

## **CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

### **Herefordshire Branch**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Kindle Centre, Hereford on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 9.30am.

Attendance: 12 Members.

1) 10 Apologies were received.

Richard Williams presided.

2) Minutes of the branch AGM held on 15th October 2016 were confirmed and adopted by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3) Accounts & Treasurer's Report:

Patrick Goode, the current Treasurer, presented a summary of the certified accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. He warmly thanked Peter Louis, the former Treasurer, for the good heart in which he had left the accounts. Prudence needed to be the watchword in the light of Brexit and, even without the large Washbourne legacy, the finances were in good shape. But the legacy will enable us to do more of what we want to do. A question was asked about the amount spent on professional services and this was explained as a need to get legal advice on the proposed development in Leominster that was lacking an environmental assessment.

Patrick Goode commended the report to the meeting. Acceptance of the report was proposed by David Tilford and seconded by Ian Roberts. This was approved unanimously.

4) Annual Report & Chairman's report:

Presented by Richard Williams. With our financial security we are able to widen our profile. Our core job is looking at planning applications but we are a small force and need more volunteers (full training given). Otherwise we have to be very selective. We have held a branch review to test our policies and procedures. In the last year there have been a large number of local and national consultations that we have had to engage with. With Wildplay, part of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, we undertook an important project aimed at connection children to the landscape. We have also met with the local chair of the NFU, which enabled us to look at areas that we have in common. A conference organized by Ros Bradbury on intensive poultry units was well attended. We have now appointed an admin. Assistant, to help creating a presence on social media. Problems with our website, which has made it

difficult to update information, should be solved shortly. It is with regret that Peter Louis has had to step down from the role of Treasurer though he was able to play a strong role in the transition period. A very warm vote of thanks was due to Peter. Thanks were also due to Patrick Goode but he is only able to take on the role for twelve months so we will need a new Treasurer in March. Thanks are also due Bob Widdowson and Tony Geeson for all their hard work and all other volunteers who have all done sterling service. One of these, Cyril Stone, has also felt the need to resign after 22 years. Much thanks are also due to him for his work over this long period. The Chairman also thanked Barbara Bromhead-Wragg, our administrator and first point of contact, who puts in an amazing effort. It is also important to thank our members who are important, not just financially but also larger numbers give us greater political clout, so we need more. We intend to use part of the Washbourne legacy to run a high profile lecture in the spring, probably at the end of April. Adoption of the report was proposed by David Tilford (who also thanked Nicola Forde for her invaluable help with neighbourhood planning) and seconded by Ian Roberts and agreed unanimously.

#### 5) Election of Officers & Committee Members:

The meeting thanked Richard Williams for all his work over the past year.

The following were elected unopposed and unanimously:

President: - Vacant

Chair – Richard Williams (proposed by Bob Widdowson, seconded by Virginia Morgan)

Vice-Chairs – Bob Widdowson and Tony Geeson (proposed by Ben Nash and seconded by David Phelps)

Treasurer – Patrick Goode (proposed by Richard Williams, seconded by Tony Geeson)

Secretary – David Phelps (proposed by Ros Bradbury and seconded by Nicola Forde)

Committee Members – Virginia Morgan, Ros Bradbury, Nicola Forde (proposed by Tony Geeson, seconded by Richard Williams)

#### 6) Resolutions: None received.

7) AOB: A question was asked on the continued vacancy in the role of President. Several people had been approached but had either declined or failed to respond. Further names were proposed and Richard Williams agreed to follow these up. Formal business concluded at 10.00am