

Fairlight Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on 6th April, 2022 at 19.30.

Committee Present:

Chairman	Chris Smart
Vice Chair (FN Editor)	Jenny Turner
Minutes Secretary	Alastair Mitchell
Treasurer	Louise Russell
Membership Secretary & Magazine Distribution	Cas Barlow
Email Secretary	Alison Thomas
Committee Member	Annette Holmes
Committee Member	Geoff Holmes

Attendance:

22 people attended the meeting, including the Committee Members as listed above. Copies of the minutes of the 2021 AGM and the 2022 Treasurer's Report were distributed to all attending.

Welcome:

The Chairman, Chris Smart, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Kerry Gentleman, Kerry van de Merwe, Mary Stewart, Irene Cox, David and Carol Shortman, Haydon and Elaine Luke, Councillor Andrew Mier, Councillor Lyn Cooke, Trevor and Gill Lewing, and John and Margaret Pulfer.

Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 28th July, 2021.

The Chairman asked for the Minutes for the previous AGM to be approved. The Minutes were approved.

Chairman's Report:

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow me to introduce myself again, my name is Christopher Smart and I was elected onto committee at the 2021 AGM, I have been your acting Chairman of the Fairlight Residents Association since August 2nd 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Trevor Lewing for all his sterling efforts over the previous seven years as Chairman.

At the last AGM we said farewell to Treasurer Stephen Leadbetter and Secretary Ron Simpson. Email Administrator Keith Thompson Smith. Left during the year, sincere thanks go to these Committee Members for the time that they all dedicated to the FRA and Village.

I am both thrilled and honoured to have been given this responsibility and I look forward to continuing in this role for many years.

My report will cover the 9 months that I have been in this position so please do accept my apologies for a short report.

We are of course, still in the grips of the Covid pandemic and as such I would like to thank everyone who has come along this evening. I do know that village life has changed the way in which we get together and some residents are understandably wary to engage in the same way as they have done in years past.

However, on a positive note during my term so far, I have had the privilege to attend a Distributors Event where I was able to meet those volunteers who deliver the Fairlight News magazine to your door. I would like to thank Jenny and Cas for their dedication to getting this magazine produced and sent.

Your committee and I feel that this magazine still makes a fantastic contribution to keeping FRA members fully up to speed with what is going on in Fairlight. We still invite suggestions for inclusion and would welcome any ideas you may have.

We held a quiz night in October that was hosted by Trevor and Ron. It was a great night and big thanks go to everyone involved in making this night the success it was. Special thanks to Annette, Geoff and Kerry who tended the bar on the evening. And I'd also like to acknowledge the great efforts that Cas, Kerry, Jenny and Louise who prepare and cook the food that we have at this and other events

We had planned to hold a Christmas event but at the last minute we took the decision to cancel due to the rise in countrywide Covid cases, we still believe that this decision was sound, and we do hope that you agree.

Similarly, we had to cancel the "Party Night" that we had planned for March 26th, ticket sales were very low, and we believe that the appetite for meeting in close contact indoors could have been contributory to lack of sales.

The committee will be meeting separately to discuss the viability of holding any future indoor events until such time as we feel it is safe to do so.

We will endeavour to continue to meet monthly for our FRA meetings and as such I would like to personally thank Jenny my Vice Chair for her assistance in running these meetings and Alistair for his role in capturing all salient points discussed.

Our email scheme continues to be a success and keeps FRA members up to date with what is going on in Fairlight. My thanks go to Alison for taking on this role and her diligence in keeping it running so smoothly.

On final note, the FRA and Parish Council are currently working on a programme of events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

These start in the evening of June 2nd with the Beacon lighting on Battery Hill.

Friday 3rd there will be lunch, teas and entertainment held in Village Hall.

Saturday 4th Fairfest Jubilee Jamboree will see an evening of music on Woodfield, with BBQ and Bar.

Sunday 5th a Church service to celebrate the Queen's Reign will be held at St Andrew's Church. This will be followed later in the day by Fairfest Jubilee Jamboree Village Fair with stalls, demonstrations, lunches, BBQ and Bar.

Please do keep an eye out for updates and timings for all these events via posters and emails. I hope to see you all there!

In closing, once again, I would like to give thanks to all committee members for their continued hard work and the support it has given me in these past 9 months.

Treasurer's Report:

In the Report the figures are rounded to nearest pound.

