



## **Minutes of the AGM of the Fairlight Residents' Association held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

Committee present:	Trevor Lewing	Chairman
	Stephen Leadbetter	Treasurer
	Mary Stewart	Acting Secretary
	Joyce Grant	Committee Member
	Ollie Gronow	Co-opted Committee Member
	Margaret Raynor	Co-opted Committee Member
	Jenny Turner	Co-opted Committee Member

Copies of the Agenda for the evening, Minutes of the 2015 AGM and the Treasurer's report for 2015/16 were distributed before the meeting to all members. A total of 48 people attended, including Committee members.

### **1. Welcome**

Trevor Lewing welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

There have not been any notices or resolutions submitted to the Acting Secretary for formal attention during the meeting, nor any nominations for Committee Members.

There will be an opportunity after the meeting for those present to ask questions.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Penny and John Everleigh, Liz and Mick Gilbert, Christine and Peter Jones, Sue and Pete Norris and Graham Wickens.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Trevor asked for the Minutes of the previous AGM to be confirmed as a true account of that meeting. This was approved by Margaret Pulfer and seconded by Jill Lewing.

### **4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman, Trevor Lewing, made the following statement –

I am afraid to say that my report this year does not make for easy listening, nor indeed for saying. The last 12 months have been a very stressful time for me as Chairman. I thank my wife, Jill, for her support. I am also grateful for the support from a small core of Committee members as we have lost some during the year. This has meant that those remaining have had to take on extra responsibilities.

We have managed to co-opt three people, but we still need more. And we have seriously considered the possibility of disbanding the Association and **that** has not disappeared yet. I hope it does not come to that as I believe we celebrate the Association's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

All that aside, we continued to support residents and organisations in the Village. The Association continued its support to the Fairlight Preservation Trust by holding a Social and Disco Night on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately, this event did not receive the response from residents as we had hoped. For those

who did attend, a good time was had, and I thank them, Graham Dawson for his music, and the Committee. The Association donated £100 to the FPT.

During the last 12 months, the Association has also financially supported Fairfest, the Village Hall, FPT and MOPP.

Last October, we held our annual quiz night. I am grateful to Alan Grant, assisted by Joyce. We are doing the same this year *with different questions*.

The Association attended the Village Hall fairs. At last year's summer fair, we had our archives on display in the meeting room, with a visual display of village events from more than 12 months. We hope to be doing something similar next month on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. Please come along to see us and support the Village Hall.

The Fairlight News is received by more than 60% of households in the Village. The editorial team of Joan and Ken Hall, Mary Stewart and David Lucas are to be congratulated for its success. Jenny Turner, who joined the Committee back in September, has done a remarkable job in extracting money from advertisers which has heavily subsidised the cost of the magazine. As ever, we are always in need of articles and contributions. Please, if you submit articles, we would prefer them to be sent by email and arrive by the deadline dates to be sure of inclusion. Please include photographs.

I thank the distributors who deliver in all weathers, particularly in March, as they often return to houses to encourage membership and collect subscriptions. We have had many encouraging feedbacks and it has also been enjoyed by our friends in Fairlight, Australia. Last December, Sally Watson visited Fairlight and presented the residents with a poster depicting the signs and signpost around our village. This was designed and produced by Michael Clarke. It was in the last edition of the FN and I understand copies of the poster can be obtained from Michael.

The email scheme continues its success and has increased its recipients to over 320. We changed the address on 1<sup>st</sup> March and immediately suffered a little blip but it has been running well since. If you wish to join, please give me your email address after the meeting.

As I said in my opening, we have lost a number of Committee members. Joyce Grant will not be standing for re-election at this meeting. She has been serving for ten years, seven as Chair. So on behalf of the Association I thank her and we have a gift for her to show our appreciation. The only Committee member that I have not mentioned is Stephen Leadbetter, our Treasurer. Thank you Stephen.

