

CHARFIELD AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the EGM held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 15th November at Charfield Memorial Hall.

Present: Committee: Deborah Field (Chairman), Linda Felton (Secretary), Julia O'Connor- Beach (Treasurer), Joan Crowfoot, Angie Hill, Angela Smith, Marion Smith.

Village Residents: Brendan O'Connor, Ruth Balloch, Pete Peaster, Mike Cheskin.

Apologies: Alison Howard (Treasurer Elect)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.
2. The Chairman explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and pass the following resolutions:
 - Resolution 1: That the Charfield and District Residents' Association be known from 1 January 2017 as 'Charfield Association'
 - Resolution 2: That the Constitution be amended to read as per the advertised draft (copy attached) with effect from 1 January 2017

The meeting and its purpose and background information had been announced/ publicised in the October edition of the newsletter.

The Chairman explained that since its inception in September 1975 the Charfield and District Residents' Association (CHADRA) has supported the village, taking up campaigns on behalf of the village as well as producing a quarterly Newsletter. However, in recent times the main activity of the committee has been to produce and distribute this newsletter, with groups like the Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Council taking up the baton in representing the village. CHADRA is a very small committee with limited skills set and finances to fight large planning issues as it did historically when the village was much smaller.

The Treasurer added that the existing constitution of CHADRA had proved restrictive and needed to be updated; for example, the committee had struggled for years to fill the committee vacancies and it was hard to comply with the quorum set, also the matter of the newsletter subscription being the token of membership to CHADRA meant that options for changes to the distribution of the newsletter were hampered.

The name 'Charfield Association' was queried by Pete Peaster. The Committee felt that this was a simpler option in order to allow some leeway for future activities.

It was proposed (Linda Felton) and seconded (Julia O'Connor-Beach) that the Charfield and District Residents' Association be known from 1 January 2017 as 'Charfield Association'. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was proposed (Joan Crowfoot) and seconded (Angie Hill) that the Constitution be amended to read as per the advertised draft (copy attached) with effect from 1 January 2017. The motion was carried unanimously.

AOB

3. The future of the newsletter

As a member of the Parish Council, Mike Cheskin suggested that the Parish Council might consider supporting the cost of the distribution of the newsletter, should financial support be required.

The Chairman explained that the committee will be looking at all options for the future of the newsletter – design, format, content, frequency, subscription, on-line options – and would certainly approach the Parish Council if financial help were needed.

The Treasurer said that any options would have to be fully researched and costed before any decisions could be made, and that it was probably a wise approach to continue with the newsletter as it is for 2017 with a view to a relaunch in 2018.

4. Cash reserve

The Treasurer explained that CHADRA was a non-profit making charitable organisation and ploughed any excess funds back into the community by funding projects which benefited **all** villagers, not individuals or clubs or societies. For example, new cookers and crockery/cutlery for the village hall, the work of CUGUC, the Remembrance Sunday morning brunch. Further, CHADRA had held funds in reserve to cover the cost of a new duplicator or to fund the start of any community campaigns it may lead. Given the outsourcing of the printing since early 2016 and the change to the association now effected (ie the unlikelihood of a large campaign being undertaken), the reserve was now unnecessarily high. The Treasurer urged the Committee to find suitable projects to support for the benefit of the village, to reduce the reserve to a working level. Mike Cheskin said that the Youth group was always in need of funds. The Committee will discuss all options at the next Committee meeting.

5. In the absence of any other business Deborah thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.35pm