

Nevill Residents Association Annual General Meeting, 25th April 2024: Minutes

Chaired by Suzy Nelson, minuted by Lesley Healey. List of those present, and apologies given is at the end of the minutes.

Suzy opened the meeting by introducing the current NRA committee, Ruth Tahsin (LDC) and Carolyn Tyrer from Sussex Heart Charity.

6. Nevill defibrillator and Sussex Heart Charity

Carolyn Tyrer was invited to speak first. Sussex Heart Charity has helped to fund Nevill's defibrillator. The charity predominantly helps people with heart conditions across Sussex by funding cardiac nurses, specialist equipment, rehab equipment etc. They also initiate projects e.g. a cardiologist and SHC are going out to clubs etc. to test young people for underlying cardiac issues – often unrecognised but treatable.

The charity was started in 1980 by cardiologist Douglas Chamberlain. Carolyn is an ambassador for fund-raising, awareness etc. SHC has just been awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service (the highest award given to local voluntary groups). The charity wants everyone to have defibrillators – they first funded those in ambulances and they are now at every railway station. Requests are growing with awareness that they can save a life that would otherwise be lost. Carolyn has heard someone say that you need two people to do CPR, but you can put your phone on hands-free to be able to hear what 999 says while you do chest compressions. Doing chest compressions for 8 minutes bridges the gap to the ambulance's target arrival time; keeping someone alive until the experts arrive and can supply oxygen. If someone collapses at home, scream for help. Start CPR - 30 chest compressions to 2 breaths. Compressions are absolutely key. You can't keep someone alive without the compressions circulating the blood with its remnant of oxygen.

The defibrillator just needs pads put onto someone's chest. It is automatic - will only work if needed. You don't need to be frightened of doing the wrong thing. Once it's on, it talks to you and tells you exactly what to do. It is important to note that significant numbers of women are dying because people don't want to expose their chest. You must cut the bra in the middle to expose the chest in order to affix pads. You may also need to trim down very hairy chests to get enough contact. The defib case has scissors and a razor for those reasons. May also have to cut through chains that get in the way of the pads – the scissors will cut through metal.

An app called 'The Circuit' shows where all defibs are. If they are locked, the 999 call centre will give the code. Like all SHC's defibs, the Nevill's is unlocked. Jane Jackson is our defib's 'guardian'. She will check it regularly and will get emailed if the defib is off The Circuit for some reason. If the defib is used, we will have to replace the pads. SHC gives us replacement pads after 4 years. A battery normally lasts 4-5 years, and we will need to fundraise to replace it.

As part of the defib installation, we get 10 people trained in its use by Pulse (the provider). The SHC also does first aid training and can do an extra training session to build people's confidence. SHC will be grateful for funds raised towards the costs of that.

Carolyn encouraged us to participate in a sponsored walk at Brighton Marina on Sunday 5th May – a gentle 5-mile walk along the sea front. [call Carolyn on 01273 523 026, or register online <https://sussexheartcharity.org/shcevents>].

We then returned to the AGM agenda.

1. Minutes of last open meeting, 5th February 2024. Approved

1a. *Matters arising* not elsewhere on the agenda: None

2. Chairs' report for last year (Suzy Nelson)

After the 2023 AGM last May, we had an open meeting in September 2023 at which we had speakers from Nevill Good Neighbours and Lewes Living Streets. The latter prompted the setting up of a Nevill Speedwatch group, which is currently doing two sessions per month along Nevill Road.

Nick Tigg also spoke about the potential for streets to opt out of the County Council's glyphosate spraying programme, provided residents are prepared to weed the pavements themselves. The whole estate has now opted out of glyphosate and street weeding has started for the year. On 27th May, volunteer weeders across the whole estate will join in weeding in the morning, followed by tea and cake on the Green.

The NRA put out two newsletters following the September and February open meetings. Thank you to Carole Kirby for writing the newsletters and to road reps for delivering them.

