SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2025

At St Michael's Hall, Summersdale, Chichester

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

Welcome

Chairman Jill shaw welcomed all members and committee to the AGM of the Summersdale Residents Association and also welcomed councillors Jeremy Hunt (County) Jonathan Brown (District) and Shiva Knight (City). Welcome was also extended to Mr Mark Gibb, Head of Aviation at Goodwood, who will be talking later.

Apologies

Received from City Councillors Craig Gershater and Maureen Corfield, and also from SRA members Celia and Ed Marsh and Sarah Dawson.

Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 15 May 2024

A copy of the minutes was included in the latest newsletter. JS asked for approval, and this was proposed by Jeremy Hunt and seconded by Robert Lapraik.

Chairman's Report

As always, we are very aware of the leafy environment in Summersdale, and unfortunately we lost a number of trees last year due to disease or just age. With this in mind, we have planted 6 new trees rather than our normal 2 or 4. Thank you to those of you who are helping with watering, it has been a long dry spring so this is particularly important this year.

I hope some of you have taken advantage of the new bench in Oaklands Park that we contributed to along with Friends of Oaklands Park and the City Council. We also made a contribution to get the arch put back at the start of Centurian Way. If you haven't seen it, it is worth a wander down to see it in all its splendour.

For some time we have been campaigning to get bollards up outside the Co-Op store and garage in Lavant Road in an attempt to prevent lorries and tractors parking on the pavement whilst nipping in to get their snacks. This is both dangerous and has destroyed the footpath. At last we got them in April, and I think you will all agree that the council did a great job, even widening the pavement where necessary to enable good access for wheelchairs and buggies.

We have now applied to get the pavement improved on the junction of Lavant Road and The Drive so people going to and from the Co-Op or northbound bus stop don't have to paddle through a puddle. This request is now in the system so we have our fingers crossed that it will get to the top of the payment pile. Many thanks to all of you who responded to our appeal.

We have had a couple of changes to the committee this year. Ian McGrath and Isla Duncan have both stepped down for health reasons, and we co-opted Robert Lapraik as Goodwood Liaison. Some of you may remember him for the superb talk he gave us last year on life as a fast jet pilot, so he is well qualified for his new role.

Pauline Sutton has stepped down as Membership Secretary, but remains on the committee. Many thanks to her and her husband Peter for all their hard work over the last few years. Thanks to Barbara Dart, who you probably met on the way in, who has taken over this role.

Thanks to all the committee for all their hard work over the last year, without whom we would not have an SRA. Thanks also to you all as members. It is lovely to have your support, feedback and ideas. As I keep saying, we could do with a couple more committee members, so if you fancy joining us, please do. We can break you in gradually so it would just be attending meetings every 6 weeks or so.

Before I finish, I have one huge thank you to make. Councillor Jeremy Hunt has supported us for many years. He was chairman for a while before he was elected as a County Councillor. Since then he has continued to support us both as a member and in his councillor role. He comes along to most of our meetings and both informs us on County Council activities and pushes our issues with the Council officers. He is a huge asset to the SRA, and in recognition we would like to make him a Life Member.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Copies of the accounts were circulated to all present, and treasurer Peter Bickley gave further information on the items in the Income and Expenditure section and balances. More of the "special reserve" was spent in the year, with additional trees planted and contributions made in conjunction with other organisations to benefit the community. Approval of the accounts was sought, and this was proposed by Mary Quiney and seconded by Robert Lapraik. All present were asked to vote for the approval, and this was carried unanimously.

Re-election of Committee members
As normal, we would like to re-elect the committee en masse, but were invited to stand up and make themselves known to all. Committee members are: Jill Shaw (Chairman and Planning), Peter Bickley (Treasurer), Raymond Carter (Environment), Barbara Dart (Membership), Paul Stross (Webmaster), Robert Lapraik (co-opted during the year Goodwood), Janet Leonard (Minutes secretary), Pauline Sutton (stepped down as Membership Secretary but remains on the committee without portfolio). Proposal to re-elect the committee was given by Sandy Barnett and seconded by John Nash. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.
Election of Independent Examiner
JS reported that Clive Gaut, who has been the examiner for many years, has stepped down and unfortunately we are still looking for a replacement. Accountancy skills are not required, just the ability to reconcile transactions against the accounts book, either on paper or on Excel. It is not a huge task as we do not have many transactions each year. If you feel you could take on this role, please speak to Peter Bickley. In the meantime, the examiner needs to be approved by the members so JS asked that the members agree to let the committee co-opt someone for this role for the accounts to 31 December 2025, to be ratified at the next AGM. Proposer for this course of action was John Newman and seconder Caroline Nash. All voted in favour.
Other resolutions. None
Open Forum. No questions submitted.
Local Councillors
City Councillor Shiva Knight addressed the meeting, and outlined the council's plans recently published with the highlights, including reduction of the carbon footprint of council buildings, enlargement of the City Gala, free use of council house rooms and the installation of wayboards round the city. Playgrounds will be updated, shopmobility schemes improved and a net zero workshop at the festival theatre. A "pump" track and putting greens in city parks, extension to 20mph zones and communication improvement and newsletters were also discussed.
District Councillor Johnathan Brown then addressed the meeting. A regeneration strategy is sought and the district council will play its part although others must lead. Chichester is an attractive destination and residents can have confidence in its future. Projects that will attract funding are leisure centre refurbishments, parks, pavements and more housing to combat homelessness. Grants for projects such as the River Lavant and Selsey sea defences have also been funded. The climate action plan aims to reduce emissions to net zero and planting of approximately 1500 trees across the city has helped this goal. Events such as the Christmas markets laser shows have also been funded.
West Sussex County Councillor Jeremy Hunt then addressed the meeting, and began by saying that he has been a SRA member for 40 years and was honoured to have been awarded lifetime membership. In his role as a WSCC councillor he said that the county has a budget of £2.2bn which funds 300 services. Highways and social care take a large proportion of this sum, with SEND services in deficit across the county. 3 years ago the deficit was allowed to be kept off the balance sheet, but this concession ends next March, by which time the deficit will be in excess of £123m. Highways have done a great deal of work over the year with potholes being tackled with new technology. Gully clearance is ongoing, and new contractors have been appointed for maintenance. The four roads comprising the city centre retail area will be upgraded, with a tarmac surface where the central brick area now exists and stone to the outer paved areas, with the work scheduled to start in 2026. The question of the creation of a unitary authority was discussed and although there will be public consultation it is likely that the decision has already been made by central government.
Webmaster Paul Stross briefly addressed the meeting to say that if any members had difficulty accessing the SRA website he would be happy to assist.
Robert Lapraik then introduced the speaker for the evening, **Mr Mark Gibb, Head of Aviation at Goodwood.** Mr Gibb gave a very informative talk on all aspects of the airfield at Goodwood, from its early history as a military facility through to its current use for the many events hosted by the estate. The Goodwood estate overall employs over 700 people and supports 28 businesses. Details of the use of the runways and the efforts the airfield make to mitigate noise and disruption to Summersdale residents was explained and the permitted usage of the airfield with the number of aircraft movements, helicopter use and drone flights detailed, the whole talk illustrated throughout.
Robert Lapraik gave a vote of thanks to Mr Gibb for his very informative and detailed lecture, and all showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm and drinks and canapes were served to all.