

RIVER YEALM & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity Number 262929

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at W.I Community Hall on Wednesday
April 27th 2011 at 7.30pm.**

1. Apologies

Were received from Sally & Jeremy Spooner, Len & Anne Dunkley, Pat Irvine, Diane & Roger Street, Peter Riley, the Moretons, Mike & Jim Mann, Robin & Sue Geldard, Sue Hallett, Chris and Liz Woodd –Walker, Mel & Jean Ellis, Chris & Jenny Powlett, Cathy & Andrew Matthews, Pat & Howard Williams, Susanna Bradley

2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting, 28th April 2010.

Were taken as read and approved for signature.

3. Chairman's Address.

The Chairman did not wish to repeat the contents of the newsletter sent out with the Agenda however he did wish to make a few points.

The Committee. Rod Carter has retired and we thank him for his commitments to the scrutiny of Planning Applications during his term. There have been two co-options to the committee during the year, Suzanne Sparrow and Peter Pritchard who now has the planning portfolio.

The Village Directory. Thanks were extended to Eric Rodmell, Jane Howes, Suzanne Sparrow and Joanna Brooks at Luscombe and Maye for their sterling work updating the Directory; and to Val Morseman for use of her painting for the front cover. In addition Luscombe and Maye had provided a substantial subsidy towards its production which had enabled the committee to give one copy to each member household of the RYDA. **The Chairman obtained approval to give an Honorarium to Eric and bouquets of flowers to both Val and Joanna.**

The Harbour Cleanup. Thanks were extended to Charles Arkinstall who co-ordinated the event once again.

Boatwatch. There had been incidences of poaching with boats launched at night on the River. Members were requested **to inform the Environment Agency on 0800 807060 if anything suspicious was identified.**

Affordable Housing. The Chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Suzie Cooper would be giving a presentation for information only regarding the latest proposals for the affordable housing site at Parsonage Road. The Chairman asked that members inform South Hams District Council at the appropriate time if they had objections to the scheme.

Planning. The Chairman reported that the brief for the scrutiny of planning applications had been amended during the year to those important to the RYDA, those highlighted to the committee by members or by NNPC. A web based discussion group was proposed and presentation was given subsequently.

With regard to the 'Green House' and 'Crispins', over 800 people objected to these schemes which was ignored at Appeal. It was proposed to write to the Dept of Communities and Local Government to ask what it intends to do in the new Localism Bill regarding such issues. **The meeting approved the sending of a letter by show of hands.**

Village Design Statement and Conservation Area. The Chairman identified that if the design statement were to be updated and conservation extended Newton and Noss would have to decide what issues it should focus on from social housing, rebuilds, design, use of glass in facades to traffic and parking.

The Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant. 'Viridor' had not been chosen as the preferred partner for the construction of the EfW plant which was proposed at New England Quarry. The preferred site approved by the Devon Waste Partnership is Devonport Dockyard, where the proposal is to provide energy for the local area and electricity for the National Grid. Final Objections to the New England Quarry proposals were required by the 11th April 2011 and a decision will be made by Devon County Council on July 4th whether to give planning consent at the site.

It was noted that Viridor had been approved as the preferred bidder by D.C.C which would have resulted in a 25 year agreement. Sita, in a similar position in Cornwall had claimed for damages against Cornwall County Council when it was not awarded a contract recently having been preferred bidder.

The original competition in which Viridor took part did not include municipal waste. The company may still propose a commercial and industrial waste facility at New England if their current planning application fails

British Legion/ Remembrance Day. The Chairman **obtained approval for the Committee to make a donation towards the purchase of a wreath as part of the Poppy Appeal** in future years and for a representative to attend the Remembrance service on behalf of the RYDA.

Joint working with NNPC and the Revelstoke Trust. Members were requested to inform the Secretary, Denise Marchant, if they had any ideas for joint working.

Volunteer. The Chairman thanked Alan Lomax for 20 years contribution as Treasurer and Membership Secretary and reported that Alan would be grateful if someone could come forward during the year and take over from him.

Footpath. The Chairman identified that the footpath from Yealm Road to Lower Court Road had been the subject of a dispute regarding title, right of way, and width. The matter had been considered by adjudication through Land Registry which determines these issues. The judgment held that Newcourt Ltd had title to the path and not Yealm House, and that the latter's right of way extended 6ft from their boundary. The title was held in trust for the benefit of the local community in perpetuity. The Chairman was asked not to continue with his update on this subject. **Following a vote it was agreed that consideration be given to making the judgment available when it was published.**

4 Adoption of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2010. Alan Lomax thanked John Wilson for his work as Auditor. He identified that due to the generosity of Luscombe and Maye which had contributed £700 for the printing of the new Directory members had greatly benefited from the receipt of one complimentary copy per household member of the R.Y.D.A and that further copies were available for £5 from Tony Tubbs, the Community Shop/ Post Office, Luscombe Maye and Marchand Petit. **There being no questions the accounts were duly adopted with thanks to Alan Lomax for his ongoing work.**

Proposed by Roger Hallett.

