SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2025

St Michael's Hall, Summersdale

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

Present:	**Mrs Jill Shaw – Chairman**	**Mr Ray Carter S– Environmental & Trees**
	Mr Robert Lapraik – Goodwood Liaison	**Dr Paul Stross – Webmaster (PS1)**
	Mrs Janet Leonard – Minutes Secretary	**Mr Peter Bickley – Treasurer**
	Mrs Barbara Dart – Assistant Planning	

1. **Welcome**
   JS welcomed all committee members attending and also WSCC Councillor Mr Jeremy Hunt.
2. **Apologies**
   Received from Mrs Pauline Sutton.
3. **Approval of minutes of 5 December 2024 and 12 September 2024.**
   Approved and signed by JS.
4. **Matters arising not mention in minutes.**
   None.
5. **Open Forum**
   Following the publication of the Govt paper on English Devolution in December, Mr Jeremy Hunt addressed the meeting on what this might mean for Chichester, and its extremely challenging implementation period. The proposal is that areas will become Mayoral Strategic Authorities (with a minimum population of 1.5 million). Those County Councils, or Unitary authorities, wishing to be on the priority programme were asked to register their expressions of interest by Friday 10th January. West Sussex, together with East Sussex and Brighton and Hove made their submission on Friday 10th January. It was made clear in the white paper that if authorities did not choose to do this then the government would force them to go down the devolution route by May 2028. The proposal is that for the areas on the priority list will have elections for a mayor in May 2026. The mayor will eventually have powers such as Strategic Planning, Transport, Economic development, Fire and Rescue and Police.
   Running parallel with devolution there will be Local Government Reform (LGR). The proposal is that current two tier areas (County Council plus Districts & Boroughs) of E & W Sussex will become individual Unitary authorities with one tier of government. B&H is already a unitary authority, so our Strategic Mayoral area will be made up of three separate Unitary Authorities - E. Sussex, W. Sussex and B&H. The government will be publishing a paper on LG reform shortly and the CC, together with the D's & B's will be required to put forward our plans by this Autumn. If our bid to be included in the Priority Scheme is successful, then the Minister has suggested that in order to meet the demanding timetable of both Mayoral elections and LGR he is minded to postpone local elections from May 2025 to May 2026. Both E. & W. Sussex, together with B&H have requested the deferral of elections, as have Hampshire, Kent and Surrey. The proposal is that in May 2027 there will be elections for a shadow Unitary Authority which will run in tandem with the CC and the D's and B's until May 2028. At that point, the CC and the D's and B's will cease to exist and the shadow unitary will take over full control. In the Devolution White Paper it is made very clear that localism is very much to the fore of these plans and engagement with parish and town councils is planned to increase, devolving more powers to local areas. (Chichester City Council is our parish council)
   More detailed information can be found on the Devolution White Paper: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper and also on https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=134&Mld=4125&Ver=4
6. **Chairman's Report**
   JS reported that she had been approached by Friends of Centurion Way to ask whether SRA would be prepared to contribute to the scheme to restore the Gateway Arch over the start of Centurion Way near Bishop Luffa School and the railway bridge. The arch fell down in 2015 and WSCC put it in storage. FoCW have almost raised enough to reinstate the arch, but as Centurion Way is registered as a highway, there is an additional cost of £4,000 to have the arch installed by a licenced firm to comply with WSCC policy. The area round the arch will be landscaped and an interpretation board installed. A contribution was discussed, and it was agreed that £100 would be given.
7. **Newsletter**
   JS asked for ideas and contributions for the next newsletter, deadline for which is 14 March. It was agreed that the following articles would be sought: JH on the Unitary Council plan; RL will talk to Goodwood about an article; PS would approach a new neighbour about an article on Rolls Royce and its proposed factory extension; Ray, Paul and Peter would compile a map of trees planted by SRA over recent years; Paul would give an update on log collection; Ray would write something on local history; Peter would write an appeal for a new accounts examiner.
   AGM Speaker.
   A talk by a member of the Goodwood airfield staff was suggested, RL to approach. Alternatively, a talk from a local resident who has worked on the restoration of Arundel Castle.
8. **Bench in Oaklands Park**
   The bench as been delivered and PS pressed CDC for progress. The weather has been too cold to lay the concrete base yet, but it is anticipated that this will be completed by February.

