

LANGSTONE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
BOSMERE SCHOOL 7.00pm THURSDAY 14th MAY 2015

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors Tim Pike and Jackie Branson and 25 members of the Association. 15 apologies for absence had been received.
2. **MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM:** These had been agreed previously by the Committee. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Jane Thurstan and seconded by David Barrett. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
3. **MATTERS ARISING AND NOT ON THE AGENDA:** There were no matters arising from the 2014 AGM apart from parking that would be covered in the Chairman's Report.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman reported that:

"First I should like to summarise the events of the last year.

Bosmere Field – The Langbrook Farmhouse opened in July last year and it seems that it has been seething with guests ever since. On behalf of the Association I have been to see the General Manager about the frying smells and the obtrusive lighting late at night. The Environmental Health department has been very cooperative. If problems reoccur it would be most effective if the individual resident would get in touch by phoning HBC Environmental Health through Customer Services. The parking is already becoming a problem there and we anticipate that it will be exacerbated when the Premier Inn opens. There is no question about whether there will be a Premier Inn, but simply when. We have asked for a change of colour. A cuboid building has already been granted permission but we believe a change to cream and brown will be accepted.

Royal Oak and Ship Inns – Your committee in collaboration with the Langstone Village Association have had a considerable input into the changes at the Royal Oak and the Ship Inn. Both we believe to have been carried out sympathetically.

Venturi House – The work on the Venturi House is still under consideration but David Barrett will tell you more later.

Parking – The Langstone parking Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) is virtually complete with the support of the great majority. Towers Gardens and The Mallards are being treated separately. I can assure you that your committee has worked tirelessly to bring this about. At least I can report that I have received no emails on the subject for months. Oliver Seebohm at HBC has done a splendid job and has done everything - apart from persuading SSE to build a new car park!

LRA Noticeboard – The noticeboard, which you may well have heard about in the Newsletter, has been refurbished. The front has been removed, the Perspex replaced and refitted – all thanks to a "Friend of Langstone".

I should now like to say a few words about the **Langstone Residents Association**. No one quite knows when it was founded but it could have been when decisions were being made about the incinerator. I believe the founder chairman was Jack Hickmott, Jackie Pattenden's father and David Pattenden's father-in-law. David, we hope will be our new Secretary before the evening is out. Diana Nutting was a later Chairman as were Peter Turnbull and George Hedley. George Hedley, who called himself "the last peasant" was a fund of information about Langstone and about farming. The Association has dealt with many issues over the years, notably the Bosmere Field, which eventually has been developed with the present building, although we would have preferred it to remain a green space."

The Chairman went on to read out a letter from our recently retired MP David Willetts, of which the text is as follows:

“After twenty-three years I am now ceasing to be the Member of Parliament for Havant. It has been a great privilege to serve our area for so long. I just wanted to say how much I have appreciated working with your residents’ Association. The network of Residents’ Associations in our area contributes so much to our sense of community. They help people really feel they belong to an area. You were always a voice of local practical common sense, keeping your local elected representatives up to the mark. I know Residents’ Associations depend on lots of volunteers – please do pass on my thanks to them for what they do to keep our local community spirit alive. I wish you all the very best for the future.”

The Chairman then noted that she had been a member of the committee of the LRA for many years, recently for three years as Secretary and finally for three years as Chairman. She concluded by wishing the Langstone Residents Association every good wish for the future.

In questions arising from the Chairman’s Report Derek Holmes stated that he was not happy with the retention of parking bays in the Langstone Avenue hammerhead. He said that, apart from the obstruction of large vehicles attempting to turn there, damage had been caused to trees and to his fence by these vehicles. He was informed by committee members that the parking bays had been retained as HBC had found that a majority of residents wanted to keep the bays. Ian Munro stated that large vehicles were frequently forced to reverse back along Langstone Avenue with considerable difficulty (due to parked cars) as they could not turn in the hammerhead. Alan Sherwood pointed out that parking bays should not be sited in turning spaces. Following discussions, Ian Munro stated that he would gather a consensus of residents’ views and inform HBC traffic department. Councillor Tim Pike stated that he would inform Oliver Seebohm (HBC traffic department) of the concerns raised.

5. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer reported as follows:

“I am pleased to report that our new Honorary Independent Examiner, Owen Davies, found the Association’s Financial Statements presented a true and fair view of the state of its finances and the Committee has subsequently approved them. Copies of these Accounts are laid before the members attending the AGM for their information.

Income and Expenditure Account - The first thing that you will notice is that the Association made a surplus of £380 this year, which was down on the previous year by a little under £170. This was principally due to the heavier expenditure on ink cartridges and printing paper compared with the unusually light spend in the previous year.

The principal source of income is from subscriptions at £700. This is once again down slightly from the previous year, although this shortfall was more than made up for by more generous donations when the subscriptions were being collected. There are just under five hundred households in the whole of Langstone of which just over two thirds belong to the LRA. The number of members who now receive newsletters and other communications by email is now over 90 percent, up from 85 percent a year ago.

We continue to support the Friends of Chichester and Langstone Harbours as well as the Havant Civic Society. In addition, we were pleased to support the work of one of our members, Ernie Wells, by financing No Cold Calling Zone signage in Langbrook Close and Brookmead Way. The Committee has also promised to fund the purchase of up to £100 of essential equipment for the Langstone Flood Watch as and when it is required.

The **Balance Sheet** indicates that the Association held **£49** in its current account at year- end, **£4,519** in its Business Instant Access Account and **£20** of Petty Cash. There was an additional

£1,274 in a special account, which the Association holds on behalf of its affiliate, the Langstone Conservation Group. These funds are credited to a designated reserve, the “Langstone Conservation Group Projects Fund”. Disbursements of £196 from this reserve were made for the LCG’s membership of the Conservation Volunteers and its insurance costs, (plus a donation of 50p), all of which was reimbursed by Havant Borough Council.

You may note also that £100 has been transferred from General Reserve to the Langstone Flood Watch Fund, “ring-fencing” this amount for whenever it may be required. Current Assets less current liabilities total **£5,860**, which is represented by the General Fund plus designated reserves.

With a General Fund of nearly **£4,500** represented wholly in cash, it is apparent that our Association is in a strong position to carry out its objectives. Your Committee sees no reason to change the current rate of annual subscription of £2 per household, which will therefore apply to the forthcoming subscription year.”

6. **ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE:** With the exception of Angela Armstrong (Chairman) and Henry Thurstan (Secretary) who do not wish to seek re-election, the other current Committee members are willing to continue serving for the coming year. Ian Munro has volunteered to join the Committee. With the incorporation of these changes the re-election of the Committee en bloc was proposed by Pauline Williams, seconded by Robert Griffiths and then carried unanimously.

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS & INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

Elaine Kilbey has volunteered to serve as Chairman and David Pattenden has volunteered to serve as Secretary. There were no other nominations for these posts. The Treasurer (Neil Paterson) and the Langstone Conservation Group co-ordinator (David Barrett) are both willing to continue in post. Owen Davies is willing to continue as the Honorary Independent Examiner. Re-election of these officers of the Association was proposed by Robert Griffiths, seconded by Michael Olding and then carried unanimously. Volunteers to serve on the committee are always welcome.

8. **LANGSTONE CONSERVATION GROUP REPORT:**

David Barrett reported as follows:

“Our main activity is **litter collection** – on the first Monday morning of the month along the Langbrook (Tesco) Stream(waders essential) and paths, or on the Tuesday if Bank Holiday. The filled bags are left for collection at Tesco, and separately collected recyclables (glass and plastic bottles and cans) are passed to Tesco recycling bins. These numbers and the bags filled are recorded. On the third Monday morning litter collection is along the Billy Trail and Langstone Harbour foreshore. Participation varies from 3 – 11. We are always seeking new volunteers to maintain our numbers; anyone interested please contact David Barrett 02392476230.

