

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

1. Alun Jones as acting Chair welcomed all the meeting and introduced Ian Smith for the Local Trust, deputising for Big Local rep Jim Boot. Ian explained that Sompting is one of 150 areas in England benefitting from the award of at least £1 million over a 10 year period. He outlined the rationale behind the National Lottery funded Big local concept: that it is resident led and has four key outcomes around bringing the community together to identify and develop solutions to local challenges to make the area an even better place to live. Ian congratulated Sompting Big Local Partnership on all its achievements since his August 2014 visit to the area, commenting that this was all the more remarkable given the challenging circumstances that the Partnership had faced during this period. He asked everyone to abide by some simple ground rules for the meeting, the most important of these being respect for people and process. Ian concluded by explaining that one of the candidates for one of the contested lead roles was facing potential sanctions concerning an apparent breach of the Partnership's policies around conduct and behaviour. In the event of this person being elected and then subsequently being sanctioned, the presumption was that the other candidate for the post would automatically take up the vacant position.
2. Apologies received from Big Local Rep Jim Boot .
3. The annual report was circulated with specific mention made about the Big local Hub, The Big Local Plan and the Budget so far.
4. The Terms of Reference proposed by the Partnership meeting last month were formally accepted by the residents.
5. Ian Smith (for Local Trust) and Tina Favier (Adur & Worthing Council) retired to count the ballot papers on the stage in the hall.
6. Copies of the Financial Report were circulated. It was clarified that the year end date for Sompting Big Local (SBL) (Dec – Nov) was not the same as our Local Trusted organisation, Adur Voluntary Action (AVA) (April- March), which would account for some discrepancy. The SBL accounts are being audited by AVA's auditors. A question was raised about Petty cash being shown in the wrong place in the balance sheet. This was clarified to the satisfaction of the resident. Tony Nicklen offered his support to the incoming Finance lead.
7. Partnership members for 2014-2015

Existing Partnership Members continuing:

Carson Albury, Adrian Barritt, Gill Crowter, Trevor Crowter, Colin Frampton, Alun Jones, Chris Servante, Kay Vincent, Mel Shaw.

New Partnership Members:

Emma Crowter, Ray Downie, Dawn Giles, Barbara Locke, Pat Locke, Paul Mansell, Mary Martin, Heather Stone, Tony Nicklen.

8. Election of leadership Team:
Finance lead: Dawn Giles (unopposed)
Communications lead: Barbara Locke?? (unopposed)
Training lead: - Vacant
Project Monitoring lead: Tony Nicklen

Result of contested lead roles:

Chair: Mel Shaw - 32 votes

Alun Jones - 13

No vote - 1

Vice Chair: Ray Downie – 27

Trevor Crowter - 18

No vote - 1

Secretary: Emma Crowter – 42

Chris Servante - 4

An objection was raised by Sharon Wood, Resident and Vice Chair of Sompting Parish Council, that the result of the vote for Chair might lead to the perception that an employee of Adur & Worthing Council was now in charge of Sompting Big Local. She also raised concerns over the voting method, alleging that there security measures had not been put into place to prevent people voting more than once, that there was no transparency and that only residents had voted as the ballot box had been in the Big local Hub.

Ian Smith acknowledged the objection, saying that he was unable to provide an informed response immediately. Facts would need to be established, processes checked and various policies and procedures referred to. To this end, Ian undertook to discuss this further with the area's Big Local Rep, Jim Boot.

A further comment was that the notification of who was standing for the posts was limited in its circulation. This information was only available in the Big Local Hub window or on the SBL website if you knew it was there.

A total of 46 ballot papers had been checked and the votes counted. On two papers there were only two of the three votes marked. No papers were void or spoiled.

9. The Partnership Meeting Chair was filled by Colin Frampton.

Several tributes were paid to Alun Jones for his hard work and selfless dedication.

Thanks were given to all those present for attending, the outgoing officers and the AGM team who put the programme and the Showcase together.

The Sompting Big Local Showcase and on-the-day voting opened at 10:00hrs. Voters registered, voted on the official voting slips and then placed these into a sealed ballot box. Following the voting and Showcase the Annual General Meeting opened at 11:00hrs and closed at 12:20??

42 adults and 3 children attended.