



D R A F T

MINUTES OF ERF MEETING 17 MARCH

Theo Schofield welcomed people to the meeting and proposed that Dwyn Stepien should chair and Mike Ridley take minutes which was unanimously approved. A list of apologies and attendees, and further copies of the papers presented, are available if required.

Dwyn Stepien introduced the purpose of the meeting as being to consolidate the decision made at the joint members meeting on 12 January to form the Emsworth Residents Forum out of the merger of the ERA and EF, agree a constitution and budget and elect an inaugural committee to manage its business.

1. Review of the work of the ERA

Theo Schofield reviewed the recent work of the ERA, the composition of the committee, the activities it has undertaken and the successes it has achieved. He identified ongoing challenges in expanding the membership and attracting the participation of younger members of the community.

He concluded by thanking outgoing members of the committee for their service and particularly Charles Ashe who would be standing down after a long and distinguished stint as the ERA's planning specialist.

2. Review of the work of the Emsworth Forum

Mike Bateman reviewed the history of the forum through the successful making of the Neighbourhood Plan into its current role as statutory consultee on planning matters with participation in the Emsworth Infrastructure Panel (with members and officers of HBC) and advocate for the expenditure of CIL funds.

He concluded by thanking retiring members of the forum committee who had served since the referendum on the NP.

3. Vote of thanks to retiring Chairs

Jill Millar proposed a vote of thanks to Theo Schofield and Mike Bateman which was resoundingly endorsed.

4. Approval of the Constitution of the ERF

Pam Wilkinson introduced the constitution which had been made available with the meeting papers. She explained that the provisions were compliant with the requirements for a Neighbourhood Forum under the 2011 Localism Act and had been accepted by HBC. Also

that the constitution could be readily modified in the future if it proved to be unfit for purpose in any way. There being no questions raised the chair sought a vote that the constitution should be adopted which was proposed by Mike Ridley and seconded by Pam Wilkinson and carried unanimously.

5. Year 1 budget for the ERF

Theo Schofield presented a proposed framework for the ERF budget whereby the administrative costs of the organisation are met by subscription revenue with profits generated by EMS advertising allocated for disbursement as grants to community projects. It was noted that there was a legacy reserve of £30k being transferred from the ERA though this will be reduced by grants already made but not yet drawn down. Queries were raised about the protocol for award of grants and the levels of financial delegation to the committee and the chair proposed that relevant operating procedures should be early actions for the inaugural committee for subsequent member approval.

The chair sought a vote that budget be approved that was proposed by Mike Ridley and seconded by Theo Schofield and carried unanimously.

6. Election of inaugural committee members

At the invitation of the chair the following members volunteered to serve on the inaugural management committee of the ERF:

Dwyn Stepien

Theo Schofield

Mike Bateman

Chris Hallam

Chris Fuller

Roma Allsop (in absentia)

Mike Ridley

The chair noted that this initial membership exceeded the threshold of 6 required under the constitution and requested a vote to approve the candidates which was proposed by Dan Grove and seconded by Jill Millar and carried nem con.

7. Report on the Heritage Trail

Mark Ringwood, resident and Artistic Director for Wemsfest, gave a verbal update on the excellent progress of the Heritage Trail, an innovative project supported financially by the ERA and FECH. A number of sites around South Street are already live and new ones are being added across the town and onwards in Westbourne, Southbourne and elsewhere in the coastal villages. An aim is to explain and interpret the built fabric of our environment for the education of residents and visitors and benefit of the local economy. A memorial statue to PG Wodehouse is also under development.

8. ERF website

Dan Grove provided a brief overview of the proposed ERF website which is currently under development.

9. Priority campaigns

Dwyn Stepien invited members to propose topics from which one or 2 would be selected for campaign action within the 1st year of the ERF. A short workshop session followed which generated the list appended to these minutes.

10. Any other business

David Harris, editor of the EMS, proposed the introduction of a brief monthly newsletter to be circulated digitally and complement the EMS. This was warmly welcomed and the chair thanked him for the initiative.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 9pm.

Priority Campaign Action Topics *names listed where given*

Harbour water quality – fit for recreational use

Volume of traffic on the A259

20mph zones and enforcement of existing limits

Litter campaign

Protection of green open space and the AONB

Lighting under the A27 bridge

Keeping edge of road clear of debris (for cyclists)

Maintain viability of library in new location

North Street crossing

North/South links

Public realm enhancements around the ‘northern hub’

Affordable/ social housing

Improve footpaths and signage/ map key locations - central square/ bus stops/station/carpark – use QR codes

Enhance use of library and museum – set targets

Richard Cresswell

Closer links to Emsworth Business Forum – working party to explain visitor options

Youth working group (RC)

Barbara/ Nigel Brown/ Caroline French

Support Friends of the River Ems/ clean harbours etc

Banking hub

Housing – support LCL /reject HBC’s 7.5k houses