The Committee invited residents to complete a short survey about what they want from the NRA. Two of the requests are on this agenda (Welcome pack and social events).

We have a new NRA website, thanks to Kia Makepeace: <https://nevillresidentsassociation.org/>. We are keeping this up to date with minutes, notices, events etc.

After a bit of a tussle about price, the two NRA-owned grit bins were refilled. The County Council has installed and filled an additional grit bin by the shop corner. We had no success in getting the Nevill bus route designated as a primary gritting route. This is still outstanding, though we will close the petition at the end of this month. There are now NRA-owned snow shovels on most roads – see the last newsletter or our website for a list of holders. Thank to Jane Jackson for these.

There was a very successful Festive Fair and Poppy picture competition. Money raised went in part to NRA and in part to the RBL Poppy appeal. Thanks again to Jane Jackson for organising these.

NRA had a Christmas social meet-up at St Mary's Supporters' Club.

At our open meeting in February, the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust spoke about the potential to delay rain run-off and prevent flooding. The full report is on our website. The 30 funded rain planters are now in place or in process. East Sussex Highways Stewards also attended to answer questions and take messages back. Again, the full notes are on our website.

Everyone on the estate has a bus timetable leaflet, thanks to work by, in the main, Sarah O'Kane and Mark Maidment. Thank you to the road reps for delivering.

The Nevill Green noticeboard has been replaced (paid for by the grounds contractors). It is smaller than before but well out of the way of hedge-cutting.

Finally, our defibrillator has been installed on the front of St Mary's church hall, Highdown Road. Many thanks to Jane Jackson for organising, Angela Brinkhurst for fundraising £1,000 with quiz

nights, and all others for their donations. Thank also to St Anne's Parochial Church Council for giving permission to install on the church hall and Mark Greenwood for installing free of charge.

Thanks to all who have served on the Committee in the last year.

3. Financial report (Kia Makepeace)

Kia brought the accounts to the meeting for anyone that wanted a copy. They will also be available on the NRA web page. In summary,

- April 2023 balance = £330.65p

Spend:

- Running costs (including insurance, hiring halls etc.) = £175.20
- Bus leaflets and filling grit bins = 298.00

Income:

- Festive Fair 2023 = £330.20
- Grant from LDC towards our work for the Nevill community = £500.00
- Balance at end March 2024 = £927.65, including £240.00 donations reserved for defibrillator running costs.

The accounts have been submitted to LDC for ratification.

4. Adoption of constitution (Suzy Nelson)

The constitution was reviewed last year and now needs formal adoption. Agreed, no dissenters

5. Election of NRA committee for the 2024/25 year (Ruth Tahsin).

Ruth Tahsin introduced the need for re-election of standing members of the current committee, and of new members. Nominations had to have been made by 19th April 2024.

- a) Chair – one nominee, Suzy Nelson. Nominated by Kia Makepeace, seconded by Lesley Healey
- b) Secretary – one nominee, Lesley Healey. Nominated by Suzy Nelson, seconded by Kia Makepeace.
- c) Treasurer – one nominee, Kia Makepeace. Nominated by Suzy Nelson, seconded by Mike Fisk
- d) Five nominations received for Committee membership: Mike Fisk, Jane Jackson, Carole Kirby, Vicki Trenhaile, Robert Massey. All nominated, seconded and elected.

The committee can co-opt additional members and Suzy Nelson encouraged anyone interested to approach her or another committee member.

e) Road representatives. At present, only Carolyn Blayney cannot continue. She apologised but cannot manage to get around to deliver newsletters etc. She considers it probable that Carina Morissy will agree to be Hawkenbury road rep and Carolyn will back her up.

f) requests for volunteers. There are lots of activities that people could volunteer to help with. Please speak to Suzy about those opportunities.

7. Welcome pack proposal (Suzy Nelson)

There used to be a welcome pack but it faded away. Road reps didn't know when people had moved in. All agreed it is a good idea. It could be held on the website but a neighbour could contact us to provide a print out.

