

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTH EAST HAYLING RESIDENTS'**

**ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE NORTH HAYLING RECREATION HALL ON FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**AT 7.30PM**

Derek Bowerman, Chairman of the NEHRA Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to our two guests; Councillor Paul Gray and Councillor Wilf Forrow.

Derek then went through the Fire Drill.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Jonathan Hulls, Andy and Val Biltcliffe, Ruth Dyche, Mary Makin and Malcolm Emery, David Biggs and Gillard, David Busch, Simon and Jo Bound, Nicola Wise and Neil Upton-Brown, Marilyn and John Blake, Coleen Jackson, Janet Matthews, George Atkins.

Councillor Lance Quantrill gave his apologies in case he did not make it to the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE WINTER GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Derek said the Committee had met regularly throughout the year and the meetings had been well attended and there was a good atmosphere in the meetings. Derek reviewed the roles of the Committee Members.

Mark Glasgow: Secretary, Fenella May: Membership Secretary, Tom Dyche: Website Secretary and Flood Management, Lesley Shayler: Treasurer, Derek Matthews: Local Planning, Jane Dodsworth: Harbour Conservancy, Chris Emery: Social Events and Bar Organiser, Peter Marshall: Local Maps and Social Events, Alan Bartlett: Press Secretary and Social Events, Hannah Williams: Social Events and Printing, Andy Biltcliffe: Planning and Flood Management.

Derek went through the NEHRA events since the Winter General Meeting.

In December 2024 Carols In The Village was held here with the St Peter's Singers. £276 was raised for the Food Bank. Hannah organised a Reverse Advent Calendar and 52 boxes were delivered to the Community Pantry.

In January 2025, Mark organised an evening with the Hayling Island Community Responders. The event went well with some 70 people making use of the training defibrillators. £265 was given to the Responders by the people who attended.

Tom, Fenella and Andy carried out a Flood Survey following the flooding of April 9<sup>th</sup> 2024. The information is being used to try to take matters forward on flooding and sea defences. Tom and Andy have made contact with Sarah Reghiff, the local lead at Hampshire County Council.

A Pop Up Pub followed in February 2025, organised by Chris and supported by Mark and Peter behind the bar. 80 people attended the event and all the beer was drunk.

In March 2025, Fenella and Hannah organised a Quiz Night. All the tables were taken and everyone enjoyed the evening and there have been requests to repeat this format.

Following the Planning Application for the Bird Mitigation Scheme at Northney Farm, Fenella collated a comprehensive list of questions which were answered by Tim and Mary Pike.

Derek said he had attended a Devolution Meeting in March 2025 at the Golf Club with Jane. At the meeting there were discussions about the future Councils and thoughts about a Hayling Parish Council.

Derek thanked the members of the Committee and also all those who had helped with refreshments at the events.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Lesley had sent a copy of the year's accounts to all the members. She commented that the finances were in good heart. There were no questions on the accounts.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted and a copy has been lodged with these minutes.

Proposed by Becky Smith and Seconded by Madeleine Tredwell.

#### PLANNING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jane reported that nothing controversial had come up with Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

Jane gave a quick resume of English Devolution. Essentially the Government is transferring powers and funding to local areas. Some parts of the UK already have this and they are called Regional Strategic Authorities with a Mayor. With the merging of Local Authorities Havant could end up being combined with Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight to form the "Solent Strategic Authority"

Jane also talked about Local Government Reorganisation. The Government wants to have new Unitary Authorities that cover populations of 500,000 people. These Unitary Authorities would provide social care, education and highways. The Unitary Authorities would sit under the Strategic Authorities. The Government has asked the Local Authorities to look at this and submit their proposals by September 2025. In May 2026 a Mayoral election will take place for Hampshire and The Solent. The new Unitary Authorities will take effect in 2027-2028.

Derek asked Councillor Paul Gray to address the meeting on the subject of North Common.

#### Councillor Paul Gray

He commented on the number of people in attendance and said he did not know any other Community Association with such a high turnout. He said the thorny issue of people backing on to the Common would be discussed later. From the floor it became clear that residents in Northney Road that backed on to the Common had not received any information.

COMMON CLEARANCE. The Council had not appreciated the environmental importance of the site so NORSE needed to hire specialist teams to do the work on their behalf. So far there has been scrub clearance. Councillor Gray emphasized repeatedly that this is the first part of the work proposed. Councillor Gray, Councillor Netty Shepherd and Claire Griffiths are the people involved.

NO WORK FOR TWO MONTHS. During May and June no work will be done because of nesting birds and to see which species emerge on the cleared ground. It is known that orchids were present before.

BIOBLITZ. Bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, ecologists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a continuous time period. Councillor Gray said he wanted to focus on the public participation during this period and it will provide all of us with the opportunity to get involved. Fenella requested that the information about this process could be passed on through the NEHRA website. Councillor Gray said it would provide an opportunity for everyone to work with the experts. The Bioblitz would occur in July and August.

There were a number of comments from the floor

Richard Lee asked where North Common was located. Councillor Gray explained the position of North Common and that it was accessed through a small car park off Northney Road.

Andy Berry said that brambles have taken over North Common and the only species you will find on the Common is bramble.

Chris Emery said that the Friends of Chichester Harbour had been involved with work groups on the Common in the past.

Denise and Peter Hill commented that the sloe bushes had been removed and put in place to clear the paths and make them usable.

