

**Campaign to Protect Rural England
Rutland Branch
Meeting of Charity Trustees
Held at 3.00pm on Tuesday 8th March 2022
At the Falcon Hotel Uppingham**

MINUTES

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

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions

RS welcomed all Trustees, particularly RB and BK. It was good to see new faces among the Trustees, and RB with her background in PR media, and with the Woodland Trust was very welcome. RS formally proposed that she be accepted as a Trustee, and this was carried unanimously. RS stated that he wished to see Trustees developing individual roles over time within the group. Patsy Clifton had indicated her wish to stand down as Vice-President and a formal letter was awaited; however, it was agreed that we should begin the search for a replacement.

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 7th December were approved.

5. Matters Arising

With regard to the vacant role of Vice Chair, GC confirmed that the up-to-date role description had been circulated on Assemble; however, it was now time expired and had been removed. The vacancy was prominent on the Branch website as it was likely that we would be seeking a local candidate.

6. Executive Reports

a. Chair: RS informed Trustees that he foresaw a busy year ahead. National CPRE were in the throes of a major governance review, a future work programme had been prepared and significant planning matters were emerging. All these topics would be covered later in the agenda.

b. Finance: JG distributed a final income and expenditure report for the previous financial year which had now been subject to audit. The bank balance stood at £12730.43. The public liability insurance premium of £370 was due, but our financial position remained sound.

c. Admin: GC reported that the Christmas Quiz had been finalised with 2 winners receiving cheques for £50 each and certificates. The quiz raised £256 for Branch funds, which was slightly down over previous years. Some feedback indicated that the quiz was too difficult, and perhaps projected the wrong image, some complained that the entry fee £2.50 was too high and may have deterred participation. All these issues will be addressed before this year's quiz which will be primarily website based.

7. Overview of significant planning matters

CC drew attention to the recent planning application for the Quarry Farm site near Stamford. Although a brownfield site, it represented a development of 650 houses, if approved would be a significant proportion of the housing requirement for Rutland. Moreover, an application for 84 houses on Uppingham Road, south of Oakham may receive approval. Taken with proposed developments elsewhere, there seemed to be a number of locations that CPRE may wish to take a formal view. CC undertook to produce a summary of proposals for the consideration of the Executive Committee. RS mentioned that he had heard a rumour that the St Georges Barracks site had been removed from the market and would seek clarification from RCC. The Mallard Pass proposal to erect a 2175 acre solar farm in the north-east of the county continues to be a controversial issue. It has been agreed that CPRE would assist the MP Action Group where possible.

8. Local Plan Update

RS stated that RCC had initiated a new "call for sites" as part of the development process for the revised Local Plan. There was a danger of going over old ground but we would have to wait and see the outcome before raising any concerns. RS was hopeful that his regular meetings with the RCC CEO would provide more clarity.

9. CPRE Governance Report Stages 1 and 2

The draft reports of the consultants to National CPRE had been circulated, and it was clear that this subject was a complex one with lots of issues. The National Charity and the 80 Branch Charities had to devise a more harmonious way of working for the future. Major issues of consensus over income strategy, policy formulation, representation through regions or various forums were to be resolved. A National Assembly was being proposed to reflect the emergence of the National Charity as a distinct Movement, but the thorny question of representation will need to be resolved. RS proposed that we should observe progress, but not take a position at present. This was agreed by all Trustees.

10. Future Work Programme/Initiatives for the coming year

RS had circulated a draft work programme, which included several suggestions to raise the profile of the Branch within the county, including meetings with groups having a common interest such as parishes and voluntary groups. The possibility of a joint event, perhaps held in the Victoria Hall in Oakham to cover a variety of issues, with guest speakers, was discussed. Several projects including the promotion of the Rutland Vision and the CPRE Rutland Action Plan were important, as well as school engagement and low carbon vehicle surveys, including a Round Rutland Run with an electric car section. After discussion Trustees indicated they were content in broad terms and RS agreed to produce a more detailed programme in the form of a proposed calendar of events for the year.

11. Membership

There were no outstanding membership issues to discuss, AM was in regular contact with the team at National CPRE.

12. Rutland Show

This year the Rutland Show would be held on Saturday 4th June, during the Platinum Jubilee Holiday weekend. RS proposed that the Branch should book a table for lunch, and have a stand to promote the charity. This was agreed and JG explained that the cost of a stand was £75 plus 5 discounted tickets at £8 each. We would need to notify the size requirements of the stand and it was likely that we would have to canvass the membership to ensure that we have enough volunteers to staff the stand during the day.

13. Transport Consultation

RCC had published a draft Enhanced Partnership Plan regarding the national requirement for a Bus Service Improvement Plan. RS recommended that we should maintain an interest in the emerging strategy and be involved in any dialogue with RCC.

14. Voluntary Sector Consortium

This group met 2-3 times per year and at present was a small network. As part of the work programme, RS proposed the suggestion of a meeting for a larger group to discuss matters of mutual interest. Hopefully this would enhance the Branch within the voluntary sector and increase our contact base.

15. Green Bond Investment

It was considered that this may have been a relevant investment for some Branch funds; however, JG had investigated further and found that the bond was a 3 year fixed term which was not applicable for charities.

16. Website and Social Media Update

RS stated that good progress had been made in the last few months. One outstanding issue was to obtain the entry codes to enable social media platforms to be accessed from the website. This matter was in hand and RS expected a resolution in the next few weeks.

17. AGM for 2022

With the National Governance Review likely to drag on over the Summer, it was planned to delay the AGM until September. GC had discussed venues and dates with the President, and it was proposed that as last years venue had worked well, we would hold the meeting in Whissendine Church with refreshments afterwards in the Old Rectory garden. A provisional date of Saturday 10th September was planned. Further details would be issued in due course.

18. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

19. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 14th June at 4pm. in the Falcon Hotel.



The countryside charity
Rutland