



## **Emsworth Community Board**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2010 at 7.30pm at Emsworth Community Association Centre**

#### **Present: Community Board Members**

Rosemary Osborne	Chairman/Resident
Tim Brooks	Emsworth Business Association
Keith Gittins	Resident
Brian Edwards-Picknett	Resident
Jean Tier	Emsworth Community Association
Peter Tier	Friends of Emsworth Hospital
Donald Wells	Resident

#### **Present: Others**

Helen Wood	Community Boards' Support Officer
8 members of the public	

#### **Action**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Rosemary Osborne welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Apologies had been received from:

Jackie Muller	Resident
Chris Walker	Resident
Cllr Virginia Wilson-Smith	HBC

#### **2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2009**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2009 were approved.

Approved: Steve Pearce                      Seconded: Peter Tier

#### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's Report could be found at the end of the minutes.

Jean Tier provided additional information on the Youth Project. She reported that the lack of activities for young people in Emsworth had been recognised by the Community Board 18 months previously and since then extensive consultation had taken place and a major event, held at the Brookfield, had involved 60 young people from local schools providing their opinions. The main request was for a youth club and funding had been obtained from Cllr Bolton, Guinness Hermitage and Emsworth Food Festival for this to commence, probably at the summer half term, at the Community Centre on Friday evenings. This would be staffed by HCC youth workers and work was being undertaken with a group of young people, known as E3C. There would be a games room, arts and crafts, tv/lounge

area and refreshments. Work was also being undertaken with the Baptist Church which also had a youth club on Friday evenings, to ensure there was no overlap. HCC youth workers could only work with 13 –19 year olds but it was hoped that the Baptist Church could work with younger children. Schools were also very much involved in the project. Young people had also been asked about their likes and dislikes in the area, one of which had been the appearance of the gasometer. Work was being undertaken with the gas company to ascertain whether any action could be taken to improve the appearance of the gasometer.

There was a short discussion regarding the need to engage those who would not normally attend such youth clubs and it was hoped that these young people would be targeted by PCSOs and youth workers.

Steve Pearce congratulated all those involved for all that had been achieved.

## **5. Election of new Community Board Members**

Following discussion it was ascertained that 10 members were resigning, one member who had completed three years wished to re-stand and one member wished to remain on the Community Board. There were already 2 vacancies on the Board.

There were no additional nominations from members of the public with the exception of one resident who could only attend meetings for approximately 6 months of the year.

General discussion included:

- the possibility of the ERA being used by HBC for consultation but it was indicated by ERA members present that the ERA would wish to remain totally independent
- the belief that if funding was available there would be more interest in the Community Board from members of the public. A resident also commented that funding would be available if Emsworth were to become a parish council
- the list of possible responsibilities (from Cllr Fairhurst) which could be passed to Community Boards e.g. allotment management, litterbins etc.
- the lack of information/contact from HBC following the review of Community Boards last year.

Following further discussion it was agreed that with so few members the Community Board was not viable and all members decided to resign. It was a majority decision that the Community Board did not wish to continue with its current membership. It was agreed that Rosemary Osborne would write to Cllr Cheshire with the comments made by the Community Board.

### Any Other Business

Thanks were passed to David Linington who maintained the Community Board website and to Helen Wood for her support.

## **6. Friends of Chichester Harbour Presentation**

Nigel Roper provided a very interesting presentation on the work of the Friends of Chichester Harbour whose main aims were:

- to maintain and improve Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

- to conserve and protect this AONB
- to provide education.

The presentation included:

- The area covered by the Friends of Chichester Harbour
- Reasons for protecting and supporting the harbour
- Potential threats, including development.

Activities undertaken by The Friends included:

- Wildlife research and monitoring
- Habitat enhancement and creation
- Tree planting and hedgerow maintenance
- Maintaining footpaths
- Helping disadvantaged persons get afloat.

Annual membership of The Friends cost £5 and further information could be obtained at [www.friendsch.org](http://www.friendsch.org) Various leaflets were available to those present.

The following discussion included:

- Advantages/disadvantages of a parish council
- Possible impact of breakwater at south east of Island
- New legislation regarding coastal access.

Nigel Roper was thanked for attending the meeting.

## 7. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

April 2011.

### Report from Chair – Rosemary Osborne

Community Boards were set up to enable local people to influence the quality of life for their community. They ideally consist of 15 voting members who live, work or learn in the area. Membership includes at least 50% local residents and one local Ward Councillor. The Board should be a reasonable representation of the population the Board serves, bearing in mind age, gender, disability, ethnic minority and faith. This coming year 2010 to 2011 it is hoped we will work more closely with the ERA to the benefit of the wider community.

Emsworth Community Board, in their role as a community champion for the quality of life in Emsworth, and bearing in mind Board members are volunteers who give up their free time, decided to create sub groups. These sub groups undertake to help monthly board meetings run smoothly and to agree realistic aims for their group in the coming 12 months.

Our groups are:-

Natural and Built Environment

Public Rights of Way/Cycle Routes/Local Transport

Youth Project/Development

Communications

Health

Some groups may be busy whilst others fulfil more of a watching brief role.

#### Safe neighbourhood in our environment:

Each month the police attend the meeting and give us an update of crime in Emsworth. Recently they have produced monthly graphs to show increase/decrease in criminal

activity. Crime decreased slightly from 2009 to present. There is an opportunity for the public to ask questions on any topic related to these crime figures.

#### Environmental Ranger (for HBC)

Nick Horten also attends our meetings each month to give helpful updates on environmental issues. Again questions may be asked by the attendees at the meeting.

#### Built Environment Sub Group

Planning applications this year have focussed on Oak Tree Drive and the Hampshire Farm Development. Both of these applications have gone quiet for the moment due to the economic climate but will rise to prominence again as soon as money becomes available.

There was an interesting talk and presentation given by Martin Hawthorne and Jean Gibbs on behalf of Linden Homes (the developers of Hampshire Farm). They provided drawings of the proposed development for the public to view at the meeting. These drawings were then taken to Emsworth Pastoral Centre and displayed for 3 days.

Also under the Built Environment umbrella comes the Management Plan for Emsworth Conservation Area. This is a long term project which the newly elected members of the Board will be pursuing through 2010 to 2011 and the Board has submitted a number of comments and criticisms to HBC.

#### Youth Projects

In May 2009 the Hollybank Recreation Group applied for funding to improve the children's play area on the park. This funding was awarded and it is hoped the construction will start soon.

The Youth Project has made excellent progress and many activities were provided during the summer holidays. A good number of boys and girls attended free football coaching. Jean Tier will update us on this youth project.

#### Local Transport/Rights of way Sub Group

Links to school – as part of this important project the Board carried out a non scientific survey of Washington Road Underpass. This gave a useful indication of the importance of this underpass in the lives of the public, in particular the routes to school from North and South Emsworth. Also this survey will give some ammunition in the concerns raised in the development known as the Interbridges Site. This development has also gone quiet for the moment but will no doubt raise its head again in a more stable economic climate.

The Board were the prime instigators in the construction of the lovely Emsworth Memorial Garden in Jubilee Park which has become the focus of a remembrance service in November of each year. This garden is now complete.

As you will have seen, the Board has been responsible for starting many worthwhile projects. You will also see that many of the sub groups overlap in their activities so there is usually plenty of choice as to where, and how much, a Board member can be involved.

2009 to 2010 has been a busy year and there is still much to be done. We sincerely hope that members of the public will continue to support the Community Board, and maybe, some will be willing to join the Board as Committee members.