social Group	Julian Trumper
Jane Allison	Carole & Robin Martin
Betty Sherwood	Sue & Roger Burroughs
Vanessa & Lee Goossens	Carol & Paul Nash
Sharon Curd - PPC* Chair	Jilly Marcusson – PPC Councillor
Frank Riddle – PPC Councillor	*PPC – Pulborough Parish Council
APOLOGIES	
Pam & John Wellard	Jill & Graham Westlake
Liz & Jeremy Edwards	Jacquie Dobson
Paul Clarke – HDC* Councillor	Len Ellis-Brown – HDC Councillor
Gill & Rod Wilson	Anna McMoran
*HDC – Horsham District Council	

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all those present, in particular the Councillors whose attendance on a Sunday evening was particularly appreciated. He extended a special welcome to Sharon Curd who was elected Chair of the Pulborough Parish Council, following Les Ellis Brown's decision to stand down and focus on his role as a Horsham District Councillor. The Chairman passed on the apologies for absence that he had received, which are listed above. He expressed the Association's thanks to Regan and Tom for the continued use of the Rising Sun for our Sunday evening meetings.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting were accepted and agreed by those attending.

3. Chairman's Report – Brian White

The Chairman gave his Annual Report, summarising the main issues and activities affecting the village during 2024. Initially issued as a separate file, for the convenience of on-line visitors to www.nutbourne.org we have appended it here:

As always I shall start my report by thanking Regan, Tom and Alice for facilitating the continued use of the Rising Sun on a Sunday evening. It is very much appreciated and reaffirms the pub as a popular hub for the village.

I would also like to express thanks on your behalf to the Parish and District Councillors who give up their Sunday evenings to attend our meetings and keep us updated. We should also perhaps note that Len Ellis-Brown has stood down as Chair of PPC to focus on his work as a HDC Councillor. Thank you, Len, for all your time and effort spent on our behalf.

Many of the key issues of 2023 continued as issues for 2024. Remarkably we have had the 2nd anniversary of the A29 Church Hill problems, local road issues with flooding and road closures. HGV's in Stream Lane exacerbated by the lengthy West Chiltington Road closure, and of course a number of vehicles ending up in the stream.

Our Neighbourhood Watch based Email News scheme continues to grow with 128 email addresses and we issued 62 email alerts covering many different topics from local criminal activity, not much thank goodness, to planning matters and highways issues. Andrew Moffat's efforts as NHW Co-ordinator are very much appreciated as he represents us at District NHW meetings. Reports for the year from Andrew and Bob Allison, our Treasurer, are shown later in these Minutes.

Our 2 Neighbourhood Watch Wardens, Ross Phillips and Louisa Hull, continue to provide an excellent service to our village and the Parish as a whole. We continue to receive their monthly reports which I forward on to you for your information regarding their activities in the Parish. Ross and Louisa can be contacted on either 07584 337475 or 476.

Roadwatch - Highways Issues remain a permanent Agenda item under Highways Matters and we have raised a good number throughout the year. Highways at Horsham eventually fixed a few issues on Stream Lane and Nutbourne Road but, the Edge breakaway still has to be scheduled for repairs and repainting the 20 Mph roundel has also yet to be scheduled.

We did manage to get Horsham District Council's Highways Manager, Adam Bazely, to meet me to review certain issues and he has agreed to meet again in March.

The HDC Local Plan has progressed slowly throughout the year with updates from Len, Paul and Ian who again are here this evening.

Planning Matters continue to test us occasionally and we had ongoing issues with the works at Ebbsworth Cottage. This long running saga unfortunately continues to haunt us. The annexe building has been approved, and works have commenced albeit piecemeal. However the garage matter has only just last week received another outing at HDC's Planning Committee where the updated application was finally approved against the wishes of most Nutbourne residents.

Whilst not a Social Group event we had an Open Gardens weekend in June that was very much enjoyed by those taking part as well as the visitors from all over the parish. And a good sum of money was raised for ongoing repair works at St. Mary's Church.

Lastly in November our defibrillator unit here in the pub had its scheduled service carried out and we have now registered its location with the NHS South East Centre.

4. Treasurer's Report and Subscriptions – Bob Allison

The Treasurer's Year-End Report is appended below. In summary it shows that members' voluntary contributions were slightly down year-on-year, However, due to minimal spending, our reserves stand at £777. We welcome voluntary subscriptions at the rate of the £5 per individual or £10 per household paid directly to our account as follows:

Account Name: Nutbourne Residents Association
Sort Code : 60-20-35
Account No. : 41528247
Reference : Please give your name. Thank-you.

Nutbourne Residents' Association

Treasurer's Report to the AGM -- year ended 31 October 2024

Although our voluntary subscriptions were somewhat down on last year, we had minimal expenditure on our general account, resulting in the surplus as shown below to add to reserves. On the other hand, our defibrillator fund is steadily reducing, and with the 2024 service having taken place in November, just after the end of our financial year, we now only have enough in the fund to cover one more routine service. This means that, looking further forward, we may well be drawing on the surplus in our general fund to meet future defibrillator service and battery replacement costs.

