

LANGSTONE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Bosmere Junior School at 7:00pm on Thursday 10 May 2018

Chaired by Mrs Angela Armstrong

(1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed Hampshire County Councillor Ray Bolton, and Havant Borough Councillors Jackie Branson and Tim Pike. There were 23 members of the Association present, including four Committee Members. There were nine apologies for absence received and recorded.

(2) MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

The minutes, having previously been agreed by the Committee, were submitted for formal approval and they were agreed. The record copy was signed by the Chairman.

(3) MATTERS ARISING AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

(4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Angela Armstrong began by noting the resignation of Elaine Kilbey and of being invited to become the Chairman in November 2017.

The primary matters addressed over the year remain much as always:-

- a) Potholes in Woodbury Avenue
- b) Smells from Langbrook Farm
- c) Traffic on the A3023 and Phase 1 of a Cycle/Pedestrian Separation Scheme between Mill Lane and Langstone Technology Park
- d) The Draft Local Plan 2036 and the particular threat to Southmere Field
- e) The subsequent work of the LRA on the Hayling Island Infrastructure Advisory Group
- f) The Environment Agency's scheme for Southmoor

The full text of the report is available upon request.

AA's report generated several questions and comments.

Councillor Jackie Branson advised the potholes in Woodbury Avenue are to be filled and Councillor Ray Bolton stated the current policy of Hampshire County Council is to repair potholes on a "designed to last" basis. R Hepworth asked if the car parking opposite the holes could be suspended temporarily until the work is complete.

The problem of smells reflected a breakdown of equipment within the Langbrook Farm restaurant, which has now been repaired. Members were reminded of the need to contact HBC's Customer Service with such complaints. That approach is much more likely to gain a result than requesting action via the LRA.

The cycle path work affecting the junction of Langbrook Close with Langstone Road has caused problems. The U turns are still to be executed and the proximity of the bus stop to the new traffic island causes delays. Councillor Tim Pike stated the work is under review, along with the next phase, and the general question of cycle routes north.

The Public Consultation phase of the Draft Local Plan 2036 is being assessed and Councillor Pike reported the revised draft should be available by November 2018. The critical "missing link" is HCC's Traffic Survey.

Southmoor Managed Retreat Scheme was withdrawn for reasons of cost.

A planning application for the site used by the farmer of Southmere Field has been submitted for three houses. The LRA has given comments.

Concluding her report, AA said the above subjects will be covered in greater depth later in the meeting and concluded by thanking the Committee for their support over the past year.

(5) TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chairman apologised for the absence of the Treasurer. The post has been somewhat problematic over the last year. She introduced the ex-Treasurer, Neil Paterson, who presented an "estimated account" for 2017/18. NP advised that he had acted in the role during an attempted handover of duties and had therefore obtained access to some of the information required to allow the production of a statement of the Association's income and expenditure. The report is appended to these minutes. He stressed it is his best estimate of the current position of the Association's finances.

It was noted subscriptions are down on the previous year, while expenditure was up. This reflects the £500 contribution made to the Southmere Field Fighting Fund. An allowance has been made for creditors, so that overall the deficit on the year amounts to £346.29. The £100 contribution to the Langstone Floodwatch Fund remains in reserve giving a total balance of £5,520.61. This includes a special account for the Langstone Conservation Group amounting to £1,075.77.

The Chairman thanked NP for his report, noting the account had not been examined by the Independent Examiner, Owen Davies and therefore could not be signed.

(6) ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Secretary explained that he had not received any nomination for much needed Committee members, but all current members, excepting David Barrett, had agreed to continue for the coming year. He further noted the need for a volunteer to take on the management of the LRA Website. This is an urgent problem, given the importance of the site as a means of communication and the fact that the present "Webmaster" has reported that she can no longer continue with this undertaking.

The re-election was proposed by Cecily Hughes, seconded by David Barrett and carried unanimously.

(7) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

DP noted the acting capacity in which Angela Armstrong and Sandra Jones had worked for the past period. They had agreed to continue with these roles, as he was as Secretary. Owen Davies has also agreed to act as the Independent Examiner.

The election of officers was then proposed by Jenny Paterson, seconded by Sarah Graham and carried unanimously.

(8) LANGSTONE CONSERVATION GROUP REPORT

In Mike Combes' absence, David Barrett gave the report.

The litter collecting cycles continue, twice a month. It was noted volumes are growing less and so are the numbers of volunteers, now down to between five and nine persons per session. Some 40 bags have been filled in the period May to May, including approximately 1100 recyclable items as well as more unusual things, such as wheels and tyres.

Progress with the Venturi House project has been slow. It had been recommended that the LCG apply for charitable status to allow HBC to pass to it the building. However, despite a fraught year with the application process the bid has failed. The Group must now reflect on the scheme and talk again with HBC to establish what options, if any, might be available.

The Group will be seeking other areas of activity, perhaps looking at footpath maintenance. This will be investigated, but DB stressed the need for more and younger volunteers.

