

NORTH WEST ESSEX AND EAST HERTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (NWEHHPA)

Minutes of the 54th NWEHHPA AGM held on 5th June 2019 in Silver Jubilee Hall, Takeley.

Present: Roger Clark, Tony Clarke, Sarah Cousins, Jonathan Howarth, Irene Jones, Janice McDonald, Ken McDonald, Robert Jones, David Llewelyn Morgan, Brian Ross, Peter Sanders (Chairman), Suzanne Walker and James Wallace-Jarvis.

Peter Sanders opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 54th AGM of NWEHHPA.

1. Apologies for absence.

David Aldridge, Carol Barbone, Jonathan Fox, Peter Hough, Martin Peachey, John Tarran, Denise Williams, Ray Woodcock and Mike Young.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM of 14th June 2018 were approved as an accurate record and were duly signed by Peter Sanders.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

Q. Any update on the progress of the sale of MAG's portfolio of houses?

A. Peter confirmed that sales were ongoing but that the great majority of MAG's original portfolio had now been sold.

4. Chairman's Report.

Peter reported that this had been a very busy year. At one time we had hoped that we would be able to cut down our activity, to take things more easily. There had been no sign of a second runway, and it would be a long time before the existing runway was used to its full capacity. But then, in June 2017, came the start of MAG's application to make more intensive use of the existing runway.

We have been arguing that this application is of more than local significance and should therefore be called in by the Government. Both Secretaries of State, however, have refused to do this – that is, the Secretary of State for Transport, Chis Grayling, and the Communities Secretary of State, James Brokenshire - and we are now applying for permission to challenge these decisions through Judicial Reviews. The case will be heard in the High Court September at the earliest.

Meanwhile, in February 2018 MAG submitted its formal planning application to Uttlesford District Council, and in November last year the Council's Planning Committee decided, on the casting vote of its chairman, to give conditional approval to the application to raise the planning cap from 35mppa to 43mppa. Since then there had been a complete change in the political landscape at the Council. The previous administration, which had firmly supported MAG's expansion plans, had been ousted at the local elections on 2 May and replaced by the Residents Party, who we hoped and expected would take a more balanced view.

There were two main issues for the new Council to consider. First, whether the proposed S.106 agreement satisfied all the conditions laid down in the November 2018 planning decision; and second, whether there were new material considerations of sufficient weight to tip the balance in relation to the original decision. In our view the answers to these questions

were clear – they were all set out in the latest members' letter - and so we were arguing that the application should now be referred back to the new Planning Committee. The Council would be considering these issues at an extraordinary meeting on 28 June.

If Uttlesford decided to overturn its previous decision and to reject the application MAG would no doubt appeal to the Secretary of State. Or if, following our Judicial Review(s), the courts decided that it was right for the application to have been determined by Uttlesford, then SSE would have to consider whether or not to appeal.

So, our central focus over the past year has been MAG's planning application to make more use of the existing runway but there were other issues too. On homeowner compensation, SSE's involvement was much reduced because claims were now being taken forward by the claimants themselves, together with their agents. There had been further progress on MAG's sale of houses. It was estimated that only between 12 and 20 houses were still airport-owned compared to more than 270 at one time. On noise, the Government had set up ICCAN (Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise) and SSE had met their new officials to discuss how best to go forward. Meanwhile Martin Peachey was continuing to be a helpful source of advice of expertise in this area, including providing advice to noise complainants, which involved a tremendous amount of work.

Peter Riding had maintained our website and was once again preparing our calendar. Ray Woodcock and his volunteers had rolled out our trailer at various fetes and festivals. And Ray had sold an amazing number of calendars not just from the trailer but from knocking on doors as well. At many homes he was now, like Santa Claus, an expected visitor.

Denise Williams had continued to keep our books in Northumberland, for which we were profoundly grateful. And Sarah as our office manager had been, as always, wonderfully competent. Maggie Sutton had provided hospitality, but had now been obliged to resign from the SSE and NWEHPA Committees because she had been elected as an Uttlesford District Councillor. We were grateful for all her hospitality over such a long period. Carol had kept a watchful eye on us from Scotland, and Brian, as always, had been amazingly hard working and effective.

