

Nutbourne Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday 24th April 2022

Committee Attendees

Bob Allison – Treasurer

Brian White – Chairman

Andrew Moffat NHW Coordinator

Residents

Lynne White

Jane Allison

Rod Wilson

Gill Wilson

Jull Westlake

Pam Wellard

Sue Burroughs

Roger Burroughs

Frank Riddle

Liz Williams

Diane Smith

Vanessa Goossens

Kim Dennis

Residents (continued)

Jane Cox

Jacylene Dobson

Jeremy Edwards

Liz Edwards

Paul Clarke (HDC Councillor)

John Wellard

Robin Martin

Carole Martin

Erica Riddle

Chris Williams

Charlotte Kenyan (WSCC Councillor)

Lee Goossens

Joy Dennis

Apologies for absence:

Ian Hare

Charlie and Elle Goblet D'Alviera

Paul and Carole Nash

Jason Davies

Liz and Mike Sollom

Betty Sherwood

Acronyms

HDC Horsham District Council

WSCC West Sussex County Council

PPC Pulborough Parish Council

NHW Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone. He introduced Charlotte Kenyan, a West Chiltington resident and WSCC Councillor, and Paul Clarke of Pulborough who serves in a similar capacity on HDC, thanking them for their time and extending a special welcome.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Jane Allison, accepted and signed off by general consensus. The Chairman also expressed thanks to Regan Howard for allowing the use of the pub for the NRA's Sunday evening meetings.

1. Chairman's Report – Brian White

Our last AGM was held in January 2020. Regulations prevented a gathering last year, making this a report for a tumultuous two-year period. The Community rose to the challenge. We established a Nutbourne Volunteer Group, with seventeen volunteers. It worked closely with a similar team in West Chiltington, dealing with over 150 requests for assistance over the summer period, principally collecting and delivering food and medical supplies from local retailers to vulnerable residents.

Since the last meeting we have sadly lost several well-known and respected residents, not necessarily to Covid. We sorely miss. Sheila Gocher, Jill Shaw, Josephine Fergusson and the NRA's close friend and staunch supporter Mike Sherwood.

We have dealt with a number of planning issues during the period. We mounted an objection to a proposal; to increase the number of pitches at Lane Top. The application was recommended by officials at HDC but rejected by the Councillors. The issue remains live. As such it is covered later in these Minutes. We also became aware that the Rising Sun's registered status as an 'Asset of Community Value', placing a duty on the owner(s) to notify the Council before putting it on sale, and allowing the community a minimum of six weeks to assemble a bid) had expired. After discussion with Regan, the NRA applied for the status be renewed. A further five-year period was agreed, running from November 2021-2026.

2. Treasurer' Report – Bob Allison

This was a quiet year financially for the NRA, impacted undoubtedly by the ongoing Covid restrictions. Although voluntary subscriptions were down on the previous year, we had minimal outgoings and consequently our funds in hand showed a modest increase over the period. It should be noted that the significant village fundraising associated with the repair of the village defibrillator occurred after our financial year end. As well as covering the cost of the upfront repair work, this resulted in a sinking fund being established for the ongoing maintenance of the defibrillator, which is being held by the NRA. This will all be reflected in the 2022 report and accounts. Further detail is provided by the 2021 Income and Expenditure Accounts attached which shows that we have a retained balance of £482.99.

3. NHW Coordinator's Report – Andrew Moffat

Thankfully Nutbourne remains largely free from serious NHW issues, although on occasions we have suffered some burglary related crimes. In particular there were two serious outbuilding/garage related break-ins involving the theft of two motorcycles and also custom cycles and garden equipment and tools causing a great deal of distress to the owners. We must remain vigilant, lock garages and outbuildings and maintain house security as best we possibly can. We continue to circulate NHW related news and Police updates throughout the year via our 'NHW Email News' emails. (Note: Andrew is also the Chair of the Horsham District NHW Committee)

4. Social Group Report – Lynne White

Social events over the last 2 years have been restricted for obvious reasons, but we did have a very successful event last Christmas. The Carols at the pub, led by Paula Streeter and her wonderfully talented family, proved a big hit, raising community spirits after a long and difficult period.

It was agreed that this year's 'charity' would in fact be a fundraiser for our Defibrillator in the pub. We were made aware by Regan that the defibrillator located in the pub's vestibule was unserviceable towards the end of the year. Enquiries were made by Carole Martin regarding a replacement, passing details to Brian White of a Horsham-based Company who can help. As a result, the defibrillator was serviced, and the battery was replaced at a cost of £306. A service contract has been agreed. In August 2022 new pads will be required, costing around £120. The Carols raised just over £500 (boosted by several very generous individual donations). We are very grateful to Regan for underwriting the servicing of the defibrillator for an extended period until the battery failed. It is only right that the community as a whole should support this life-saving essential.

