

**Campaign to Protect Rural England
Rutland Branch
Meeting of Charity Trustees
Held at 4.00pm on Tuesday 14th June 2022
At the Falcon Hotel Uppingham**

MINUTES

Present: Ron Simpson (Chair)(RS), Judy Geer (Treasurer)(JG), Geoff Clyde (Admin)(GC), Carolyn Cartwright (CC), Barbara Keene(BK), Annabelle Meek (AM), Rachel Burkitt (RB).

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions

RS welcomed all Trustees, there had been a lot happening and this was a good opportunity for an update on several matters.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Charity Trustees held on 8th March were approved.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the tabled agenda items.

6. Executive Reports

a. Chair: RS informed the Trustees that he would be representing the Branch at the forthcoming National AGM on 30 June. There had been a great deal of discussion over nominations to the National Board. So far, we were happy with the nominations and would occupy the middle ground and not align the Branch with those who were more rebellious. As far as the meetings of the Branch Chairs were concerned, there had been some conflict

with press releases on policy matters, the creation of the National Assembly was supposed to counter this activity but it looks as if there is some way to go.

The recent changes at RCC had led to a new-look Council with Lucy Stephenson as Leader and Rosemary Powell as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning.

The Trustees broadly welcomed these changes in anticipation of continued good liaison and cooperation across a range of issues. RS confirmed that close links would be maintained and looked forward to his regular meetings with the CEO, Leader and Deputy Leader. RS also reported on his attendance as the CPRE delegate to the 2022 AGM of the Rutland Water Partnership. He had cast the charity's vote in favour of the status quo with regard to the re-election of the Chair for 2022/23 (Edward Baines – RCC Chair of Planning). Future meetings would be quarterly.

b. Finance: JG stated that the bank balance stood at £12794.50. Expenses since the last meeting, were concerned with the costs for the Rutland Show and the provision of high-vis bibs for those involved in painting litterbins on the A47. Our finances were stable and a grant of £4.2K was anticipated to support the Community Energy Vision project to be run in Uppingham. Further grants may be forthcoming from East Mids Region for other projects.

c. Admin: Nothing to report.

7. Overview of significant planning matters

CC stated that after the discussions at the last meeting, and the number of planning applications being submitted, she would produce a weekly resume for Trustees. It was agreed that this would be both informative and beneficial. A new application had been submitted for a quarry near Greetham and there was a concern that the minerals policy for Rutland was not being well handled. Having been outsourced to Leics CC, handling had now moved to Northants CC. It was evident that planning conditions were not being applied, e.g. emissions monitoring conditions were being ignored. It was suggested that the National CPRE planning contact may be able to assist. CC was also concerned about the increasing number of agricultural buildings being converted into dwellings, some of which were inappropriate in terms of location and design, and therefore may require a formal comment.

8. Local Plan Update

RS stated that with the new RCC regime in place, it was hoped that some impetus could be placed into this process. There was a need to start afresh, it represented an opportunity for dialogue with RCC and parishes, together with the extension of positive relationships.

9. CPRE Governance Report Update

As discussed, this topic will be the main item of discussion at the National AGM later this month. It had been agreed that we should observe progress and not take a position at present.

10. Future Work Programme/Initiatives for the coming year

Arising from the discussion at the previous meeting, particularly on the subject of the Voluntary Sector Consortium, RS proposed that 2 meetings be held under the auspices of CPRE Rutland. Firstly, with like-minded charities in the County to discuss common ground and to agree a way forward. Secondly, with Parish Councils to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern which could feed into work to be done on the Vision Project. Details of dates and venues were yet to be finalised. The possibility of using the Victoria Hall in Oakham had been investigated by JG. It remains a possibility with the likelihood of some self-help required. Trustees were content but acknowledged that more preparation was required.

11. Membership

AM reported that there had been no real movement in membership numbers, although there had been a slight decrease over the year. RS stated that the new Regional Chair had made membership and volunteering as his priorities, and funds could be available to sponsor specific projects. RB suggested that in this Platinum Jubilee Year, perhaps more could be made of the Royal Patronage of CPRE to attract and consolidate membership, particularly if more use was made of social media.

12. Transport Consultation

RS reported that due to a change in priorities, this subject had been put to one side, although we would maintain a watching brief and where necessary enter into dialogue with RCC.

13. Rutland Show

A stand with gazebo was organised on a breezy Showground for the Rutland Show. The option for lunch was not taken up in favour of self-catering for the day. The Mallard Pass Action Group was allowed to use our stand to advertise their petition. The stand was visited by our MP, who helped with the MPAG petition, as well as the Lord Lieutenant and our President. While we were not flooded with membership applications, it was a successful stand in terms of raising awareness and our profile at an important County event. RS thanked all who took part on the day.

14. Annual Dinner

After discussion it was agreed that a lunch held sometime in Autumn would be preferable. It would be an opportunity for members to come together. Invited guests and possible speakers could include National Chair or CEO, Regional Chair, RCC Leader/CEO and our MP. It was suggested that members of the farming community could be invited. Dates and venues would be investigated by GC.

15. Website and Social Media Update

RS stated that progress continues to be made and that he was due to attend a training session on the use of the site at Clockedin in July. The entry codes to enable social media platforms to be accessed from the website are now in hand.

16. AGM for 2022

The provisional date of Saturday 10th September was agreed and the venue of Whissendine Church with refreshments in the Old Rectory garden, courtesy of the Lord Lieutenant, was also agreed. As with last year, the National Chair, Simon Murray, was invited, but due to a prior commitment, he is unable to attend. RS intimated that he may invite the Regional Chair or the CEO of the County Council. Depending on the outcome of the Governance review, there may be implications for our constitution which may have to be considered at the AGM, together with the nomination of a Vice Chair and a new Treasurer. A calling notice and agenda would be prepared by GC in due course.

17. Any Other Business

BK raised the subject of diversity, which presents a challenge for groups such as small charities. It is noticeable that Parish Councils and other groups struggle with a balance between young and old members, as well those from different backgrounds. It was agreed that it was important to be vigilant on this subject in an effort to encourage a more diverse group wherever possible.

18. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 24th August at 4pm. in the Falcon Hotel.



The countryside charity
Rutland