Additionally we have **special projects** which over the years have involved the replacement of stiles with kissing gates, refurbishment of footpaths, and currently, taking over from HBC the Venturi House opposite the Ship Inn as a Heritage Project. The **Venturi House** (VH) was built by HBC in 1928 to allow Portsmouth Water Company to measure pressure and flow of water to Hayling Island as a statutory obligation. When this measuring system became obsolete in 1950s custody of the building was returned to HBC. In 2013 discussion was opened with HBC to assess feasibility and the VH was opened for inspection. The structure appeared in good condition apart from water entry but the necessity to open and close the building against overnight use by undesirables meant the project was not pursued. Last year with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Billy Line the VH Project was reopened with the support of Peter Drury, leader of Hayling Billy 50. The discovery that the Public Conveniences opposite by the Ship had remained open overnight for 40 years without significant problems prompted reopening of negotiation with HBC. These are going well and our aim is to open the VH after a Change of Use

agreement with HBC and work to make it safe for public access for a trial period, to allow drying out and fuller assessment of the integrity of the roof. Ultimately the plan is to promote it as a Heritage Site, situated as it is at the crossing of the Billy Trail and long distance paths, with suitable information displayed within the VH.

9. PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT SHIP INN:

The Secretary reported that Alan Sherwood had asked the LRA to request HBC to provide a pedestrian crossing traffic island in the A3023/Langstone Road by the Ship Inn, as this is a much used but dangerous pedestrian crossing point for those using the long distance footpaths and accessing the Hayling Billy Trail and the Venturi House. In reply the Secretary had advised that the road by the Ship Inn was too narrow to install a traffic island. A traffic light controlled crossing was unacceptable to Hampshire County Council highways department as it would cause substantial delays to traffic. (This had been clearly demonstrated by traffic lights for roadworks nearby the previous day.) This reply was agreed by Councillor Jackie Branson. A pedestrian crossing island had been installed slightly further north opposite the entrance to Mill Lane, where the Hayling Billy Trail crosses the A3023/Langstone Road, (which is wider at this point) but this was not a popular crossing point as it did not match the main crossing requirement, at the Ship Inn. JJ Price advised that the A3023/Langstone Road had been widened as far south as Mill Lane when it had been straightened, but that the section further south past the Ship Inn had not been widened. In discussion Alan Sherwood confirmed the crossing was heavily used and insisted that that road was wide enough for an island by the Ship Inn. Whilst it was believed to be doubtful whether an island crossing could be installed there it was agreed that a safe crossing was needed.

ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS:

The Secretary advised that there was no other notified business but he had been asked to present the following statement from the Langstone Flood Watch coordinators:

Langstone Flood Watch (LFW) continues to monitor the tide and storm conditions in the harbour. There has been only one occasion in the last year when it has been required to respond – 9th October 2014 in the daytime. This proved an excellent test of LFW arrangements and a training opportunity for new Responders. Although the water reached the full length of the High Street, no properties were flooded. The flood response was subsequently reviewed and minor adjustments made to flood response arrangements. The winter passed without problem. LFW still welcomes new volunteer Responders. The Coordinators will meet in early autumn to review plans and provide any necessary Responder training.

Cyclists warning signs – Sue Sherwood drew attention to the problem of cyclists riding too fast on the Hayling Billy Trail with no audible warning (bells) thus causing a hazard to walkers, especially those with children and dogs. She asked that HBC install signs warning cyclists to pass well clear and slowly past walkers.

Alan Mak MP – Our newly elected MP, Alan Mak, arrived from Westminster at this point and was welcomed by the new Chairman Elaine Kilbey. Alan Mak introduced himself and said that he intended to work hard for all residents in Havant. He congratulated the Langstone Residents Association on a successful year.

At the conclusion of the meeting Neil Paterson (Treasurer) thanked the outgoing Chairman Angela Armstrong for her efforts for the Association over the years and presented her with a parting gift on behalf of the Association. He also thanked the outgoing Secretary (Henry Thurstan) for his work and presented him with a parting gift on behalf of the Association.

10. The Meeting closed at 8.46pm.