Seconded by Tony Warren

5 Appointment of an Honorary Auditor. The Honorary Auditor, Mr John Wilson, had kindly agreed to continue for 2011-2012. **His appointment for one further year was much appreciated and approved.**

6 Election of Officers and Committee Members.

The Chairman identified that under the Constitution of the RYDA he was required to retire this year having served the maximum three years allowed and asked for a volunteer to come forward to fill the post. Please come forward with ideas to any member of the committee. The Chairman then moved to have the remaining members of the committee elected en bloc.

Vacant	Chairman
Denise Marchant.	Honorary Secretary.
Alan Lomax.	Treasurer & Membership Secretary.
Christopher Bradley.	Committee Member
Peter Pritchard	Committee Member (Planning Brief)
Eric Rodmell.	Committee Member (Directory)
Suzanne Sparrow	Committee Member
Kate Wood	Committee Member

Proposed by John Wilson

Seconded by Stuart Allen

On calling for a vote the proposal was supported unanimously

7. Any other business. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting for a coffee break before the presentations that would follow

8. Date of the next Annual General Meeting mid April 2012 depending on village commitments at Noss Village Hall and consultation with the community diary.

9. Following a short break there were three presentations

Affordable Housing. Councillor Suzie Cooper reported that since the last public consultation a number of elements had changed. At the southern end of the site some of the houses were set slightly further back from the road and now have a staggered plan. Some houses now had stone facing. Suzie confirmed that in order to live on the site you would have to show that potential occupiers had to demonstrate a local connection to the village. There would be between 12-15 properties two of which would be sold to help with development costs. In addition the land owner will have a house built for him as compensation for giving the land. Some houses would be available for shared ownership. There would be nine 2 bed, five 3bed and one 4 bed property.

Two possible layout plans were shown one with some hoses at the south of the site a right angles to the road and some parallel with the road. It was confirmed that the scheme is about sustainability for the Newton and Noss community based on work completed in 2006 summarising the need for Affordable Housing.

Planning. Peter Pritchard introduced himself as the new planning representative on the committee. He identified his disappointment with the decision at appeal regarding 'The Green house ' and intention to write to the Department for Communities and Local Government with a copy to the Planning Inspectorate and the local M.P Gary Streeter. He appreciated that the Parish Council had written to the Inspectorate and confirmed he would be pleased to take into account the response to their letter into account.

It was highlighted that opinions of the membership in connection with planning applications would be welcomed in coming to a decision regarding how to respond on behalf of the RYDA. It was this in mind that an **on line Discussion Group** was proposed at [http:// groups.google.com/group/rydadiscussion](http://groups.google.com/group/rydadiscussion) and a demonstration given. **This action was supported by the meeting.**

'Brookings Down' Wood. Bob Styring reported that most of the work in the woods was now maintenance. There had been some clearance of brambles to show off the bluebells at the top end of the site and some dangerous tree removal. Some path edging had been replaced and there were plans to improve the 'zig zag' path .A suggestion was made that perhaps some community service people could be used to help with maintenance work. It was noted that some bird boxes had been generously donated and that through The Rural Payments Agency there would be a small annual payment towards the cost of upkeep of the wood. Those present were informed that BBC1 would be filming the site as the wood would be featured on 'The One Show 'shortly.

Plastic and Marine Pollution . The Chairman welcomed **Professor Richard Thompson** who is carrying out world leading research from the Marine Dept of Plymouth University into pollution of the marine environment. He is specialist marine biologist and in 2008 lead editor of 'Plastics in the Marine Environment and Human Health '. It was identified that there are now 260million tonnes of plastic produced compared with 5m tonnes in the 50's and its use is increasing in everything from hospitals and I.T to packaging , cars and solar power..

One of the problems is that 30% of plastics are used once and discarded and no one knows how long it will last in the environment although some experts predict up to 1000 years. In 1996 a survey commenced to identify small items in the environment known as micro plastic using infrared spectrometry.

Plastic has accumulated as far away as the North and South Pole; on some beaches around the world there are piles up to 2 metres high and it has been found at a depth of 2700m in the oceans. There is more plastic found on the sea bed than sandy bays and estuarine areas. The rubbish is converging in the centre of our oceans with the greatest concentrations at the furthest point from land.

Forensic examination is now proceeding and plastic contamination has been identified in the gut of 95% of dead sea birds washed ashore. There also evidence of an increase in contamination of plankton from Scotland to Greenland. Experimentation has shown that creatures are ingesting plastic and retaining microscopic plastics including, thalates, anti microbials, fire retardants and that other organic pollutants that are drawn in to the plastic.

In summary; plastic is fragmenting in to the environment, a reduction in its use needs to be investigated. Ideally it would be re-usable, re-cyclable, labelled and designed for incineration. Finally its presence in the environment needs to be monitored.

Following a round of thanks and generous applause for the speakers, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 pm.

William Taylor, Chairman