Content suggestions included: Bus leaflet; Local clubs for Nevill population; Contacts for Church hall and social centre.

People who move within Lewes may only need Nevill-specific info. If move from outside Lewes, can include additional information about Lewes. We should ask Estate Agents what they already provide. The Town Council website could be referenced, as it carries town-wide information. It is understood that some other areas already do something similar and we should see what we can learn from.

We should put something into the newsletter and onto noticeboards to say it's available and include a QR code to help people reach it. Agreed we should offer a visit from the road rep to say hello as well as hand over the pack.

Fiona Griffin and Kevin West volunteered to help with producing the welcome pack.

8. Summer social event (Suzy Nelson)

The survey requested social events. Proposed to have a Sunday afternoon 'Bring your own' picnic on Nevill Green. Do it when the Church Hall isn't booked so there's a wet weather back-up plan. Mike suggested we plan it for after the sports day when the grass has been cut. Dates tbc.

We would also like to hold a fundraiser for Sussex Heart Charity. Suggestions are:

Sponsored walk up to Blackcap, followed by teas and coffees at the Church Hall. Jane J and Mike F possible organisers

Yard sale across the estate with SHC benefitting from the proceeds. Sally Miller suggested as a possible organiser (Lesley to approach her).

9. Festive Fair 23rd November (Jane Jackson)

At St Mary's social centre / supporters' club. Stall bookings are now available via Jane Jackson. She needs help to make it run smoothly. Volunteers are requested to help with setting up and taking down, and to make cakes for the refreshment stall.

10. Any other business

a) Grit bins. It was suggested that we need one organisation responsible for all grit bins. Suzy explained that we had really tried to make that happen but couldn't do it. NRA does the running around to make sure the Councils' and NRA's grit bins are all filled. Sheepfair's bin wasn't filled last year. It is privately owned by residents. Some Sheepfair residents present weren't aware of that.

b) Communications. The newsletter and WhatsApp groups are the best ways to get requests for help out through the estate. Should also use noticeboards for requests. Agreed, need to make sure that people know who to ask in order to get a notice onto the noticeboards – put a small note on the noticeboard. Tina Quinn offered to look after the Nevill Green noticeboard if Ann Holmes will stay responsible for the one in Hawkenbury Way. We agreed we could perhaps use the window on the vacant shop by printing notices on waterproof paper.

c) Query about 5G mast. Unclear what stage this is at. Installer believed to be appealing decision not to allow it to stay put. Cllr. Kevin West will check whether there a date set for the appeal on the mast and let us know.

Date of next meeting 23rd September, St Mary's Church Hall (tbc)

Present (please note that this lists those that signed the attendance sheet):

Carolyn	Tyrer	Sussex Heart Charity
Alison	Barnes	
Carolyn	Blayney	
Derek	Blayney	
Jacky	Chester	
Mike	Fisk	NRA comm 2023/4 and 2024/5
Jenny	Gaschke	
Fiona	Griffin	
Lesley	Healey	NRA comm 2023/4 and 2024/5 Secretary
Jane	Jackson	NRA comm 2023/4 and 2024/5
Brian	Kirby	
Carole	Kirby	NRA comm 2023/4 and 2024/5
Ann	Link	
Imogen	Makepeace	
Kia	Makepeace	NRA comm 2023/4 and 2024/5 Treasurer
Adam	Manning-Jones	NRA comm 2023/4
Cllr. Wendy	Maples	
Robert	Massey	NRA comm 2024/5
Trevor	Morley	
Suzy	Nelson	NRA comm 2023/4 and 2024/5 Chair
Penny	Ollosson	
Tina	Quinn	
Ruth	Tahsin	
Vicki	Trenhaile	NRA comm 2024/5
Simmy	Vinnika	
Cllr Kevin	West	
Steve	Williams	

Apologies

Sue	Tillman
Sally	Attwood
Ann	Holmes
Cllr. Paul	Keene
Doris	Moorhead
Cllr. Nick	Tigg