

Fairlight Residents Association
Notes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at the Village Hall, 4th June, 2025 at 19.30

Welcome: The Chairman, Chris Smart (CS) welcomed those attending the meeting at 19.30.

In Attendance: 22 members. It was noted that the required quorum of 25 members had not been achieved, and therefore another AGM would be needed at a later date, to be announced.

Committee Members Present: Chris Smart (CS), Cas Barlow (CB), Sue Evans (SE), Annette Holmes (AH), Alastair Mitchell (AM), Rebecca Richardson (RR).

Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from:

G. Holmes
C. Sharpe
A. Thomas
A. Mier
P. Ray
M. Pocock
S. Stewart
P. Draper
G. Henshaw
J. Annettes

Approval of the Minutes of the AGM, 2024:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 22nd May, 2024, were approved.

Proposed by Issy Horsley

Seconded by Pauline Collins.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

There were no matters arising.

Changes to the Constitution:

CS explained that, as agreed at the last AGM, the confusion between points 6ii and 9 had been clarified in the new Constitution. However, further amendments were being proposed, and these could not be passed until the required quorum had been achieved at an AGM later in the year.

Chairman's Report:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for coming along this evening. You know that it is customary that I, as Chairman of the FRA, provide you with a short report.

Unfortunately, we do not appear to have enough attendees to enable us to meet our constitutional obligations, so no decisions will be made this evening. We will set another date shortly and hopefully encourage some more residents to come along. In addition to this, because of the lack of numbers, we will not be re-electing members until our next meeting.

Before I start, at our last AGM we made some amendments to our constitution to bring it in line with current guidelines. At the meeting, it was felt by the audience that some further changes were needed. These changes have been made, and copies can be found at the back of the hall. We will agree these changes at our next meeting.

I will however, run you through some of our achievements in the last year and bring you up to speed with any developments.

First, it is with a great deal of sadness that I must inform you that two of our wonderful team will be stepping down. Both Cas Barlow and Sue Evans have decided to stand down. However, I am extremely grateful to both committee members as they have said that they would like to continue with their roles, being Magazine Distribution Coordinator, and Magazine Publicity Coordinator.

I would like to take this opportunity to give sincere thanks to both ladies whose contributions will be greatly missed.

[At this point a presentation was made to CB and SE, and those present showed their appreciation with applause.]

So, what have we done in the past 12 months? The FRA have had the privilege to work alongside many other Fairlight groups assisting in the production of events.

Throughout the early months of 2024 FRA worked with the Fairfest committee, assisting in the production of the June Fairfest festivities. A long weekend of fun was had by all. Plans are now coming together for this year's Fairfest which will be held on the 21st of June.

We held a Distributors Event in October where we were able to meet and thank those volunteers who deliver the Fairlight News magazine to your door. In early October the FRA voted unanimously to approach the Parish Council and suggest that they relinquish control of DISH and pass the project onto the FRA. I will update you later how this collaboration has been progressing. In the early autumn of 2024, the FRA supported the Fairlight History Group (FHG) and worked to produce a display of Fairlight before Fairlight Cove. This daylong event had displays that showed the evolution of our village. The FRA will be supporting and collaborating with FHG again with their next display, in October.

In November, the FRA had the honour to be a part of the unveiling of the War Memorial. This long-awaited tribute was revealed as a mark of respect to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice during both world wars.

Lastly, the Spring Fling held in April! An evening of music, dance and fine food was enjoyed by the guests who filled the hall that evening. Special thanks are owed to the volunteers and committee members who helped at this event. The event was held to help raise funds for the Fairlight Friday Lunch Club and we were able to donate £1,500 that evening.

Your committee and I feel that the quarterly Fairlight News 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. Big thanks go to Carol Sharpe and her team, Mike, Sue, and Alison for their commitment to producing this fine magazine and, of course, thank you to all those who contribute articles.

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 continuing with this role and her diligence in keeping it running so smoothly.

We will continue to meet monthly for our FRA meetings, and as such it would be remiss of me not to personally thank Alastair for his role in capturing all salient points discussed at these meetings.