9. **Roads**

The new roundabout at the end of Westgate was discussed. The redesign of this roundabout is funded by Section 106 agreement payment in respect of the Minerva Heights development, and is designed to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists. There is a video on YouTube which explains how the roundabout works and it was suggested that this be emailed to SRA members. Parking at the Summersdale garage was also discussed. The application for the installation of bollards now just awaits committee sign-off. It was suggested that we should apply under the Communities Highways TRO Scheme for funds to improve the pavement on The Drive by the junction with Lavant Road . Brandy Hole Lane has had some leaf clearing done and the pathway at the side is now more accessible, but the traffic situation particularly with vehicles over the width limit continues to be an issue. Other carriageway repairs to monitor continue to be Summersdale Road, Rew Lane and the junction with The Avenue and The Drive. Residents can report problems on the WSCC Highways website.

JS had received a comment from a local resident on the difficulty of exiting Blomfield Drive onto Summersdale Road because of vehicles parked alongside Graylingwell Park. The combination of restrictive parking in Graylingwell and students parking to go to the University campus has made this situation worse. JH discussed this issue with Highways recently and they agreed to inspect the junction to see if changes to the parking restrictions were possible. If changes are possible, then a Communities Highway TRO application will need to be made.

10. **Environmental Report**

RC reported that SRA have funded 6 trees in the current planting season, and so far 2 have been planted, one in Highland Road and one in The Broadway. WSCC have planted 2 further highway trees financed elsewhere, one replacing a recently planted tree in Highland Road and one in The Broadway, replacing a tree destroyed in an accident. The planting of the final one in Summersdale Road is delayed owing to the discovery of utilities at the proposed location. An alternative site in Summersdale Road is being sought.

A fungal disease called Sooty Bark disease, which is increasing in the south-east, is attacking sycamore trees in Summersdale. It causes crown wilt and is lethal, and black sooty mould can be seen on the trunk. This disease is spreading north and can be attributed to climate change. The disease can affect humans, leading to respiratory problems. It can also spread to other trees of the maple family.

The CDC have funds available for community groups or individuals to apply for grants, by 31st January to plant community orchards. A minimum of 5 trees must be planted, and by the end of March 2025. .

11. **Planning Report**

No new applications which affect the community have come forward. A full report is available on the SRA website.

12. **Website**

PS reported that there was a glitch in the registration for new members on the website which checks if an applicant is a bot. A second attempt is usually successful. New bank account details were requested from PB when these became available. In the last newsletter, an article from PS concerning logs from recently removed street trees resulted in many people coming forward to take any made available. Logs were put on the corner of The Lane and The Avenue on the verge, and were quickly taken.

13. **Goodwood Report**

RL reported that there had been no activity in the intervening period and no report was forthcoming.

14. **Membership numbers**

It was reported that there are currently 343 paid up households, 40 have been contacted concerning their 2025 subscriptions which were due on 1 January. No replies or payments have been received as yet from these households. 5 appear not to be contactable despite letters having been sent.

15. **Treasurer's Report**

Lloyds Bank	
Treasurer's a/c	£2,929.40 inc £75.10 held on behalf of Network of Chichester Residents Assoc
Interest bearing accounts	
Lloyds Bank	
Business Instant Access a/c 1%	£0.01
United Trust Bank	
Business 40 day notice a/c 4.1%	£8,492.20
Business 100 day notice a/c 4.3%	£5,343.40

Matters for consideration: Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

PB circulated a copy of the draft accounts to committee members. He reported that following the agreement to spend more on enhancing amenities for residents, 6 replacement roadside trees totalling £1,542 and an additional bench in Oaklands Park costing £650 had been purchased. As the accounts show there is a deficit for the year and as we have agreed to enhance amenities for residents, it was recommended that no transfer was made from the General Fund to the Special Reserve this year. Subject to receiving confirmation about the number and amount of subscriptions paid in advance, PB asked that committee members agreed the accounts so that they could be passed to examiner Clive Gaut for his approval. PB also stated that Mr Gaut had advised that as he was approaching 80 he will not be standing for re-election as examiner at the AGM and asked anyone knew of any other candidates for the post. Approval of the accounts was sought, proposed by JS and seconded by RL. A vote of approval was given by all.

16. **Date of next meeting** 27 February at St Michael's Hall. The meeting of 10 April will now be on 3 April at St Paul's Church. **There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.**