

**CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND Cheshire Branch 88<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom  
Minutes**

**1. Welcome**

Peter Raynes, Chairman for CPRE Cheshire Branch, welcomed everyone to the meeting. 19 people were present (and 9 proxy votes had been received prior the meeting) which equaled a total of 28 members with voting rights. He explained how the meeting would work online, and confirmed members would be allowed to ask questions during the meeting. At the end of the meeting there would be 2 films: the current CPRE Regeneration advert (2 minutes long) followed by a film made by CPRE Cheshire in 1976 (20 minutes long).

**2. Motion to resolve that the AGM is being held remotely and the meeting has not been held within 12 Months of the previous AGM due to Covid-19:** Peter Raynes proposed the above motion to the meeting. Derek Goldstraw Seconded the motion and Voted on: All agreed.

**3. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Randal Hibbert, Ann Jones, and people who had sent in proxy votes: Desmond Williams, Mr Broadbent, Raynold Finney, Graham James Cooper, Andrew Pownall, Mr Crawford, Jennifer Maddock, Paul Spence, and Irene Paddock.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM** held at Willington Hall near Tarporley on 9th May 2019.  
**Proposer:** Peter Raynes **Seconder:** John Whitehead **Vote:** everyone agreed.

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
There were no matters arising.

**6. Chairman's Report:**

Peter Raynes referred the meeting to Cheshire Branch's Annual Report, written by the previous Chairman, Andrew Needham, who had to step out of this zoom meeting for 10 minutes. Peter Raynes was happy to report that our Planning Committee led by Andrew Needham was extremely active and had benefitted in 2019 from the support of Jackie Copley, Planning Officer from CPRE Lancashire. Housing numbers throughout Cheshire had been a huge issue in 2019 and continued to be in 2020. At last year's AGM members had heard about the Sandstone Ridge and proposals for it to become an Area of Outstanding Beauty, which still had not come to fruition. The 2019 Christmas Celebration had been a great success and Peter Raynes looked forward to holding similar events in the future. Cheshire Branch has networked with Lancashire Branch lobbying councils and the new Metro Mayors to preserve our Green Belts and countryside. The Charity is currently running at a deficit, but Peter Raynes explained that it was not a bad thing as the Branch should use its funds for charity work rather than keeping the money in the Bank. Finally, Peter Raynes, stated that although we had all faced challenges with Covid-19 this year, the charity had in some ways become more effective, more people from the local and national charity had joined in remotely for meetings which worked more efficiently, which is perfect for the type of work that our charity does. Cheshire Branch will again be linking up with Lancashire Branch over the winter months to run a series of virtual events, beginning with a talk on soils in January. We also intend to hold at a social distance some informative walks in the Tushingham area in the Spring. Details of all events will be sent out to members soon.

**7. Treasurers Report**

Derek Goldstraw, Treasurer, stated that he did not have much to add to the Financial Report 2019, expect to highlight again that 5 years ago the Trustees agreed that if the charity reserves start to run down, they would maintain a minimum balance of £10,000 in order to wind up the charity, should that ever become necessary.

**8. Acceptance of the Year 2019 Trustees' Annual Report including the Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

**Proposer:** John Whitehead      **Seconder:** Rod Tann      **Vote:** All agreed

**9. Election of Officers**

The following positions had already been Proposed and Seconded in advance of the AGM, so Peter Raynes asked the members to vote their agreement:

(i) **Vice-Presidents** - nominations for election of Vice-Presidents:

**Randal Hibbert** Proposer: Peter Moore Dutton      Seconder: Andrew Needham      **Vote:** All agreed

**Peter Raynes** Proposer: John Whitehead      Seconder: Derek Goldstraw      **Vote:** All agreed

(ii) **Branch Treasurer: Derek Goldstraw**

**Proposer:** Jim Cameron      **Seconder:** Peter Raynes      **Vote:** all agreed

(iii) **Honorary Legal Adviser: Mrs Lesley Stuart** of Cullimore Dutton is nominated for election.

