

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
November 23 2016
Grimond Room Portcullis House

Minutes

Present:

Richard Knox-Johnston (Chair), CPRE Kent
Kristina Kenworthy (Vice Chair 2017), CPRE Surrey
John Croxen (Secretary), CPRE London
Jenny Habib (Treasurer 2015), Chiltern Society
Stan Jones (Treasurer 2017), CPRE Bucks
John Warren (Committee Member), Theydon Bois Action Group
Ray Liffen (Committee Member), Carshalton-on-the-Hill RA
Edward Glynn (Committee Member), Croham Valley RA
Catherine Maguire, CPRE London/LGBC Green Belt Campaigner

Andrew Smith, Epping Society
Anne Swinson, Hatch End Assoc
Asif Siddiqi, Stanmore Society
Audrey Jarvis (non-member)
Bruce Singleton, SPAE
Dave Cockle, Enfield Society
Geoff James, Kenley and District RA
Graham Butler, Ramblers Assoc, Surrey
Graham Lomas, East Coulsdon RA/Friends of
Farthing Downs
Ian Murray, Eastcote Village Conservation and
Advisory Panel
Jean Gammons, North Cray RA
John Edge, Sevenoaks Society

John Gell, Cllr, Sarratt Parish Council
Kevin Page, Wanstead and Woodford Friends
of the Earth
Martin Boyle, Theydon Bois Rural
Preservation Society,
Mick Doughty, North Cray RA
Patrick Griffin, CPRE Berks
Peter Daymond, Ickenham RA
Robert Newton, Friern Barnet and Whetstone
RA
Robin Bishop, The Barnet Society
Susan Warren, Theydon Bois Action Group
Wiktor Molleskog, Addington RA

1. Apologies:

Mr G Thomas MP, President;
Barry Knichel, SCANGB; Gillian Ford, Upminster & Cranham RA; Hannah Lane, Ottershaw Society;
Andrea Allgood, Northaw and Cuffley RA; Brian Dori, South East London HF Rambling Club; Tricia
Moxey, CPRE Essex; George Wilkinson, Waltham Abbey RA; Peter York, Kent Federation of Amenity
Societies; Cedric Hoptroff, The Leighton Buzzard Society; Chris Beney, Open Spaces Society;
Brian Hudson, Old Coulsdon Residents Association.

2. Agreement of Agenda

The Agenda was agreed unanimously.

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on November 18 2015

The minutes were agreed unanimously.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Chair's Report

Catherine Maguire, CPRE London/ LGBC Green Belt Campaigner, reported on the success of the Green Belt Partnership Project with the seven CPRE Branches which share the Metropolitan Green Belt (see attached PowerPoint Slides).

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts are appended to these minutes. The Treasurer explained that the balance of £4073.44 is not a huge amount given the work we need to do to challenge the considerable threats to the Green Belt. She reported that the Independent Examiner had noted that the cost of producing maps was in excess of £9000 and yet income from selling the maps was only £2544. As such, it was imperative that the remaining 600 maps were used to raise funds.

ACTION: LGBC Committee to plan how to use remaining maps to raise funds.

The Chair explained that LGBC had agreed to contribute £1000 a month to CPRE London to cover staff costs for the delivery of the Green Belt Partnership Project for the next 6 months. Alice Roberts, CPRE London Head of Green Space Campaigns at CPRE London, will launch a 'MyDonate' online appeal the week commencing November 28 to secure funding for the project until the end of 2017. He clarified that the MyDonate web-page had to have CPRE London's logo on it as the money raised had to be for a registered charity; and that as a charity CPRE London would be able to receive gift aid. He also urged members to get the ball rolling by donating as soon as they received the email detailing the campaign and to encourage their organisations' individual members to contribute too.

The Chair informed members that the Committee was in discussion about the feasibility of applying for charitable status.

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks for Jenny Habib's dedicated service as LGBC Treasurer, particularly over the past year of 'holding the fort' after standing down as Treasurer at the 2015 AGM. This was unanimously and warmly given.

7. To consider a motion put forward at the last AGM in 2015 that subscriptions be raised from £10 to £25 per annum, subscriptions due on the 1st January each year.

After a short discussion, the proposal to increase subscription fees was carried unanimously.

