

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ESSEX

Registered in England number 4536412. Charity Number: 1094178

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3 October 2020 by Zoom

The Chairman welcomed members and outlined the code of conduct for the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence. Rosalind Gunning, Sonia Coode-Adams, Mary Adams, Ian Brown (Little Easton PC), John Flack, Daphne Revell, Mr N Wilkinson (the Royden Society), Peter Chillingworth, George Courtauld, Pauline Cooke, Betty Copsey, Alan Poultney, Patricia Croxton-Smith, Peter Foreman, Mr J Butler, Helen Clothier, Georgina Bassett (Ramsden Grays PC), Gwen Hoare, Pauline Cooke, Patricia Hermann, Ailsa Wilding, Julian Atkins, Maria Dyer (Cold Norton PC) and Nick Shuttleworth (RCCE).
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2019
The Minutes were available at the meeting. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM was proposed by Tricia Moxey 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. Petra Ward proposed the acceptance of the Report and this was seconded by Tricia Moxey. The motion was accepted unanimously.
4. The Reports of the Trustees and the Treasurer and the Independent Examiner.
The Treasurer's Report to the AGM and the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2020 had been circulated previously and contents noted.
A resolution to accept the Reports was proposed by Petra Ward and seconded by John Palombi and passed unanimously.
5. Annual Accounts
The Accounts of CPRE Essex for the year to 31 March 2020, which were circulated previously, were noted.
A resolution to approve the Accounts was proposed by Petra Ward and seconded by John Palombi and was passed unanimously.
6. Special Resolution to Amend the Memorandum and Articles.
Under Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006, and Clauses 6 and 7 in the Memorandum of Association, the members of the Executive of CPR Essex propose that the attached resolution is passed as a Special Resolution. The resolution was proposed by John Bloxsome and seconded by Anne Bartleet.

7 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:

David Knight, Tricia Moxey, John Palombi, Petra Ward, Jill Hinds, Bertie Rope.

A motion to re-elect the above as members of the Executive Committee was proposed by Anne Bartleet and seconded by Robert Erith and carried unanimously.

It was noted that John Bloxsome had also retired from office but was not seeking re-election as he has completed six years' service.

Rosemary Turner and Richard Ward have agreed to be elected to the Executive Committee. A motion to appoint them was proposed by John Bloxsome and seconded by Anne Bartleet 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.

8.9,10 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 Simon Hall and seconded by Bertie Rope. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was noted that Tricia Moxey is 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 David Mairs, seconded by Simon Hall and passed unanimously.

It was noted that Richard Ward is willing to stand for election as Treasurer for the coming year. A resolution to re-elect Richard as Treasurer was proposed by John Bloxsome and seconded by David Knight and was carried unanimously.

David Knight then resumed the chair.

11 Appointment of Independent Examiner.

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

12 Re-Election and Election of Honorary Officers of the Branch.

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

A motion to re-elect Jennifer Tolhurst, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, as President was proposed by Rosemary Turner and seconded by Jill Hinds 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
Simon Hall

was proposed by Bertie Rope and seconded by Vincent Thompson and carried unanimously.

12. Any Other Business.

Jill Hinds thanked David Knight for all his hard work as Chairman.

Talk by Crispin Truman, Chief Executive of CPRE.

Crispin told us that three years of strategy work had concluded with the launch of the rebranded CPRE as the countryside charity. We were told that the organisation had reserves and member support but we would be looking forward with a view to attracting young people and a vision of a thriving, beautiful countryside. There had, however, been a long-term decline in money and membership for years, with the charity over-dependent on legacies and too many policy battles lost.

Hence the Purpose Project was launched. It was clear that the CPRE logo was old-fashioned and unattractive, and people didn't know what it represented. So there would be a move towards the idea of the countryside charity, although we would still be called CPRE.

Crispin gave us a quick historical run-through, referring particularly to the concepts of good growth and good houses in the right places. He detailed the vision (what we wanted to achieve) and the mission (what we needed to do). It was important to encourage urban people into the countryside and, in the other direction, get the Green Belt pushed back into our towns and cities.

The Chief Executive conceded that CPRE had neglected its local network, but that was to change. A new volunteering partnership team would be starting in the north and midlands. There was still a lot of work needed to raise public awareness of who we were, while it was important to diversify our income sources. CPRE would be engaging in more hard-nosed recruitment and there would be a strong campaign next year.

We could not ignore the matter of proposed planning reform, the detail of which looked grim. Our consultation response could be viewed on the CPRE website.

The government appeared tied to market solutions in relation to housing, which was drawing yet more people to the South East.

An example of the craziness that could unfold through the new proposals was a doubling of housebuilding in both Cumbria and the Cotswolds and a reduction in cities.

Finally, Crispin mentioned the fact we had a new chairman in Simon Murray.