

Herefordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Minutes of the AGM on 13 October 2018
2.00 pm held at Holmer Parish Church Centre

- 1) Apologies received - 30
- 2) Bob Widdowson, Vice Chair presided and welcomed all those present. The Branch had tried very hard to recruit a Chair but with no success. Members were asked to help, by thinking about whether they knew of anyone who would like the challenge of chairing the Branch. The two Vice-Chairs were overseeing Branch activities in the absence of a Chair.
- 3) Minutes of the AGM held 13th October 2017 were confirmed and adopted by the meeting and signed by the Vice Chair. There were no matters arising.
- 4) Treasurer's Report
Patrick Goode presented a summary of the certified accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017. These had been examined by Thorne Widgery and approved by the Executive Committee.

Thanks to the legacy from Barbara Washbourne, received in 2016, the Branch was in a healthy financial state. A well-attended lecture had been held in Hereford in Spring 2017 as result of the legacy . £20,000 of the legacy had been set aside for use for professional services and research. This year it had been used for analysis of phosphate levels in the River Wye and for professional advice about a planning approval in Leominster.

Aside from the legacy, Branch income was down, as were other donations.

The Branch had employed a Social Media and Administrative Assistant to help the Branch Administrator.

There were no questions.

Patrick Goode commended the report to the meeting. Acceptance of the report was proposed by David Tilford and seconded by Richard Williams.

5. Annual Report and Vice-Chair's Report

Bob Widdowson thanked Patrick Goode for his report and his term as Treasurer, he also thanked Richard Williams for sterling work as volunteer, Committee Member and Chair; Richard was continuing as an active volunteer.

The Annual Report shows the wide range of work carried out by the many volunteers who have been involved with CPRE Herefordshire for many years; the work covers everything to do with landscape.

Bob welcomed Dilys Merry, the new Social Media and Administrative Assistant and thanked her for her work which had already begun to make a difference, as could be

seen in the Branch's new website. He also thanked Barbara Bromhead Wragg, Branch Administrator for her continued hard work for the Branch.

For the coming year the Branch anticipated that the Hereford by-pass would continue to be the biggest issue - it had been on the agenda since 1991 and, like a 'bad penny', kept coming back. The Branch would like to see all the opposition groups working together and a single point of contact. This will be a PR battle to educate people about the by-pass as most people believed that it would relieve Hereford's traffic problems but research has shown that this is not the case.

The Annual Report also covers the Washbourne Lecture held in the spring and the Brexit conference held in Autumn 2016 - Brexit is still an issue and the facts and situation are changing - the Branch will bear this in mind and may revisit the topic in the future, for example has Herefordshire Council undertaken an impact assessment? If yes, it would be good to see a copy; this is an important issue in our agricultural county.

The Government is holding a review of designated landscapes including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty - the Branch will be responding.

There were no questions.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Emil Morfett and seconded by Patrick Goode.

6) Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following were elected unopposed and unanimously

President - vacant

Chair - vacant

Vice Chairs - Bob Widdowson and Tony Geeson - (proposed by Ros Bradbury seconded by Virginia Morgan)

Treasurer - Nicola Forde - (proposed by Patrick Goode, seconded by Bob Widdowson)

Secretary David Phelps -(proposed by Nicola Forde, seconded by Tony Geeson)

Committee Members - Virginia Morgan, Ros Bradbury, Patrick Goode - (Proposed by Bob Widdowson, seconded by Tony Geeson).

7) Resolutions

None Received.

8) Any other Business

David Tilford proposed a vote of thanks to volunteers - their time and effort was much appreciated.

9) Speaker

Bob Widdowson introduced the speaker: Professor John Whitelegg who gave a thought provoking and timely talk entitled '*20th Century Transport: a vision for Hereford*'.

This was followed by several questions.

Refreshments were provided.