



New Forest East Conservative Association  
**DIBDEN PURLIEU & HYTHE BRANCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**held at 7 p.m. Friday, 28th<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, Parish Hall, West Street, Hythe.**

Present: Dr. Julian Lewis, M.P, Brenda Spearing, Sue & Brian Uglow, James Binns, Norman Blacker, Michael Harris, Jo & Norman Fowler, Ann Arabian, Paul Barnard, Warren Binns, Tom Bulpit, Kim Cunningham, Eric Davey, Corrine Evans, Dick Furlonger, Terry Lankford, Kay Mouldsdale, , Barry Peck, Colin Smith & Margaret, Derek Tipp, John Towndrow, and Liz & Mick Wigfield,

1. Apologies for Absence. Margaret & Ken Dagnall, Dorothy & Gordon Griffiths, Kath Smith and Pipyn Trustram Eve and Jill Wrightson..
2. Minutes of the last A.G.M. dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.  
Proposed: Eric Davey      Seconded: Terry Lankford      Agreed
3. To adopt the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.  
Proposed: Brenda Spearing      Seconded: Norman Fowler      Agreed
4. Election of Independent Examiner.  
Norman Blacker proposed John Towndrow, and thanked him for his past endeavours.  
All agreed.

4. Chairman's Report

Brian Uglow welcomed Julian Lewis, members and supporters. He thanked John Towndrow's Social Sub-Committee Ladies- Jill Wrightson, Helena Basham, Margaret Dagnall and Brenda Spearing for their events catering. Thanks were also given to all the members of the Branch Committee especially for their support during Sue's hospitalisation and convalescence, and to Jo as unstinting Branch Secretary and Norman Fowler – a team player.

“James Binns and Michael Harris, our two Councillors, have continued to carry out their survey canvas as it is important to keep in touch with the electorate. We have European Elections in May and next year we have both General and Local Elections. It is extremely important that we get our candidates elected. The majority of our neighbours are not political but their natural instinct is conservative with a small c. Thank you for joining us this evening – it is a pleasure to see you.”

As Brian is standing down he was then presented with a Flowering Shrub in a Planter for his newly paved front garden as a token of the Committee's thanks for the number of years that he and Sue have given to work for our local Branch.

5. Election of Committee:-

- a) Chairman: **James Binns** - Proposed by Jo Fowler,      Seconded by Terry Lankford.  
On taking the chair James also thanked the Committee for their work and support and talked of the canvassing he and Michael undertook at week-ends to reach more local residents to hear their problems and views.

- b) Deputy Chairman (Political): **Michael Harris** - Proposed by Eric Davey, Seconded by Sue Uglow. Michael said this was an exceptional day for him, having met with David Cameron in the morning, then lunched with Boris Johnson, but, most importantly, this evening presented him with the opportunity to talk with our grass root supporters.
  - c) Treasurer: **Norman Blacker** - Proposed by Norman Fowler, Seconded by Brenda Spearing.
  - d) Secretary: **Jo Fowler** - Proposed by Terry Lankford, Seconded by John Towndrow
  - e) Social Sub-Committee Chairman: **Brenda Spearing** - Proposed by Kay Mouldsdale, Seconded by Brian Uglow.
  - f) Committee Members: **Brenda Spearing, Brian Uglow & Tom Bulpit** Proposed by Norman Blacker, Seconded by Jo Fowler.
6. Julian Lewis then spoke on several subjects. He was pleased to see new faces here and congratulated the Committee on having so many active helpers in the Branch.
- He spoke of the recent Ukranian uprisings and warned of the dangers of getting too involved in such activities today. In the past we had helped countries fighting for democratic rights but since 1989 internal uprisings were often complicated by other vested interests such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic dimension. In Parliament last August he had been one of 81 rebellious M.Ps. against Syrian intervention. He spoke on the motion against and was proud that they narrowly won the option against Government pressure (now admitted to have been the right course).
- It was being said that David Cameron will not form another Coalition Government in the event of our winning the next Election by a small majority. It is now thought that had we gone it alone last time, and then called for an early re-election, voters would have seen the blocking tactics of Opposition parties against proposed improvements needed on key services and we would have won by a greater majority in consequence.
7. Any Questions – Tom Bulpit queried whether many countries should still be receiving Voluntary Aid. He had been on a working party in Africa and was appalled to find the money was not going where it was needed. Julian agreed this was a problem that should be dealt with urgently. ( For example, why give funds to India when it can afford a space project, fighter jets, and an aircraft carrier we do not yet have?) There were anomalies in other countries; the difficulty is that Voluntary Aid has a ring-fenced 0.7% of the total allocation and whilst that remains they will give out sums to that total each year to maintain that allocation.
- District matters: Complaint was made on the number of potholes still requiring attention, and a query on measurements being taken on site of the removed Chicane in Roman Road. This could be for a type of “sleeping Policeman” to slow traffic – (a necessity not supported by longstanding road users but apparently required by the few residents in the recently built small road nearby.)

**The meeting then Closed for Supper**

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**Many thanks to donors who brought prizes for the Raffle, which raised £72.00.**