

# **SURREY CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

Registered Charity No. 1106245 Company No. 4551761

## **DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held at West Horsley Place Barn**

**10 September 2021 at 5.30 pm**

**In attendance:** Kristina Kenworthy (Chair), John Goodridge (Treasurer), Sonya Dixon (Trustee) Alivia Freeman (Trustee) Keith Tothill (Vice President), Anthony Isaacs (Vice President), Phil Partridge (Admin). 5 guests including Simon Murray, Chair of CPRE, Rob Fairbanks, Director of Surrey Hills AONB, Jane Reeves, and Astrid Johnson from Stroude RA. The meeting of 40 members was quorate.

**Apologies received:** Tim Harrold (President), Sarah Clayton (Trustee), Matt Mallinder (Trustee), Craig Freeman (Trustee), Gillian Hein (Vice President), Barry Collins, Chris Hamilton, Colin Hall, Elaine Evans (Mayford Society)

### **Welcome and Report from the Chair.**

The chair explained that the chair's report in the accounts on Companies House included the first quarter of 2021. The lease of the Leatherhead office was terminated and the long association with The Institute ended on 31 March 2021. It was clear during Covid lockdowns that retaining an office full of files with everyone working on laptops at home was an unnecessary expense. The benefits of meeting on Zoom virtually and ability to book rooms across Surrey to hold meetings where and when necessary were obvious. The role of Branch Director was therefore redundant and Andy Smith has been freed up to get on with his freelance journalist work for CPRE and for other organisations.

The Chair has been in post since 2016 and so will be looking for a successor to take over at the 2022 AGM. John Goodridge and the chair have spent the last year finding new trustees to help CPRE widen its appeal and attract new volunteers to help it achieve its charitable purposes. Without new members and volunteers the charity cannot survive and with an increasingly aged membership needs to reach a younger audience - through social media and web based platforms and by meeting in person across the county.

Craig Freeman could not be there as his wife was having their third child, but he had prepared the presentation (slides and pamphlet) for the AGM, Sonya Dixon had also helped us to understand more about our members and thanks were given to all who filled in the Survey. Both these new trustees are professional marketing people and gratitude was expressed for them bringing skills that the charity has lacked. Matt Mallinder came on board with an eye to governance and will make a great Vice Chair – keeping the chair and her successor on an even keel. Getting the governance and composition of the board right is important, not only in ensuring that there is a strategy, action plan and monitoring of performance and finances, but most importantly because it frees up the planning team and active campaigners to get on with providing the lifeblood of CPRE Surrey.

Alivia Kratke is the most recent recruit and has taken up responsibility for planning in Guildford. Tim Harrold has been introducing her to people in the borough and handing over files and know how. Given Tim's energetic contribution to CPRE Surrey his replacement needed to be somebody who was at least half his age! Alivia was welcomed and thanked for taking on new recruits and making the presentation today in Craig's absence.

Retiring from the Board is Sarah Clayton who has been involved for 20 years with CPRE, and will remain an active member and lead on Biodiversity. Malcolm Williamson is also due to retire having set CPRE Surrey up as a company in 2002 and been a sage voice on the board for many years. As a Vice President it is an acknowledgement of his long service to the charity. Gillian Hein came back on the Board last year and will return to being a Vice President, having stood down last month. Michael Sydney has completed 6 years on the board and due to stand down - he has been a long-time friend and asset for CPRE Surrey especially in his former role as the first Chair of the Surrey Hills AONB Board.

CPRE would not be gathered here today without the years of work dedication of these volunteers, who have also been trustees: Tim Harrold, Tim Murphy, Keith Tothill, Gillian Hein, Malcolm Williamson, Sarah Clayton, Anthony Isaacs, Michael Sydney and the list goes on. CPRE Surrey is in their debt and needs to keep learning from them and working with them in order to be effective in protecting Surrey's countryside well into the future.