The Chairman thanked David Barrett.

(9) HCC/HBC COUNCILLORS

Councillor Pike began with a comment on the Draft Local Plan 2036. He stated the feedback from the Public Consultation was of high quality and is being assessed by Officers, but the traffic information is still awaited. New data has been collected and all available variables are being built into the analysis. A revised plan is due to be published in November. Noting the LRA interest in Southmere Field, he stressed the fact that there is a difference between the way in which the field may be viewed from a planning perspective and the Covenant attached to the land, which is legal constraint.

Cllr TP informed the meeting that he had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Council and together with the new Leader, Cllr Michael Wilson, they have agreed to resist any attempt to revoke the Covenant. He hinted that Southmere Field will still appear as a site in the revised Local Plan.

The recent planning application for three houses on the farm site opposite Southmere Field was noted. Several members commented adversely about the access road and the overlooking of existing properties in the Mallards. Lauren Penn expressed particular concern. It is an outline application and has yet to be determined.

The sale, by auction, of the Railway Cottages – 59-61 Langstone Road was also noted. The new Owner and his/their intentions are unknown.

Southmoor – the planning application submitted by the Environment Agency, to create a new habitat after the seawall was breached and the land allowed to flood at periods of high tide, has been withdrawn. Cllr TP advised the cost of the scheme had proven too high, even though rising sea levels will inevitably result in intertidal flooding.

The land is criss-crossed by several public utilities which cannot remain under water. The costs of diversions has proved prohibitive. The local interest in the coastal footpath, the existing environment and future flooding of homes was noted. Cllr TP stated further discussions are ongoing with interested parties and Havant Borough Council's Coastal Team have been carrying out survey work. The plan is one of

“holding the line” in critical places. The LRA expressed a desire to be involved in any proposed works.

A number of questions were then put to the Councillors.

QUESTIONS

Q Alan Sherwood asked why had there been so many traffic surveys, but no improvement works.

A Councillor TP replied. The most up to date techniques are being used to seek the optimum information and thereby a solution. He said that despite the perception of residents there are other more heavily used road in the area.

Q The problem for many is that of crossing the A3023 – too few central reservations. Jackie Pattenden asked why not a pelican crossing at difficult places like the Ship Inn.

A Cllr TP there are too many factors involved to allow a simple answer.

Q Cecily Hughes asked why the Council cannot simply say there has been enough development and not allow any more. Why don't Officers listen to the views of the people?

A Cllr TP replied the Council is aware of concerns and is looking at ways to achieve some mitigation.

Q Felicity Coutts asked why, at controlled crossing points, there are no sounders to indicate it is safe to cross for people with visual impairment. The road is very dangerous.

A Cllr TP acknowledged the point and said he urges people to give up their cars and use the bus! Members referred to the joint use of footpaths and the dangers to pedestrians from speeding cyclists. Cllr TP further referred to the recent cycle/pedestrian works in Langstone Road and the problems posed by the mature trees. They limit the space required. One possible solution being examined is to narrow the road to allow a cycle path to be formed on the carriageway. It was pointed out that cyclists use virtually every footpath (even motor cycles) and they are causing very significant damage. There seems to be a need for a dedicated track for cycles.

In the context of the Langstone Conservation Group Report, Councillor Pike thanked David Barrett and his colleagues for the work they do keeping the streams clear. He offered to arrange publicity for the Group in the publication PO9.

Hampshire County Councillor Ray Bolton reminded the LRA of the County's Small Grant Scheme. He urged the making of a bid. The application procedure is on the HCC website. He stressed bids must be for appropriate works in public spaces and not on private land. Cllr RB advised he was asking Norse to tidy up the overpass, which crosses the A27. He also raised the matter of the car park adjacent to the Ship Public House. It was confirmed no further action is anticipated because of the various land ownerships, including the Brewers, and the need to reserve Hampshire's land for future coastal maintenance works.

Councillor Jackie Branson advised that Cllr TP had covered all the matters she would have raised.

Roy Hepworth asked about the deteriorating footpath running alongside the site of the Langstone Cutters Boat Compound. It is flooded and in places impassable. DB commented on the lack of drainage and said the LCG would look into the problem. He commented that previously the Langstone Village Association had been involved.

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DP advised the meeting that the new General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on the 25 May 2018. Essentially, this is designed to ensure personal information is protected. The controls do not specifically apply to associations such as the LRA, but if any member wishes to have their e-mail address removed from the general mailing list they should inform the Secretary. DP confirmed every effort is made to issue electronic messages by "blind copies" to ensure information is not disclosed.

11) RETIREMENT OF DAVID BARRETT

As the meeting closed the Chairman made a presentation to David Barrett to mark his many years of service to the LRA, going back to the days of Peter Turnbull. He has been a stalwart and his input will be missed. Angela handed over a gift package by way of a thank you.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm, with the Chairman thanking all for their attendance

David Pattenden Dip Arch RIBA BTP
Secretary
Langstone Residents Association
DGTP/JRP
16 May 2018