8. To consider the situation of individual supporters.

The Chair informed members that the Committee had discussed enquiries received about individual membership from both within and outside LGBC member organisations. The Committee felt that rather than admit individual members, it would be feasible to introduce an 'Individual Supporter' category of membership. Supporters would be able to receive updates and attend LGBC meetings but would not have voting rights.

Issues raised during the discussion of this item included whether there was capacity for extra attendees at Council meetings, the feasibility and costliness of providing increased numbers with information and the level of subscriptions for Supporters. The Chair emphasised that the situation would be closely monitored for the first year and would be reviewed at the 2017 AGM. Catherine Maguire also stressed that as all communication with members was electronic, there would be minimal extra work involved in communicating with Supporters.

Two motions which reflected the discussion of the item were put to the meeting:

Motion 1: Set the Supporter membership fee at £10 pa with a maximum of 40 Supporters.

Motion 2: Set the Supporter membership fee at £20 pa with no limit on the number of Supporters.

Motion 1 was carried.

ACTION: a. Create an Individual Supporter's Application Form to be sent out to members with subscription reminders in January 2017.

b. Review the Individual Supporters' membership category at the 2017 AGM.

9. To consider the future organisation of the LGBC

The Chair emphasised that as the LGBC grows in size, it will also grow in complexity which would necessitate additional activity and meetings beyond the Committee and Full Council meetings, particularly with CPRE Branch partners who had met recently to draw up a strategy for the next year of the Green Belt Partnership Project.

Members present from the Society to Protect Ascot and the Environs, Wanstead and Woodford Friends of the Earth and Addington Residents Association identified some of the issues their organisations were currently grappling with and the need to show members of the public the action LGBC was taking to fight the threats that it had identified. The Chair referred to how positively the 'Safe Under Us?' report had been received and the change in tone of letters from Secretaries of State. He illustrated this by reading his letter to the Prime Minister and the response from the Minister of Housing, Planning and London, Gavin Barwell.

10. Election of Officers

Before nominations were taken for Officer positions for 2017, the Chair requested that the LGBC's gratitude was minuted for the service of those Officers who were standing down this year: Kevin Page; Kevin Fitzgerald, Jenny Habib and Cedric Hoptroff as well as Reg Liffen who was standing down as Vice Chair but had offered to stay on as a Committee Member for the following year.

The following were elected unanimously:

- a. President
Gareth Thomas, MP (proposed by Edward Glynn and seconded by Jenny Habib)

- b. Chair
Richard Knox-Johnston (proposed by Ray Liffen and seconded by John Croxen)

- c. Vice Chair
Kristina Kenworthy (proposed by Richard Knox-Johnston and seconded by Ray Liffen)

- d. Secretary
John Croxen (proposed by Richard Knox-Johnston and seconded by Kristina Kenworthy)

- e. Treasurer
Stan Jones (proposed by Richard Knox-Johnston and seconded by John Croxen)

- f. Four members of the Executive
 - Edward Glyn (proposed by John Croxen and seconded by Richard Knox-Johnston)
 - Barry Knichel (proposed by Richard Knox-Johnston and seconded by John Croxen)
 - Ray Liffen (proposed by John Croxen and seconded by Richard Knox-Johnston)
 - John Warren (proposed by Ray Liffen and seconded by Richard Knox-Johnston)

13. AOB

Items from the Committee Meeting held from 2-4pm:

- **High Court Action**

Kristina Kenworthy (CPRE Surrey) gave details of two cases she had been involved in, Elmbridge (Surrey) and Warren Farm (Ealing), where some progress has been made in persuading judges of the merits of the case against development on Green Belt Land.

- **38 Degrees Petition to Save the English Green Belt**

John Warren (Theydon Bois Action Group) gave the context for the petition initiated by Theydon Bois Action Group which requests that the Secretary of State to issue policy instruction to the Planning Inspectorate that neither unmet need nor five-year housing supply constitute the very special or exceptional circumstances required to build on the Green Belt.

John encouraged all members to sign the petition and use social media to publicise it in order for the petition to gain enough signatures to force a Commons debate. LGBC will also email details of the petition and share on social media.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/to-protect-english-green-belts>

ACTION: LGBC to email all members the link to the 38 Degrees petition and publicise via social media.

Other Business

- Patrick Griffin (CPRE Berkshire) raised the issue of 14,800 housing units being proposed on the Green Belt in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Draft Local Plan.

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th March 2017 from 6.30-8.30pm at either The Palace of Westminster or Portcullis House.