David Lown was very appreciative of the work that is being carried out by the council.

Hannah Williams asked about the on going care for North Common and the relationship with residents. Councillor Gray said there would be funding available for maintenance and the relationship with residents in the future will be a partnership, working with the residents.

Amelia Gould asked about the funding and Councillor Gray said the funding for maintenance was available for one year.

Nigel Chilcott commented that a Parish Council had been tried before but it never got established. He also wondered whether Langstone could combine with Hayling as a Parish Council.

Becky Smith thanked Councillor Gray for his presentation.

ACCESS ON TO THE COMMON FOR RESIDENTS WHO BACK ON TO THE COMMON. Chris Rigott has shared a draft document with Dr. Collino consenting to individual accesses on to the Common. The Council are waiting for a reply.

WORK ON SEA WALL. Chichester Harbour Conservancy have allocated funding for feasibility work on the remnants of the sea wall to improve the habitat for nesting birds. People involved include ecologist Tristan Norton and Councillor Shepherd.

Councillor Gray said he would see if he could get movement on the clearance of paths and sort out why residents in Northney Road had not been contacted. He encouraged residents to contact the Council with their concerns.

Councillor Forrow commented that North Common is maintained by Havant Borough Council on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Derek asked Councillor Wilf Forrow to speak on Devolution and Local Councils

#### Councillor Wilf Forrow

He said Devolution had already taken place in Manchester and Birmingham and the same process will be happening in Hampshire. Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council will not exist. Havant will be part of Gosport, Fareham and Portsmouth or the South Coast or the East half of Hampshire. Overall there will be a smaller number of larger councils.

With the loss of Havant Borough Council it makes more of a case for Hayling to have a Local Council or Parish Council. 80% of Hampshire's budget goes on social care. Havant has a lot of land assets. It now makes sense to have a Local Council and use its own assets. Councillor Forrow encouraged the residents to sign the petition for Hayling to have a Local Council. If there are 1200 signatures (7.5%) Havant Borough Council would start the process moving.

Councillor Forrow also talked about the Local Plan. The Local Plan states that there will be no more development on Hayling. The previous Local Plan was thrown out because there was inadequate consultation with the community. The Local Plan will stand irrespective of what happens in the future.

Councillor Gray said it was important to have a Local Plan in place as it makes one more secure. If there is no Local Plan then one is more exposed to being exploited.

Jane commented that Portsmouth and Southampton are already Unitary Authorities. In the future there will be Subunitaries. A Parish Council or Local Council would hold sway and be a protection.

Councillor Wilf Forrow encouraged the residents to attend a public meeting on the Local Plan on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at the United Reformed Church on Hayling at 7.30pm.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Fenella commented on the new signing in register that was in operation for tonight's meeting.

Last year we had 264 members.

Fenella said there were four new members who joined at the meeting making the total 222 members.

There are 37 Facebook members. To qualify one needs to live in North East Hayling and they need to be a NEHRA member.

#### WEBSITE REPORT

Tom provided a report on the NEHRA website. It continues with the usual updates on events and planning.

On the Sea Defence page there are links to Flood Risk and Flood Warning through the Environment Agency. The Flood Risk can provide an accurate prediction for local flooding for a particular address. The Flood Warning can provide a predicted 5 day forecast for flooding. There is also a link to Emsmet which is situated at the end of the Emsworth Channel close to the Northney shoreline. This provides detailed information about the wind and tide.

There are no other significant changes on the website but Tom did explain that he would be updating the software later this year.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Derek thanked the 3 people who are retiring from the Committee, Chris Emery, Alan Bartlett and Peter Marshall.

Mark put forward the motion for the re-election of the Committee Members wishing to serve on the NEHRA Committee for another term. These members were Derek Bowerman, Jane Dodsworth, Derek Matthews and Tom Dyche. This motion was seconded by Martin Rhodes. There was a unanimous vote in favour and no one voted against.

Andy Biltcliffe and Hannah Williams were co-opted members of the Committee. The motion was put forward for these members to become full members of the Committee. Fenella May proposed the motion and it was seconded by Jane Dodsworth. The motion was carried.

Denise Hill had applied to become a member of the Committee. She did a short presentation. She felt her strengths included team work and clear communication. She is keen for Northney to retain its character and as a Committee Member would value the opportunity to engage with local issues. She would give full commitment to the role and an opportunity for feedback to residents.

The motion was put forward for Denise Hill to join the NEHRA Committee. Lorraine Viles proposed the motion and it was seconded by Madeleine Tredwell. The motion was carried.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were two questions from the floor concerning the Bird Mitigation Scheme at Northney Farm and speed control through the village

Councillor Paul Gray said he was happy to e-mail further information about Northney Farm and if there was support in the village he would see if he could get funding for hand held speed cameras and high viz jackets.

Mark asked him if he was willing to continue to update NEHRA about North Common and he said he was willing to attend the next meeting and speak again on the subject.

At the end of the meeting interested attendees were shown pictures by Councillor Gray of the work that had been carried out on North Common. The pictures showed North Common before and after the initial clearance.

Mark thanked Derek for his leadership of the Committee and everybody in the room responded by thanking him by clapping.

Derek gave a leaving gift to Chris Emery and arranged to visit Alan Bartlett with a leaving gift. The gifts came with the thanks of the Committee.

62 people attended this meeting.