The first thing to say is that the AGM is being held much earlier than normal, and as a result this report is only an interim statement as there may still be money to be posted to last year, and only then can the audit take place.

Last year, FY 2021 – 2022, only the Quiz Night took place, in October, so income generation was much less than before the coronavirus epidemic.

Our total income for the year was £8221 (est.). This is about £799 more than 2020/2021.

Advertising income for Fairlight News was £4637, which was £56 less than in 2020/2021.

Membership income currently stands at £2511. This contrasts with £2680 in the year 2020/2021, but not all subscriptions have been paid for 2021/2022.

Total expenditure for the year was £7938. This is £1095 more than last year. Our main expenditure is the production cost of Fairlight News which was £6251, that is £275 more than 2020/2021, an increase of 4.6%. This is expensive but worthwhile as our production team now led by Jenny Turner and Sandie Vivian produce a high

quality magazine much enjoyed by our members. The cost after advertising income is taken into account is £1613. The additional costs are partially due to an increase in issues ordered, and additional production costs. The printers have assured us that costs will not increase again in 2022, but further increases of at least 3.6% are expected in 2023/4.

In 2017 we made a decision that profits from our events and ventures would be ring-fenced so they are available for donations or projects. This is a healthy sum and in 2021-2022 we made donations to :

Fairfest - £200.

Fairlight Village Hall - £75.

St Michael's Hospice - £100.

We have £1501 remaining to be allocated as necessary.

We show miscellaneous expenditure of £149, this including training to provide a member of the committee with kitchen health and safety certification at a cost of £48, and costs providing leaving presents for several committee members.

Overall we made a surplus of £283 for the year.

Our finances remain in a healthy condition with total assets at the year-end of £14,307 representing about 2 years expenditure split between cash, our current account, and a reserve account.

Subscription Increase:

The Chairman explained that it was felt that there was a need to increase the subscription rate for the Residents Association. At present it stood at £5.00, and the proposal was to increase it to £8.00. He noted that it had not been increased for at least 10 years. As had been stated in the Treasurer's report, the Association faced increases in the cost of producing the Magazine in 22/23, having already suffered a 4.6% rise in 21/22. The Magazine this year has a cover price of £3.00, which barely covers the publishing costs, so the distribution to members four times a year represents excellent value, and will remain so even with the increase in subscription.

The Chairman reminds the Association that it also oversees regular email alerts, ranging from information about local events and societies, travel updates, and parish news to requests for information regarding lost pets, etc. It also holds regular events which were very well attended prior to the pandemic, the profits from which are ring fenced for donations and projects within the community. But costs, including food and drink for such events are rising all the time which reduces the profit margins.

Paul Draper asked how many members there were, and was told it was around 500 households (not all are yet fully paid up), which represents nearly half of the village.

Val Duffell asked if an effort is made to recruit new members, and she was assured that every effort is made to contact new residents. Magazine distributors were encouraged to contact new residents, and copies of the magazine were left at the Post Office and Estate Agents, and would be left at the Cove which has just re-opened.

The motion to increase the subscription was approved, having been seconded by Karen Draper. The rise, from £5.00 to £8.00 will take place as from the year 2023/24.

Election of Officers and Committee:

The Chairman asked for the election of this years Officers and Committee to be carried out en bloc. This was approved by the attendees, the motion seconded by Pauline Collins.

The Current Officers:

Chairman (Co-opted)	Chris Smart	Nominated for Election.
Vice Chair (FN Editor)	Jenny Turner	
Minute Secretary (Co-opted)	Alastair Mitchell	Nominated for Election

Current Committee Members:

Cas Barlow (Membership Secretary & FN Distribution)

Kerry Gentleman	Nominated for Re-election
-----------------	---------------------------

Annette Holmes	Nominated for Re-election
----------------	---------------------------

Geoff Holmes

Kerry van de Merwe

Alison Thomas (Email Scheme) Co-opted Member Nominated for Election.

Auditor:

Peter Norris has once again agreed to audit the Association's accounts. It was noted that this would be the last year that he would perform this task, and a new auditor would be required

Close of Meeting:

The Chairman thanked all once again for attending, and the meeting closed at 20.00, at which point a glass of wine was enjoyed by all present. This was followed by a talk given by Paul Draper titled The Fairlight History Group, Past, Present and Future.

Paul had stepped in at very short notice with this talk, and the Association wishes to record its thanks to him for a very enjoyable and informative presentation.