

Minutes of the WAM AGM

Held Friday 15th September 2023

Meeting opened at 7.00pm.

The presentation slides (q.v.) contain the agenda and information provided with it. These notes are in addition to it.

24 people attended this year, with apologies from: Caroline Webb, Brian Allen, John Daly, Brian Reed, Khristina McCormack, Mike Heath, Barry Buckley, Richard Lyons, Rob Ferguson, Alison Simmons, Anthony Read.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted - proposed by Lorraine Robinson, seconded by Rik Pease.

The chair noted that the impact of Covid was now reducing significantly. The weather had some impact with high temperatures, strong winds and at times a lack of rain. The chair outlined work which had taken place at the various sites during this year but focus was given to the new toilet block and path at West Tarring and the new padlock and keys required at Chesswood Farm.

Site improvements in the pipeline: addressing general site security and vandalism, installing new water tanks, widening the path to the new toilet block and considering the feasibility of providing toilet facilities for female tenants at Dominion Road.

The chair personally thanked all existing working party members for their immense contribution and mentioned the need for additional help from anyone interested.

The chair presented the secretary's report (see slides) on behalf of Caroline Webb. Following an extensive review of our Terms and Conditions last year, any further revisions this year have been minimal. The revised document is on the website. The council's legal department have not yet responded to the request to modify the Service Level Agreement (SLA). The constitution has been amended to allow the committee to consist of individuals who may not be members of WAM.

Phillip Wright presented the treasurer's report (see slides). Surplus for year ended 31st August 2023 - £6,790.58. Phillip noted that due to inflation, increased water demands and uncertain future costs due to conditions of services to sites and site security this money can soon be spent. A proposal was made to increase rents from £10.00 per rod to £10.70 per rod, with a 30% reduction for tenants over 65 years on 1st October 2023. This was proposed by Mark Geer and seconded by Derek Turner.

There are 15 committee members currently and 7 have confirmed their willingness to stand for another year in their current positions as no new nominations were received prior to the

meeting. This was proposed by Derek Turner and seconded by Dennis Chadwick. Rob Ferguson retired as Overseer at Hillbarn in February 2023. Richard Lyons has taken Rob's place. Andrew Collis retired as Overseer at West Tarring in June 2023 to focus on IT support. Steve Jowett has taken Andrew's place.

Rik Pease and Lorraine Robinson were presented with this year's Geddes Cup for their outstanding work and contribution, especially for organising the padlock issue. The chair thanked them on behalf of the committee and tenants.

No questions were raised on any aspects of the presentation.

AOB: Pete Wilson asked that tenants be notified when a skip is delivered to site. The chair explained the skip at Dominion Road was organised for a specific task (disposal of accumulation of rubbish) and not for general use by tenants and this was why notification had not been given.

Pete Wilson also asked about how deliveries of wood chippings and compost can be arranged to the Dominion Road site as it seems they can at other sites. The chair and Rik Pease explained that historically this doesn't tend to happen due to accessibility issues and companies not wanting to deliver here. It was agreed that Pete Wilson will contact the secretary, Caroline Webb, to explore this further.

Bill Geddes thanked the committee for their hard work and efforts this year.

The date for the next AGM is Friday 13th September 2024.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.