**Proposer:** Derek Goldstraw

**Seconder:** Andrew Needham

**Vote:** all agreed

#### 10. Election of District Representatives to serve on the Branch Executive:

Nominations by each District Committee to serve on the Branch Executive until the AGM of 2019 have been received. These are:

Chester

**Randal Hibbert**

Vale Royal

**Andrew Needham**

Warrington

**Jacqui Johnson**

(Already proposed & seconded on nomination forms)

**Vote:** All agreed

#### Election of other Trustees:

**Rev John Whitehead**

**Proposer:** Andrew Needham

**Seconder:** Peter Moore Dutton

**Peter Moore Dutton**

**Proposer:** Andrew Needham

**Seconder:** Peter Raynes

**Rod Tann**

**Proposer:** Derek Goldstraw

**Seconder:** Jacqui Johnson

**Andrew Needham**

**Proposer:** Peter Raynes

**Seconder:** Derek Goldstraw

**Jacqui Johnson**

**Proposer:** Andrew Needham

**Seconder:** Rod Tann

**James Cameron**

**Proposer:** John Whitehead

**Seconder:** Peter Moore Dutton

(Already proposed & seconded on nomination forms)

**Vote** All agreed

#### 11. Election of Auditors

**Bennett Brooks & Co Ltd, Chartered Accountants, 2 Maple Court, Davenport Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 1JE.**

**Proposer:** Derek Goldstraw **Seconder:** Andrew Needham **Vote:** All agreed

#### 12. Any other business

Before the AGM, Peter Raynes had received the following motion from member, Sir Francis Graham-Smith, which he agreed to take up at this meeting: 'I am concerned that there are no District Representatives for most districts either in post or proposed in agenda item 10. In my experience on Henbury parish council there are many local issues in which the council and other bodies, including the Henbury Society, which would benefit from a greater involvement of CPRE. The proposed development on green belt between Henbury and Macclesfield is an obvious example, but there are many others both of planning and the environment, including a major improvement in hedges, in which CPRE should be involved.' Francis Tunney, who is Chair of his local Parish Council, but also involved with CHaLC, agreed that Parish Councils in Cheshire would greatly benefit from seeking advice and also working with CPRE Cheshire. Locally his PC receives a large number of Planning Applications and the local parish councillors don't have enough knowledge in planning, and this is where CPRE could get involved. He gave an example of a planning issue relating to light pollution and dark skies, and how he came across a report that National CPRE had issued some years ago. Jacqui Johnson, Cheshire Trustee for Warrington District, agreed and said the idea of having a named representative in a Parish Council who could liaise with CPRE would be an excellent way forward. Becca Nelson confirmed that CPRE Cheshire had run training events with conjunction with CHaLC in the past, and Jackie Copley said she would be happy to run training sessions for Parish Council in the future. She suggested that Parish Councils, who are CPRE members, should also sign up for CPRE Network News and directed them to look at our website which has a useful planning section. She reminded members that Cheshire Branch holds a Planning Meeting for volunteers to discuss planning issues once every two months which representatives from PC's are welcome to attend. Francis Tunney requested that CPRE also send out its newsletters via email to the Parish Councils so that the Clerk can forward the information on to Parish Councillors easily.

Peter Raynes stated that the main part of the virtual AGM had now concluded and invited members to stay on and watch the 2 films. Following the films, Peter Raynes said he would be available for general discussion. The 2 films were enjoyed by 14 members who remained in the zoom meeting. Peter Raynes hoped that they had enjoyed the films, and felt that the countryside of Cheshire today was more intact than it had been in the 1976 film as we now have less fly tipping happening and greater care is being taken of our countryside hedges. John Whitehead asked whether there might be a possibility of a Poetry Competition to run alongside the forthcoming Cheshire Branch Photo Competition. Peter Raynes agreed a poetry competition would be an excellent idea, but felt that it should be separate and agreed with Becca Nelson that a poetry competition for school children would be the best idea. Jacqui Johnson informed the meeting of a forthcoming Planning Conference (run by the Planning Portal) would be taking place week beg 16<sup>th</sup> November and a link would be sent out following this meeting.

Jackie Copley then gave a brief summary of the planning work that she had been involved in with Cheshire Branch in 2019, and highlighted the work she had done to produce a Brownfield Toolkit which enabled people to identify Brownfield sites. She had recently worked with communities in Manchester and found 74 hectares of brownfield, and another 59 hectares on the Wirral.

Peter Moore Dutton advised had examples of local land that fell through the net with regards to brownfield sites, explaining that if the land had now turned back to green land, it could not be classed as brownfield. Finally, Peter Raynes thanked the members for attending the virtual AGM and brought the meeting to a close.