

**MINUTES OF THE WINTER GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTH EAST HAYLING RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION HELD IN NORTH HAYLING RECREATION HALL ON SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024 AT
7.30PM**

Derek Bowerman (NEHRA's Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting especially in view of the inclement weather post storm Darragh. He gave a special welcome to our guest, Councillor Wilf Forrow,

Derek explained the Fire Drill.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

M.P. Alan Mak, Councillor Paul Gray, Councillor Jonathan Hulls, Councillor Lance Quantrill, Leah Turner, Sue Palmer, Simon and Jo Bound, Adrian and Debbie Wardle, Mouse Cooke-Priest, Ruth Dyche, Andy Biltcliffe, Jane Dodsworth, John Blake, Stella and Bill Smith, Martin and Wendy Rhodes and Coleen Jackson.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM

These had been sent to all the members and were approved as correct.

Proposed: Derek Matthews. Seconded: Fenella May.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Derek said the committee had met regularly throughout the year. He introduced the members of the committee.

Chris Emery: Social Secretary and Bar organiser, Mark Glasgow: Secretary, Fenella May: Membership Secretary and newsletter e-mails, Jane Dodsworth: Major Planning and attending Harbour Conservancy meetings, Derek Matthews: Planning, Peter Marshall: Signs in the village and Community Resilience, Andy Biltcliffe: Planning, Hannah Williams: Social Events, Tom Dyche: Website, Flooding and Signs, Alan Bartlett: Press and Newspaper reports and Lesley Shayler: Treasurer.

Derek and Fenella attended a Community Resilience event in Havant. Havant Borough Council have a 24 hour helpline available to cover emergencies eg. flooding or fallen trees.

Peter and Hannah are involved with Gridlock. The aim of Gridlock is to keep Northney clear and maintain access onto Hayling when Havant Road is closed. A possible plan would be to park large vehicles at the applegreen garage. This happened recently on the 13th November 2024.

Chris arranged a Pop Up Pub in October which was reasonably well attended and another one is scheduled for February 2025.

Hannah arranged the Reverse Advent Calendar. The boxes have been arranged to be collected at the Carol Service. Derek thanked Hannah for her work on this project. The food is going to the Community Pantry at the library.

On Thursday the 12th December the Community Carol Service will be held in the Village Hall. Donations will be taken for the Hayling Food Bank.

Next year on Saturday 25th January we are arranging an evening with our First Responders. There will be an opportunity to meet some of them and hear their stories. There will be training on the use of the defibrillator. Refreshments will be available and children will be welcome. Entry will be free but Derek will be taking donations on the door for the First Responders.

On Saturday 22nd March 2025 there will be a Murder Mystery Evening. There will be more information about this event after Christmas.

The NEHRA AGM will be held in May 2025. We are looking for volunteers for the Committee.

Rubbish clearance has continued to be organised by Chris.

Derek thanked Jane Bowerman and all the women who had contributed to the food provision for the evening.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lesley commented that the finances are healthy and money is available for events.

Community Account: £1031.51 Business Account: £7703.59

There were no questions for Lesley.

PLANNING REPORT

Jane Dodsworth attends Harbour Conservancy meetings on our behalf. There is nothing new to report.

Councillor Paul Gray was due to give a report on North Common but unfortunately due to family commitments was unable to attend the meeting. He sent a report that Derek read out.

Paul Gray thanked the residents who had attended the meeting at the village hall in October about the management of North Common. He apologised for the failings of Havant Borough Council and reiterated the apology from the Executive Head of the department.

He is confident that things will be different in the future with constructive collaborative conversations between the council and the residents.

Councillor Wilf Forrow commented that the Chichester Harbour Site Management Plan for North Common and Saltmarsh "seems to have died a death."

David Smith put in a plea for more litter bins and dog waste bins on the common.

Amelia Gould asked about a possible playground on North Common. Derek responded that it was up to Havant Borough Council who owned the land.

Derek asked Tom to give updates on City Fibre and the NEHRA Flood Survey.

CityFibre: Tom said that City Fibre had won the contract to improve broadband to Hampshire by installing fiberoptic cable from the node. This would provide improved streaming speeds and reliability. Tom commented that there were at least 21 providers using CityFibre in this location and suggested internet provider salesmen would be visiting homes. There was a comment from the floor saying that listed buildings could not have it installed.

Jane Bowerman asked when the system was going to be live. Hannah commented that she knew of a number of properties who had already had it installed to the property, they had paid for it themselves.

NEHRA Flood Survey Tom said in the early hours of April 9th 2024 there had been a significant flood in this location and also in the South of the island. Tom said he had been surprised at the number of houses involved.

Tom commented that the reason for the survey was to provide real data for the various agencies involved and not rely on hearsay. He hoped that the data would make the argument stronger for upkeep and work on sea defences and surface water infrastructure.

There are 270 properties in the NEHRA catchment area. The survey was given to every property in the area in the form of a leaflet drop. The survey had responses from 112 people equivalent to a response rate of 42%.

Tom thanked Fenella for her work with the survey and thanked everyone who had completed the survey.

Councillor Wilf Forrow said that the Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy had been brought forward to 2025. They had been reticent about making the details too public. The main problem with flooding in the North of the island is flooding of Havant Road and maintaining transport links. (Councillor Wilf Forrow later clarified his comments. 'The Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy planned activity for Mengham has been brought forward to 2025 because the flooding damage in April 2024 had been made public. Properties in the North of the island may well benefit from the Council having to maintain transport links to the island along Havant Road when floods occur.'

A comment from the floor was that on the morning of the flood in April her child could not get to school on their bicycle.

WEBSITE REPORT

Tom said the Website was there to provide a service for members and he is always open to suggestions. There has been a statistical increase of use of the site every year. The website is a good medium to publicise local events. Tom also mentioned the recent creation of a facebook page which is open for NEHRA members. Fenella had been the main inspiration for this.

A comment from the floor asked about a two way facebook page. Fenella said this would be awkward and time-consuming to moderate and that she was taking things slowly. Links are now available to the site. A picture album is being established of local scenes but Fenella reminded people that they might need permission to publish a photograph.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Fenella said in May 2024 the number of NEHRA members was 230. There are now 264 members. This is the greatest number of members ever recorded.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A question was asked about the sleepers at the southern end of the village. Whilst they have effectively slowed down traffic entering the village, the Council is involved with the owner with regards to their final position. Councillor Wilf Forrow has been helping with the situation.

A comment from the floor was that the original position of the sleepers would inevitably cause an accident.

Jane Marshall wanted to thank Chris and Peter for all the work they had carried out on The John Griffiths Telephone Kiosk and Northney Book Exchange.

Councillor Wilf Forrow commented on the work that is being carried out on the Billy Trail between North Hayling Halt and the bridge. The northern part of the Trail will continue to be closed until the end of January.

Chris spoke on behalf of John Blake regarding the Tree of Light at St Peter's Church. Light bulbs of Remembrance could be purchased for £7.50 cash. Chris had the application forms available. A comment from the floor was why could the payment not be paid by BACS?

Derek presented Fenella with a bunch of flowers in recognition of her contribution to NEHRA. Mark gave Fenella a new target of 270 members.

Mark thanked Derek for his leadership as Chairman of NEHRA comparing his leadership to that of a flock of sandhill cranes. The cranes rotate their leaders, handle turbulence well and honk their affirmation for the leading bird. Derek is good at delegating, sorting out difficulties and everyone present either honked or clapped Derek to thank him.

The meeting ended with a buffet and wine supper. A record was kept of everyone who attended.