

NORTH WEST ESSEX AND EAST HERTS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (NWEHHPA)

Minutes of the 50th NWEHHPA AGM held 25th June 2015 in Priors Green Community Hall.

Present: Peter Sanders (Chairman), Brian Ross, Irene Jones, Sarah Cousins, Richard Cheetham, Martin Peachey, John Pryor, Ray Woodcock, Janice McDonald, Ken McDonald, Tricia Barber, Lady Suzanne Walker, Alan Townsend, Freda Townsend, Maggie Sutton, Peter Riding, John Welch, Rosemarie Welch, Michael Young, Sue Forsyth, Sheila Bentley, Amie Bentley, Mary Read, Russell Cox and Jackie Cheetham.

Peter Sanders opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 50th AGM of NWEHHPA, with a special welcome to long-standing members Jackie and Richard Cheetham, Sue Forsyth, Tricia Barber, Irene Jones, Martin Peachey, Ken McDonald and Suzanne Walker. Peter also extended thanks to those unable to be with us.

1. Apologies for absence.

Denise Williams, Barbara Armishaw, Jangu Banatvala, Jonathan Clarke, Beryl Mead, Jonathan Fox, Richard Tattersall and Robert Walker.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising not on the agenda.

The minutes of the previous AGM of June 2014 were approved as an accurate record. There were no matters arising

3. Chairman's Report.

Peter explained that after a year of watching and waiting, the publication of the Airports Commission is imminent and NWEHHPA and SSE will be thrown back into a state of activity. It is impossible to speculate but it is expected that a second runway may well be recommended for either Heathrow or Gatwick in the short term but that a further runway may be recommended in London and the South East by 2050 which could put Stansted back in the firing line. Also, the report will recommend that better use is made of existing capacity and this would almost certainly cause MAG to apply for the current cap of 35mppa to be raised to 45mppa.

It should be noted that the Commission is only advisory and the Government isn't bound to accept its recommendations. Therefore we need to be on our guard.

Whilst SSE has been quiet of late, work has still been going on behind the scenes. Martin has been working endlessly on answering noise complaints and flight path queries: Peter Riding has done a sterling job of maintaining the website: Ray Woodcock and his team regularly take the trailer to events and Ray sells more than half of the Community Calendar by going door to door every year; Denise Williams keeps our finances in order up in Northumberland; Sarah Cousins runs the SSE Office; we have made fewer calls on Maggie Sutton's hospitality this past year as meetings have been less frequent but that will most certainly change; and Brian Ross continues to represent us at the 3-monthly STACC meetings and attends all Party conferences. Peter thanked everyone for what they do and the audience and our members for their support.

4. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts.

Richard Cheetham presented the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2014 on behalf of Treasurer Denise Williams. Richard commenced by explaining that, due to the passing of John Summers who had always examined the combined NWEHHPA and SSE accounts for the organisation, we had deemed it important to explore the possibility of using an independent professional body to carry out the examination on our behalf. This set of accounts, therefore, has been examined and reported on by Bird Luckin of Chelmsford.

Richard expressed how comforting it is that the income from members and supporters has remained constant despite the recent lack of fundraising activity. The noticeable difference between the incomes for 2013/14 from the previous year is as a result of the July 2013 Appeal which was made in order to fund the Judicial Review surrounding the appointment of Geoff Muirhead to the Airports Commission. This also shows up in the difference in expenditure between the two sets of accounts, £61,000 being spent on the JR. Net assets of £151,000 set the Campaign in good stead going forward.

Richard proposed that the accounts be approved. The motion was seconded by Alan Townsend and agreed.

Richard thanked Denise, Sarah and Bird Luckin for preparing the accounts for the meeting so swiftly.

In thanking Richard for the presentation, Peter asked whether members were satisfied to carry on using Bird Luckin for the examination of future accounts. Ken McDonald proposed that we should and Brian Ross seconded the proposal which was agreed.

A copy of the Accounts and Bird Luckin's report will shortly be available on the SSE website at: <http://stopstanstedexpansion.com/accounts.html>

5. Election of Officers and the Committee.

Irene Jones confirmed that Peter Sanders would be willing to stand again as **Chairman**. This was proposed by Jackie Cheetham and seconded by Tricia Barber and Peter was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Irene Jones would be willing to stand again as **vice-Chair**. This was proposed by Peter Riding and seconded by Brian Ross and Irene was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Denise Williams would be willing to stand again as **Treasurer**. This was proposed by Martin Peachey and seconded by Richard Cheetham and Denise was duly elected.

Peter Sanders confirmed that Sarah Cousins would be willing to stand again as Secretary. This was proposed by John Pryor and seconded by Ray Woodcock and Sarah was duly elected.

Peter Sanders suggested that the other members be re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Jackie Cheetham and seconded by John Pryor. **NWEEHPA Committee members** therefore are Jangu Banatvala, Martin Peachey, Maggie Sutton, Brian Ross and Ray Woodcock.

John Pryor officially stood down and Peter thanked him for his support and invaluable help and advice since joining NWEEHPA in 1985.

6. Any other business.

Jackie Cheetham said she had heard that the Airports Commission would be publishing its report tomorrow (26th June) and asked whether this was the case. Others suggested that it would be Monday 29 June or Tuesday 30 June and Peter confirmed that we will need to respond quickly by arranging a meeting of the SSE Committee promptly.

John Pryor asked whether NATS were any closer to a decision concerning the Dover route. Martin Peachey replied that it should be by Christmas if the CAA agree to it.

Lady Suzanne Walker proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the community to NWEEHPA and SSE for campaigning so tirelessly and that the community is hugely grateful. This was seconded by the audience.

7. Conclusion of the meeting.

Peter concluded by saying that we owe NWEHPA a huge debt as it is so easy to forget how close we came to disaster in the 1960s. The Blake Commission in the '60s was set up and prevented the threat of Stansted becoming London's third airport with two runways. The Roskill Commission was later set up to find the most suitable site for a four-runway airport. Again, Stansted was not included in the recommendations. And later still, the Eyre Inquiry was set up and again did not recommend Stansted for expansion. And working closely with all of these was NWEHPA, set up in 1964, which entailed a vast amount of work and a prodigious effort.

In 2002, with the latest threat, it was decided to expand the organisation and hence SSE was formed as a working party of NWEHPA.

Peter Sanders closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending and concluding that the celebratory cake, baked by Maggie and her daughter Felicity, would be cut and served.