The Chair announced that she was proud to say that having been the second youngest on the board for all of her time as chair, she is now the oldest – and learning so much by working with these talented

younger trustees, and very grateful to them for joining the cause. The Board can co-opt four more on to the board this coming year and expect to make up numbers again to a full complement of 10 by the next AGM.

The Chair said that planning and local plans (Mole Valley's draft LP is just out) have not been forgotten, nor the AONB Boundary Review, nor enabling development which in Effingham is running out of control, nor garden communities in Surrey Heath or Tandridge, or BOATS and 4x4s making life misery for other users of Wolvens Lane for example, or golf courses being eyed up for development as care homes and retirement villages, or gravel extraction in Virginia Water, or that Robert Jenrick's Planning Bill looms large ... and that more volunteers are needed to come forward to tell what is going on and get CPRE involved. She concluded by saying that "We need you (members) to tell us (trustees and active volunteers) what you want us to do to help you to achieve what you, as supporters of CPRE, feel is important. As the time is right for us to make some noise and together get fully involved with protecting Surrey's countryside.

The Hon. Treasurer John Goodridge gave a report on the accounts and budget for the next year. In 2020 the charity had an overall surplus of £27,300 mainly due to the generosity of four charitable trusts that Anthony Isaacs is associated with. These donations were split over two years so actually some of that surplus is for 2021 and not 2020. The arrangement with The London Green Belt Council where they paid us for our admin services, has ended and with it the £12,000 that they were paying us annually. The changes this year have dramatically reduced our cost base, and we hope to use our resources to better effect in the changing world that charities have to function in. We are going to focus on hiring freelancers, and have hired Phil Partridge to help with admin and IT. We intend to make other hires to work on coordinating planning campaigns, and our online media effort. The current state of finances in 2020 remain healthy, and we have a budget for 2021 that has been drawn up to include £30,000 of freelance costs for all the roles we intend to fill. We continue to have an anticipated deficit, albeit smaller than previous years, which it is hoped will be made up from donations and fund raising throughout the year, and if not through our reserves.

**The following ordinary resolutions were proposed and passed by the members by a show of hands:**

**Ordinary Resolution** to approve the accounts for year ended 31 December 2020 and the re-appointment and remuneration of the Independent Examiner (Daniel Valentine of Begbies).

**Ordinary Resolution** to approve the appointment of Craig Freeman, Sonya Dixon and Alivia Kratke as directors and charity trustees.

**Ordinary Resolution** approving the appointment of Kristina Kenworthy as Chair, Matt Mallinder as Vice Chair and John Goodridge as Treasurer (all directors and charity trustees).

**Ordinary Resolution** approving the appointment of Malcolm Williamson and Gillian Hein as Vice Presidents. (Anthony Isaacs, Tim Murphy and Keith Tothill remaining as Vice Presidents and Tim Harrold as President of CPRE Surrey).

The formal business of the meeting having concluded Astrid Johnson of Stroud RA spoke and thanked CPRE Surrey for help in resisting the proposals for gravel extraction at Whitehall Farm in Egham and Virginia Water. They are calling for the 2010 Minerals Plan to be updated. CPRE to help promote their petition to save biodiversity rich farmland in the Green Belt.

Alivia Kratke presented on behalf of Craig Freeman, the New Marketing and Communications Plan – Building a louder voice for CPRE Surrey through the four major social media channels.

Kristina Kenworthy introduced Simon Murray Chair of CPRE, by saying how fortunate the network is to have someone of such experience and dedication, Simon having been with the National Trust for over 32 years and was its chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director General, now undertaking the governance review of CPRE. Simon Murray gave an inspiring talk about CPRE's mission and goals and the importance of working both at local and national level be it with parish councils or other environmental organisations to achieve our charitable purposes – to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement and enhancement of the countryside and better development of the rural environment.

John Goodridge warmly thanked Simon and the meeting ended with servings of apple juice from Capel's gardens and community press.

The meeting ended at around 8.00pm  
Prepared by Kristina Kenworthy 13 September 2021.