Peter concluded by thanking members for their support and encouragement.

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts.

Brian presented the Treasurer's Report for the NWEHPA/SSE Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2018 as prepared by our Treasurer Denise Williams as follows:

INCOME

While membership subscriptions and donations from members showed a slight fall, all other areas of income increased, in particular parish councils and societies donations. This resulted in total income for the year of £82,106 against £75,730 in the previous year.

The proceeds from the sale of the SSE Community Calendar again accounted for a significant source of income, for which Brian thanked Ray Woodcock once more for his tremendous efforts.

The figure for Interest is gross (i.e. before 20% tax, which is shown as a separate item under expenditure).

EXPENDITURE

An increase in expenditure from £72,117 in 2017 to £113,595 was due largely to consultancy and legal fees incurred in respect of the airport planning application and associated membership mail-out printing and postage costs, including provisions that have been made for legal fees (£47,000), consultancy (£14,000), and costs associated with the SSE 2019 calendar printing and distribution (£5,800).

SUMMARY

While Income was up by £6,376, Expenditure (including provisions) was up by £41,478, resulting in an excess of expenditure over income for the year of £31,489.

BALANCE SHEET

The increase in bank balances (from £228,944 to £242,766) is reduced by expenses owing of £74,126 (including provisions), to produce net assets of £168,640 (down from £200,129 in 2017).

Peter expressed his gratitude that we should have such a robust “war chest” since we will no doubt be having to dig into it further in resisting MAG’s planning application.

Sarah explained that the accounts had already been approved by the NWEHHPA Board in February 2019 but they now needed to be formally adopted by the AGM. David Llewelyn Morgan proposed that the accounts be adopted and Ken McDonald seconded the motion. This was agreed unanimously and the Accounts were duly accepted.

[Note that a copy of the Accounts and Bird Luckin’s report will be available shortly on the SSE website at: <http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/accounts.html>]

6. Election of Officers and the Board.

Irene Jones confirmed that Peter Sanders would be willing to stand again as **Chairman** for a further year. This was proposed by Brian Ross and seconded by David Llewelyn Morgan. This was agreed unanimously and Peter was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Irene Jones would be willing to stand again as **vice-Chair**. This was proposed by Suzanne Walker and seconded by Janice McDonald. This was agreed unanimously and Irene was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Denise Williams would be willing to stand again as **Treasurer**. This was proposed by Sarah Cousins and seconded by Brian Ross. This was agreed unanimously and Denise was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Sarah Cousins would be willing to stand again as **Secretary**. This was proposed by David Llewelyn Morgan and seconded by Janice McDonald. This was agreed unanimously and Sarah was duly elected.

Peter Sanders suggested that the other members be re-elected en bloc, with the exception of Maggie Sutton who had resigned. This was proposed by Ken McDonald and seconded by

Roger Clark and was agreed unanimously. **NWEEHPA Board members** therefore are Jangu Banatvala, Martin Peachey, Brian Ross and Ray Woodcock.

7. Any other business.

Q. Since the SSE Campaign Office in Molehill Green is no longer deemed fit for purpose in order to act as a polling station, would it be correct to assume that it is not fit for purpose as SSE's Campaign Office?

A. Sarah confirmed that the office had not been used as a polling station in May of 2019 but also explained that the hall, overseen by Trustees, would need to have a lot of money spent on it in order to make it more appealing, money that said Trustees simply do not have. Peter agreed that this should be for discussion at the next meeting of the SSE committee.

Q. Who monitors pollution in areas surrounding the airport? Is it UDC or an independent body?

A. Brian explained that it is the role of the Local Authority, i.e. UDC, to monitor pollution. Stansted Airport has its own monitors within the airport and UDC has them elsewhere. There is also an obligation under the Section 106 agreement to monitor pollution levels in Hatfield Forest and East End Wood. The latest results indicate that current levels are within acceptable levels. Brian added that individual villages/parish councils can request mobile monitors to be placed in specific locations and suggested that villages/parish councils with concerns could consider this option.

8. Conclusion of the meeting.

Peter Sanders closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending.

Suzanne Walker thanked NWEEHPA and SSE on behalf of those present and those not in attendance for "keeping watch".