



North Yorkshire Branch

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of CPRE (North Yorkshire Branch) held at The Golden Fleece Hotel, Thirsk on 24th May 2014 commencing at 2.00pm

1. Welcome

As President of the North Yorkshire Branch of CPRE Lord Crathorne opened the meeting by welcoming members. He was pleased to note that every area was represented and he thanked John Gill, as Secretary, for preparation of the papers. The meeting was attended by 14 persons.

Lord Crathorne noted with reference to the Chairman's Report that much work remains to be done. He expressed disappointment over the level of attendance at the AGM and wondered whether this might be due to the number of separate groups. At this point members indicated the level of attendance at District AGMs and it was clear that these were generally higher than the attendance this afternoon.

There then followed a short discussion highlighting difficulties encountered in different areas. Julie Hepworth (Ryedale) mentioned the increasing age of members. Linda Potter (Harrogate) considered that many people feel disenfranchised. Julia Marley (Craven) felt that members like to be kept informed and their Branch regularly provide members with updates. There is a current campaign to increase members under 45 years of age.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. t. Chalmers, Dr and Mrs Bennett, Kirstin Whalley (John Gill explained that she had been admitted to hospital and that a stent may be fitted) and Sir Brian Askew

3. Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10 May 2013

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting on 10th May 2013 were considered to be a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Anne Newstead (Wensleydale) and seconded by Julie Hepworth.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

5. Branch Reports

Lord Crathorne referred to the previously circulated Branch Reports and wished to highlight particular issues; in response branch representatives responded as follows:

- 1) **Coastal District:** With reference to the Coastal District Report Dalton Peake reported that a new application is being made for the Potash Mine involving a new tunnel the size

of the Channel Tunnel for removal of spoil; this remained to be resolved and the planning application is to be lodged at the end of July. This would be a highly technical project and labour would be required from throughout the world.

- 2) **Craven District:** Julia Marley indicated that the report included with the AGM papers was out of date and she distributed an updated Report at the meeting. She acknowledged the support provided by the District Committee and confirmed that the Craven District membership was increasing; expenses had been reduced to nil. Reference was also made to the PRE mark awarded to local business; Peter Warne had come up from London to award this. (At this point Julie Hepworth also indicated that a similar mark had been awarded for a cedar barn in Ryedale; Dr. Woolley also mentioned that it had been agreed to display such a mark in York)
- 3) **Hambleton:** Concern was expressed by Robert Latter over the proposed sites identified for gravel extraction and this had been indicated to North Yorkshire County Council; a decision was expected on these unsatisfactory proposals later this year. The issue of wind farms was also raised.
- 4) **Harrogate:** Linda Potter reported on the updated position regarding the proposed waste treatment plant and incinerator at Allerton castle. She explained that this was currently a landfill site unsuitable for the proposed Incinerator and under the historical land use conditions it was a requirement that this site be fully restored to its original sustainable use. There was no railhead and the proposed incinerator was considered invasive; it was also considered that refuse etc. would cost more to incinerate. The incinerator would be constructed on land originally belonging to Lord Stourton and Allerton Castle itself would be blighted by the proposed chimney for the Incinerator although woodland would partially act as screen when viewed from the Castle; planning should of course take account of the historical environment. It was considered that although planning consent had been granted funds were required for other purposes. Reference was also made to the historic planning problems at Tockwith Airfield where 100,000 tyres dumped on the airfield had been divided into four groups to minimise fires. Despite enforcement action by HBC planners this had been ignored. Lord Crathorne queried whether these could be recycled or re-used.
- 5) **Redcar & Cleveland:** Stuart White reported that the District was awaiting planning applications for housing developments. He commented on the difficulty in objecting to applications and confirmed that the Local Plan was in the process of being finalised; he reported that this had passed the inquiry process and was being referred back to the local planning authority. Reference was then made to Windfarms and there followed a brief debate on this subject. (Julia Marley referred to a successful objection in Craven area partly due to the discovery in the developer's literature warning that wind farms should not encroach within 400metres of houses.
Linda Potter suggested that reference should be made to the Renewable Energy Website (renewableenergy.org.uk). She also reported that in Harrogate District the proposed developments of 7 and 17 wind turbines at Knabs Ridge had been withdrawn. Julia suggested a possible lack of enthusiasm on the part of windfarm developers highlighting that they take 18 years to pay for themselves; she also mentioned that appeal rules are changing. John Gill suggested that Katie Atkinson might be able to clarify this.
- 6). **Ryedale:** Julie Hepworth referred to the award granted to her for organisation of a litter campaign and highlighted the involvement of schools and the advice sought by other branches; Lord Crathorne congratulated her on this award. Julie also discussed other campaigns led by her and highlighted the popular 'Rubbish Song'. She reported that the Branch Treasurer had left and the District Secretary was ill; as a result she was finding it increasingly difficult to continue. She indicated that she wished to seek the help of the North Yorkshire Branch but would assist the County Branch with archive material.
- 7) **Swaledale:** John Gill highlighted a number of small wind turbine developments largely build by local farmers generally not exceeding 30m in height.