Income and Expenditure Account			2024	2023
	General	Defibrillator	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income</i>				
Voluntary subscriptions	175.00	–	175.00	215.00
PA Hire	30.00	–	30.00	–
Interest on defibrillator bank deposit	–	3.18	3.18	2.82
Total income	205.00	3.18	208.18	217.82
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Equipment costs	–	–	–	95.11
Coronation event at the Rising Sun	–	–	–	100.00
AGM costs	12.90	–	12.90	45.00
Xmas village event at Rising Sun (food)	–	–	–	70.00
Contribution to social group carols	20.00	–	20.00	–
Defibrillator service	–	105.00	105.00	–
Total expenditure	32.90	105.00	147.90	310.11
Net surplus/(deficit)	172.10	-101.82	70.28	-92.20

Balance Sheet	As at 31 October	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	777.45	707.17
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Defibrillator sinking fund - restricted	192.47	294.29
General fund - unrestricted	584.98	412.88
Total retained funds	777.45	707.17

Notes:

1. *The accounts of Nutbourne Residents' Association are not independently examined or audited.*
2. *Voluntary subscriptions are recorded as received. Expenditure is recorded when incurred.*
3. *Donations should be paid to the Treasurer, either in cash or cheque (and if the latter, made payable to the Nutbourne Residents' Association). Online bank transfers can be made to account number 41528247 sort code 60-20-35, showing your name as reference.*

5. NHW Co-Ordinator's Report – Andrew Moffat

Co-Ordination with Horsham NHW and Police Authorities continued throughout the year, and sixty-two 'NHW Email Alerts' were sent out as and when deemed appropriate.

6. Social Report Group – Lynne White

This year has not been so busy, comprising only the Christmas Carols in December. The 202 even produced donations of £250 to Horsham Matters Foodbank. A letter of appreciation was received after the meeting. Thanks must again go to the Streeter family who provided the musical accompaniment. After a number of years Lynne and her small team have decided to step aside and let a new group take over. Several residents have stepped up and the new group will be overseen by Sarah Browne. The Meeting expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

7. Election of New Officers

The existing committee declared they were happy to serve for the remainder of 2025. However the Chairman, Brian White, and Treasurer, Bob Allison, expressed the desire to stand down at the 2026 AGM. Hopefully replacements can be found as the year progresses. The meeting acknowledged this and there was a round of applause to show appreciation of the work of the committee on behalf of all residents.

8. Matters Arising

- a. Neighbourhood Wardens - The wardens were unable to attend but their presence has been noted locally. The Wardens December 2024 report will be emailed out to everyone shortly. Please contact either Ross Phillips or Louisa Hull directly with any local concerns you may have. Their mobile nos. are 07584 337475/6
- b. HDC Local Plan - The Planning Inspector had requested additional information regarding the HDC local plan which has now been supplied. HDC now believes it is ready to continue the examination process. However, recent announcements by the Government regarding the reorganising of Local Government may adversely impact these plans. Watch this space.
- c. Highways Matters
 - i. The land slippage issues with the A29 remain unresolved and remains the subject of a County Court dispute.
 - ii. The extremely dangerous edge damage on Nutbourne Road has now been outstanding for over a year despite a Job No. having been raised by WSCC Highways. HDC Highways Manager confirmed recently that the job still awaits scheduling.
 - iii. The damaged 20 Mph signage in Nutbourne Lane has been reported and a job no. raised for repair/replacement on a like for like, i.e. wooden posts, basis.
- d. Nutbourne Common - Jilly Marcuson, Parish Councillor, reported that she and several councillors and residents had a very successful 'working party', around 15 people attended, on the common clearing bramble from the heather.

9. Planning Matters

- a. Ebbsworth Cottage. The latest revised application for the garage was finally approved at the recent HDC Planning Committee meeting . FR and JM both spoke against the application but it was the passed by the committee. This decision goes against the wishes of many residents. However, a proposal put to the meeting by FR to raise the issue with the Ombudsman was not passed by those attending. But at least perhaps the site will be completed soon. However concerns are being expressed with regard to the 'annexe'. The floor plan of which appears to be over large.

10. AOB

- a. Chair of PPC Sharon Curd thanked the residents for the invitation to attend this and future meetings. SC raised the issue of what to do with our BT telephone box located at the entrance to the village. She asked if we wanted to relocate the Defibrillator or start a 'book club'. We stated that this had previously been discussed, and the consensus was that we enjoy the phone box as a local 'landmark'. However, it does need some attention and repainting in the original Post Office red. BW also raised the possibility of having power reconnected such that the interior light could be reinstated. BW to talk with John Wellard regarding the key. Action: BW/SC to investigate.
- b. Travellers Site in Stall House Lane. The meeting was apprised of very recent events concerning the unapproved installation, previous planning was refused for 4 static vans, in a field off Stall House Lane. Although a Stop Notice was issued by HDC's Enforcement Office, the travellers cut back overhanging branches in the Lane and the vans were installed. Residents were alarmed and dismayed at the apparent lack of enforcement powers of HDC which now has the matter in hand.
- c. Committee Secretary Elisabeth Eatwell advised the meeting that she has renamed her property, Nutbourne Manor Cottage (behind Nutbourne Manor) as 'The Old Laundry'.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Sunday 27th April, 2025. Proceedings will commence at 7pm at the Rising Sun.