Finally, I return to my opening remarks. We need more members on the Committee: the Association needs a Secretary, and more help is needed in producing the FN and its distribution. If these tasks are not covered, then the future of the Association will be in doubt. It will be a sad day if this happens, Fairlight News will stop and also the email scheme.

If you are interested and feel you can help, in any way, please see me or any Committee member.

After the meeting, Haydon Luke will be speaking to us. I thank him for standing in, as our previously advertised speaker, Heather Woodward, had to withdraw due to her recovering from an operation. We wish her well.

You will also be able to enjoy a drink and a chat.

It only leaves me to say thank you for listening.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Stephen Leadbetter, made the following statement –

**Our total income for the year was £8054.25.** This is about £300 less than that for 2014/15, however that is a bit misleading as there was an exceptional item shown in the previous year's accounts, when we raised over £1500 in a variety night fundraiser for FPT.

If that exceptional amount is discounted, our day-to-day income was actually over £1000 better for 2015/16.

Due to very dogged and persistent work by our new committee member, Jenny Turner, advertising income for Fairlight News was £4415.00, over £1400 more than the previous year.

Membership income was slightly up at £2897.50

Gross income from social events was about £200 down at £473.40.

**Total expenditure for the year was £10041.45.** Our main item of expenditure is the production cost of Fairlight News which was £ 5694.85, just over £200 more than last year. This is expensive but worthwhile as

our production team led by Joan and Ken Hall produce a high quality magazine much enjoyed by our members.

We increased our donations by about £500 to £3350.00 as follows:

Fairlight Preservation Trust - £2100, meaning we have donated £3500 to them in the last 2 years as a contribution to the essential coastal defence work.

Fairfest - £350 paid in a single year but representing our contribution to 2 years' events.

Fairlight PC - £350 for repairs and maintenance of the village CCTV system.

Pett Level Rescue Boat - £100

Fairlight Gardening Club - £100 for the brighter village initiative.

Marsham Older Peoples' Project - £250 to support their Friday club for older residents

Fairlight Village Hall - £100 to help with running costs

Our other main expenses were hall hire at £259.00, the cost of the disco and quiz at £454.93 and the distributors' night, to thank them for their valuable help, at £173.00

Overall we spent £1987.20 more than came in but we had made a considered decision to give £2000 to FPT which we won't need to repeat for many years – at least we hope so.

Overall our finances remain in a healthy condition with total assets at the year-end of £8674.80, representing more than a year's income.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to our honorary auditor, Peter Norris, for auditing and signing off the association's accounts.

## **7. Change to Rules & Constitution**

*Existing Clause 15. In the event of Fairlight Residents' Association closing down, any amount set aside in the accounts for the purpose of the CCTV equipment shall go to the Fairlight Parish Council and of any remaining assets 50% shall go to the Fairlight Village Hall and 50% shall be shared equally between the two parish churches of Fairlight, being St Andrew's and St Peter's churches.*

*Proposed amendment to Clause 15: In the event of the FRA closing, any funds remaining after liabilities have been discharged shall go to Fairlight Parish Council to be used for the benefit of Fairlight residents or allocated to clubs and societies within the village within 12 months of receipt.*

### **Reason for Change:**

*The Committee of Fairlight Residents' Association considers that the Parish Council is the most appropriate body to decide on the distribution of surplus funds.*

The proposal for the change was carried, with one dissenter. The motion was proposed by David Shortman, seconded by Frank James and carried.

## **8. Election of Officers and Committee**

The Committee was elected en bloc as follows:

Chairman	Trevor Lewing
Vice-Chair	Mary Stewart
Treasurer	Stephen Leadbetter - nominated for re-election
Ollie Gronow	Committee Member
Margaret Raynor	Committee Member
Jenny Turner	Committee Member

These elections were proposed by Sally Watson, seconded by Lyn Mosley and carried.

## **9. Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm. There were no questions raised by the audience.

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After the meeting Haydon Luke gave an interesting talk on "Smuggling in Fairlight", which was well received by the members.