- 8) **Wensleydale:** John Gill, reporting on behalf of Kristin Whalley highlighted the extensive road repairs for the the forthcoming Tour de France. (Julia Marley considered that the Tour would bring many benefits for tourism and the local landscape). John continued by reporting that there are few problems in Wensleydale although the proposed logging on Camfell remaind an issue (Julia Marley highlighted that this is the largest privately owned forest in North Yorkshire) .There are only little pockets of new housing in Wensleydale although there may be an application for 300 new houses in Leyburn.
- 9) **York & Selby:** Guy Woolley reported that a new power station is planned at Drax Power Station for carbon capture. Regarding HS2 Linda Potter asked for an update. It was indicated replied that there was difficulty in maintaining proposed speeds.

6. Financial Matters: 2013 Accounts for Acceptance and Endorsement

Pauline Ohr made reference to the Accounts previously circulated with the meeting papers. After discussion it was proposed by Ann Newstead that these be accepted and this seconded by Julie Hepworth.

7. Election of Officers: The following have been nominated:

Chairman: Alan Lodge: It was reported by John Gill that Alan had intimated that he no longer wished to be considered for nomination and that this post was vacant. Julia Marley then reported that David Rose, Chairman of Yorkshire CPRE, had indicated that he was prepared to take over the position of North Yorkshire CPRE Chairman on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement was found. After discussion on this issue it was proposed by Julia Marley and seconded by Linda Potter that David Rose be co-opted to this position. This was then agreed by the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer – John Gill: This was proposed by Dalton Peake and seconded by Stewart Whyte.

Branch Accountant – this title was preferred by Puline Ohr rather than Bookkeeper and her appointment was confirmed.

Accounts Inspector – Mrs Patricia Asquith

8. Nomination of Representatives

It was proposed by Ann Newstead seconded by Robert Latter and agreed by all present that nominations be accepted for the following representatives from District Branches:

Coastal – Dalton Peake
Craven – Julia Marley
Hambleton – Roger Bennett
Harrogate – Linda Potter
Redcar & Cleveland Stuart White
Rye dale Julie Hepworth (retiring 2015)
Swaledale – John Gill
Wensleydale – Kristin Whalley
York and Selby – Guy Woolley

9. Any Other Competent Business

There being no other formal business the meeting closed at 3 p.m.

Presentation

Following a short break for refreshments, Lord Crathorne gave us an entertaining and illuminating talk on his period of office as Lord Lieutenant for North Yorkshire. He educated us on the particular qualifications, procedures and peculiarities of holding such office. He also explained that this would be his final year as Lord Lieutenant and accordingly would also regrettably be terminating office as our President.

The meeting finished with a vote of thanks to Lord Crathorne.