An Easter Walk was organised and around a dozen residents enjoyed a walk around the locality, with plans well advanced for a Street Party to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June, "for 5pm until late". The road will be closed from Atmyres Farm to The Rising Sun. Regan has agreed to re-open the pub from 5pm if the weather makes it impractical to use the garden outside, as well as allowing access to "the facilities". We will be serving a BBQ and selling tickets in advance at £5 per head. Accompanied children will be admitted free-of-charge. The full details are to follow, but in principle people will have a choice of bringing their own drinks or buying them at the bar, and will be encouraged to bring sales, puddings and cakes to add to the spread.

If anybody, in addition to the existing group of ladies, would like to be involved in helping with the planning and/or on the day we are having a Social Group meeting at 11am on the 11th May at The Old Store, opposite the pub, courtesy of Betty Sherwood. Please advise me, Lynne White on [redacted for online publication], if you can attend or help on the day – many thanks.

5. Election of New Officers

The Chairman, Treasurer and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator all confirmed that they were prepared to continue to serve in their respective roles and were duly (and gratefully) re-elected.

The Chairman made an impassioned plea for a Secretary/Note-taker to step forward. He will be happy to continue to produce the minutes, drawing on the notes taken, and hoped that a three-monthly meeting cycle would not prove too onerous.

6. Matters Arising from the last Minutes

All covered by previously given reports above with the exception of where we stand with regard to a replacement Neighbourhood Warden(s). This follows the loss of our two previous Wardens Carol Boniface and Vanessa Green who have both moved on.

Paul Clarke was able to inform the meeting that a replacement Warden has been appointed and that he is active in the community. The name has since been confirmed by BW as **Ross** Phillips, who can be contacted on 07584 337476.

7. Planning Matters

7.1 There are no current (live) Planning Applications that are of concern to residents.

7.2 But a number two planning related issues and an opportunity were raised from the floor:

- A proposal to increase the number of pitches at the 'Travellers' site known as Lane Top from three to five remains in the draft HDC Local Plan. While Councillors rejected this last year, the Head of Strategic Planning at the Council has declined to update the document. Paul Clarke advised the meeting that the Local Plan is currently 'on hold', pending amendments to comply with an Environment Agency edict to make development projects "Water Neutral, neither increasing nor reducing local consumption. This may force a comprehensive reworking on the plan. Susan Burroughs has obtained a written quote from a solicitor of £6k to explore the Local Plan, previous applications for Lane Top and defences made to the Inspectorate. Further fees would be required should a Transport Consultant, a Barrister's opinion or community representation at a hearing be required. Overall it seems it will be much more complicated and expensive to challenge a Local Plan than a simple planning application.
- Current building works on Ebbsworth Cottage under an existing approved planning application continue raising two particular concerns among residents.
 - neither the removal of the existing chimney structure
 - nor the drastic reduction of the stone boundary featured in the approval.Action: follow up with HDC Enforcement Officers (BW/FR/RA will progress)
- HDC Grants for Environmental Improvement Projects. Paul Clarke advised that a new grant fund will soon become available. It supports new projects that will make a difference and benefit the wider community. He hopes successful applicants will spread the word, outlining their actions and the results and promoting the fund. The criteria for initiatives are:
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 - **Carbon Emissions** – to be reduced along with other climate-warming gases
 - **Energy** – reduce consumption through a low-carbon and/or renewable approach
 - **Water** – consumption reduction, paying attention to the flood plain and risk of flooding
 - **Waste** – emphasis on, "reduce, reuse, and recycle" to minimise
 - **Biodiversity** –to be increased promoting the wellbeing of wildlife
 - **Transport** – encouraging cycling, walking and use of public transport and reducing the need to travel by other methods

Three levels of funding are available:

- up to £1,000
- up to £2,500 (requiring additional information from the Applicant)
- up to £5,000 (for larger projects the Applicant must match the funding granted)

Applications will be accepted between 4 April and 13 May 2022, Further details are available at <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/community-climate-fund>

8. AOB's

- Jane Cox highlighted a recent attempted Scam regarding being told 'Your parcel is ready for delivery, but a payment is required' Do not be fooled, this is a Scam. Please be wary of such messages.

Next meeting date: Sunday 31st July 7pm The Rising Sun