

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ESSEX

Registered in England number 4536412. Charity Number: 1094178

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 5 October 2019 at Crossing Temple, Witham Road, Braintree, Essex. CM77 8PD.

1. Apologies for Absence. Wendy Heels, Rosemary Turner, Peter Marran, Rosalind Gunning, Ed Dixon, Michael Hand, Elizabeth Rose, Bertie Rope, James Bettley DL, Nick Shuttleworth, Cllr Louise Pepper, Helen Clothier and David Clothier.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2018
The Minutes were available at the meeting. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM was proposed by Petra Ward and seconded by John Bloxsome and was carried unanimously by a show of hands. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
3. The Report of the Chairman
The report of the Chairman was circulated before the meeting and was available at the meeting. Helen Bloxsome proposed the acceptance of the Report and this was seconded by Molly Clarke. The motion was accepted unanimously.
4. The Reports of the Trustees and the Treasurer
The Treasurer's report to the AGM and the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2019, which were available at the meeting and had been circulated previously, were noted.
A resolution to accept the reports was proposed by Helen Bloxsome and seconded by Tricia Moxey and passed unanimously.
5. Annual Accounts
The Accounts of CPRE Essex for the year to 31 March 2019, which were available at the meeting and had been circulated previously, were noted.
A resolution to approve the Accounts was proposed by David Knight and seconded by Tricia Moxey and was passed unanimously.
6. Re-election of Members of the Executive Committee.

It was noted that the following members of the Executive Committee retire from office, in accordance with the Constitution of CPRE Essex, and offer themselves for re-election:

John Bloxsome, Ed Dixon, David Knight, Tricia Moxey, John Palombi, Petra Ward and Jill Hinds.

A motion to re-elect the above as members of the Executive Committee was proposed by David Edmunds and seconded by Jill Hinds and carried unanimously.

It was noted that Rosemary Turner had also retired from office but was not seeking re-election as she had completed six years' service.

Bertie Rope had agreed to be elected on to the Executive Committee. A motion to appoint Bertie Rope was proposed by Jill Hinds and seconded by Bob Erith and carried unanimously by a show of hands.

At this point Mr Vincent Thompson, DL. MA. (Cantab) Vice Lord Lieutenant of Essex, took over as Chairman of the meeting.

7. 8, 9. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer of CPR Essex.

The next items were taken together.

It was noted that David Knight was willing to stand for re-election as Chairman, having been nominated by the Executive committee in accordance with Article 43. A motion for the re-election of David Knight as Chairman was proposed by John Bloxsome and seconded by Tricia Moxey. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was noted that Tricia Moxey was willing to stand for re-election as Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee for the coming year. A motion to re-elect Tricia as Vice-Chairman was proposed by Helen Bloxsome, seconded by David Knight and passed unanimously.

It was noted that John Bloxsome was willing to stand for election as Treasurer for the coming year. A resolution to re-elect John as Treasurer was proposed by Tricia Moxey and seconded by Jill Hinds and was carried unanimously.

David Knight then resumed the chair.

10 Appointment of Independent Examiner.

It was noted that Janet Stobart FRCA was willing to continue in the role of Independent Examiner. A resolution to re-elect Janet Stobart was proposed by John Bloxsome and seconded by Tricia Moxey and was carried unanimously.

11 Re-Election of Honorary Officers of the Branch.

It was noted that the current Honorary Officers of the Branch were willing to be re-elected.

A motion to re-elect Jennifer Tolhurst, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, President was proposed by David Knight and seconded by Bob Erith and was carried unanimously. A motion to re-elect the following as Vice Presidents of CPRE Essex:

Ann Bartleet
George Courtauld
Robert Erith
Patricia Hermann

was proposed by John Bloxsome and seconded by Tessa Fisher and carried unanimously.

David Knight said he was delighted that Simon Hall had agreed to be appointed as an additional Vice-President of CPRE Essex. A motion to appoint Simon Hall was proposed by David Knight and seconded by Jill Hinds and carried unanimously.

12. Any Other Business.

CPRE Length of Service Awards and volunteer medals were presented to Jill Hinds, Tricia Moxey, Petra Ward and Liz Lucas by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Vincent Thompson. (Awards are also to be given to Bertie Rope, Rosemary Turner, Ed Dixon and Keith Francis. They were not present at the meeting, so their awards were to be given to them at a later date.)

The need for younger members was highlighted – it was pointed out that other groups had the same issues as younger people did not seem inclined to join organised societies or campaigns. Yet many young people do care about the environment and climate change issues. Social media is an important way to contact younger people. It was suggested that CPRE Essex could work with other groups such as CAUSE and engage with schools, some of whose pupils follow us on social media.

Robert Erith mentioned the review of national parks and that this issue needed support from organisations such as CPRE.

Simon Amstutz, manager of the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONBs team, gave a presentation.

Simon explained the complexity of his role; he made the point that although covering 15% of England, AONBs did not receive anything like the funding received by National Parks. England's 34 AONBs received some £6 million per annum in total in comparison with the £10 million for the South Downs NP alone.

Simon explained that designation as a protected landscape did not stop development proposals.

The team were pushing for Dedham Vale AONB to be extended along the south bank of the River Stour at a time when it could be argued our environment and natural heritage were threatened. 60% of recorded species had declined in recent decades.

Simon stressed the economic importance of AONBs, with Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast and Heaths estimated to contribute some £250 million to local coffers while supporting 6,000 jobs.

Simon commented that the UK spent £7.4 billion a year on tourism. It was hard to overstate the benefits of a high-quality landscape to a prosperous economy and a healthier society.

David Knight thanked Simon for his detailed and informative presentation and thanked him for his contribution to the meeting.