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 this past year.

Christopher Smart
Chairman FRA

FRA DISH:

In October 2024, the FRA proposed to the Parish Council that we assume the management responsibilities for DISH. This decision was voted on and agreed at the Parish Council meeting in November 2024. Subsequently, all DISH funds held by the Parish Council were transferred to the FRA and were reserved exclusively for DISH.

For the past eight months, we have worked with the DISH coordinators and monitored the project's performance. We take great pride in this project and the numerous benefits it provides to its participants and are proud to be associated with it.

We, the FRA, are satisfied that this project can now operate independently, indeed the DISH coordinators have demonstrated effectively that governance by the FRA is no longer necessary. Therefore, we intend to relinquish our management responsibilities with immediate effect and transfer the ringfenced funds back to DISH.

The FRA extends its very best wishes for the future success of the project and looks forward to observing its continued development.

At this point, Issy Horsley, on behalf of DISH, thanked the FRA for their work with DISH over the past few months.

Treasurer's Report:

RR set out the financial state of FRA as found at the present time.

Key points:

The 2024/25 Accounts have been independently reviewed by Arthur Miles (one of the treasurers for RNLI Hastings), who has confirmed they are correct and a true reflection of our activities - which is good news. For good financial management, we've implemented a procurement policy, to ensure that we

can demonstrate that we are spending our members money in a robust and transparent manner.

1) Income Summary income was just over £16,000, an increase of £2,815 from the previous year, mainly due to the DISH reserves transferred to the FRA, and an increase in volume of membership subs (which hasn't increased for a few years). Whilst FN advertisers' revenue seems to have gone down this is a timing issue. As approved at last year's AGM, the bank accounts have been split and bank interest has increased to over £200.

2) Expenditure Summary: as usual, the FN printing costs are our biggest costs. As mentioned last year, by bringing the design in-house and by changing print suppliers, the costs have come down. With that, our donations have increased. In 24/25, we made sizeable donations to ARC, who I can now confirm they have purchased their fireproof safe that will keep local original documents safe for tens of years. Also £1,450 was donated to help fund the War Memorial, which was unveiled last year. Other smaller donations were made to Fairfest, Day Lunch and Fairlight History Group.

3) Income vs Expenditure by year comparison:

FRA isn't here to make money, it's here to support its members and local groups. So whilst there have been similar previous balances bought forward, in 24/25 the income over expenditure was significantly more this year due to the DISH reserves coming to the FRA, which have been set-aside in a separate ring-fenced account. As Chris explain, this money will be transferred to DISH once it is a stand alone entity, along with the interest that they have accrued (some £44)). Excluding that money, we've increased our funds by £2,420.

4)

It's been another good year, we've been well supported by our members and we have supported local good causes. We have some ideas of local causes that we would like to support in the future, but are always on the look out for more.

Election of Current Officers and Committee Members:

CS explained that the elections could not take place until a meeting with the required quorum had been arranged.

Any Other Business:

Ian Richardson wondered if the Fairlight Magazine should be available in an online version. CS emphasised that he thought the hard copy was a particularly attractive format, and he was worried that if it was available online, it could be passed on to others, non-members, more easily. Issy Horsley thought that there might be issues with Advertisers if there was an online version. Trevor Lewing suggested that the Magazine could be available to members only using password access and SE pointed out that a hard copy version was crucial as some members did not have computers.

There was a discussion about late payments. Jenny Turner thought that in the March edition of the Magazine, the first page should be devoted to a reminder that subscriptions were due. Pauline Collins suggested that a tear-off slip should be included at the bottom of the page, which would indicate the name and address of the person renewing the subscription (sometimes the money arrived anonymously).

Trevor Lewing pointed out that details of the up-coming AGM had not been included in the Magazine. CS pointed out that it had been advertised on emails, posters and on Facebook, etc. but agreed that it should also be clearly announced in the Magazine.

CS told the meeting that the number of pages in the Magazine might be increased, to give more space for local news, etc. which at the moment equalled the space given over to advertisers.

The meeting ended at 20.05.