

SHRA AGM – 11 May 2023 – NOTE OF MEETING

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Dilys Iverson introduced herself as the Chair of the SHRA Committee and said she would be chairing the meeting. Apologies had been received from several SHRA members, including from David Praeger of the SHRA Committee and from Sovereign Ward Councillor, Nigel Goodyear.

Approximately 75 members attended.

ITEM 2 – INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dilys welcomed and introduced the following guest speakers:

Caroline Ansell – MP for Eastbourne & Willingdon

Kshama Shore OBE – EBC Ward Councillor

Carl Pocock – RNLI Operations Manager

ITEM 3 – INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The current Committee comprising of: Dilys Iverson (Chair), Tony Smith (Deputy Chair, Website and Waterlines Editor), Carol Collier (Treasurer), Caroline Lynam (Membership Secretary), Penny di Cara, Frances Lawrence, Rajendra Pisavadia, David Praeger (absent), Dave Rogers, David Shaw, and Iain Shore.

We have vacancies for a secretary and two other Committee members. Committee meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (10:00am-12 noon) at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club with an AGM once a year.

ITEM 4 – COMMITTEE AND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair spoke about the Committee and Treasurer's Annual Report that had been circulated previously to SHRA members.

The Chair thanked all the Committee for their hard work during the year. We are pleased we were able to install new seats in the harbour and that a further two will be located later in the year (hopefully around the middle of summer).

Raj and Frances are working on a new seal information board which will be erected near the current bird information board. A display of the new seal board was shown. The committee will also be renovating the current bird board, the North Harbour beach flora board, and the SS Barnhill board. For information on the Seals, please visit

<http://www.shra.co.uk/pdfs/SussexSeals.pdf>

Dave R has arranged 3-monthly meetings with Premier Marinas to raise and discuss issues and their work around the Harbour.

Caroline has worked with Tony on SHRA's new, online Membership system called 'Membermojo,' which will streamline membership applications and ease maintenance of the membership database. SHRA 'lifetime' members should have received a renewal notice to bring their details up to date, (no payment required unless you wish for a new, optional, plastic card). If any resident has not received the renewal email, please email: membership@shra.co.uk

The Treasurer's report was presented online prior to the meeting. Thanks to Carol for looking after the accounts and presenting the final accounts for the AGM (attached below). Thanks also go to Paul di Cara for vetting the accounts.

ITEM 5 - QUESTIONS ON REPORTS AND VOTE

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the Committee and Treasurer's report – there were none at the time, therefore the Committee and Treasurer's Report was voted upon – Accepted and Proposed by: Malcolm Cotton, Seconded by: Anton Levy

A vote was then carried with a show of hands by those present regarding both reports – with no-one against and no further queries.

ITEM 6 – ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR THE COMING YEAR

All Committee members have agreed to stand again. New members were sought prior to the AGM. One member (Darren Anstee) has agreed to join the committee, and two other members have expressed an interest following the AGM. We look forward to welcoming them to the next committee meeting.

ITEM 7 – Caroline Ansell MP and Sovereign Ward County and Borough Councillors

Caroline noted that she has been associating with the SHRA for over 10 years and was pleased to see how many had attended the AGM.

Caroline gave the following feedback on recent aspects of her work:

Health Issues

- Eastbourne has received a significant amount of money to help with Mental Health.
- Agreement/Planning permission granted for the Elective Surgery Hub – this will help the backlog from the Pandemic and should allow for 150-170 surgeries each year.
- New Hospital agenda – on track. Plans for several hundred million pounds in funding.
- Plans and investments will be with clinicians and not politicians.

Education

The opening of 'Summer Down School' in Hampden Park was a delight. This is a special teaching school for children with complex needs and has been granted 'Outstanding' by OFSTED.

There is a new Training Hub (by the old Mothercare) Hampden Park, this is for renewable technologies by ORME & East Sussex College.

Eastbourne was successful in the Levelling-up bid for £20 million.

1 in 4 jobs are in the hospitality industry in Eastbourne for the Seafront & Eastbourne Town, we are the Gateway to the South Downs Way, and we want to harness and draw the visitors to the

town and all that it provides from Black Robin Farm and onwards. (Caroline said, "Lewes is the side-gate"!).

Safer Streets Fund

People's concerns regarding the Anti-Social behaviour – this can involve young children. Investment for this purpose. Crime and deployment in the town centre.

Transport

A27 improvements – slow pace.

Eastbourne lost a lot of taxi drivers due to loss of earnings during the pandemic, they have been hard hit and recruitment is at an all-time low due to bureaucratic requirements for licensing. The elderly population rely on these taxis as does a lot of tourism. Waiting times are long. I am encouraging better dialog with council officials.

Environment

Water Quality – I paid a visit to the Water Treatment Centre (locally known as 'Poo Castle') which goes 75 feet underground. Safe, clean efficient water treatment without bad smells is important for our residents and our visitor economy. There are some new actions for this subject on the horizon.

MP's Surgeries

Caroline continues with her 'Surgeries' - either online from Westminster or in Eastbourne on Fridays in person.

ITEM 7A (not on Agenda) – Talk by Carl Pocock – RNLI Operations Manager

Carl reported that he had joined the RNLI in 1990 and manages the operational side of the RNLI's work at Eastbourne. He is responsible for both the boats at Eastbourne (The Tamar Class *Diamond Jubilee* and the D Class inshore lifeboat *David H*) and 30 crew. Mark Sawyer is the Coxswain.

The lifeboats were called out 162 times in 2022 (23 of these were 'standby calls').

All the crew work exceptionally hard in difficult weather situations. I have completed special training so that I can understand the body language of the crew after a 'shout' and look after their welfare as well as the crew's family.

The *Diamond Jubilee* (16-23) is an 'all-weather' lifeboat and has served Eastbourne for the last 10 years, it will shortly be leaving Eastbourne to be relocated. Not a decision taken lightly - there are currently 11 operational moves throughout the local coastline to meet the RNLI requirements.

The replacement boat will be a Trent Class 14m 'all weather' lifeboat, a slightly older boat but has had a new refit. All weather lifeboats (ALBs) are capable of high speed and can be operated safely in all weather conditions. They are inherently self-righting after a capsize and fitted with navigation, location, and communication equipment.

The good news is that Eastbourne has just received a new Inshore lifeboat called '*David H*' (D876) after David Hillibrand who has given us the boat. It replaces the *Lawrence and Percy Hobbs* (D744) There will be a naming ceremony.

Inshore lifeboats (ILB's) usually operate closer to shore, in shallower waters, near cliffs, rocks and even in caves. They are designed to be quick and manoeuvrable, allowing our crews to get as close as possible to those in trouble, and are a major support to the all-weather boats.

RNLI will continue with their work and thank everyone for their support. There have been 44 calls so far this year.

ITEM 8 – Panel Discussion/Q & A on local issues with MP, Councillors and SHRA Committee

Caroline Ansell MP (CA), Cllr Penny di Cara (PdC), Cllr Kshama Shore OBE (KS), Dave Rogers (DR), Iain Shore (IS), Dilys Iverson (DI),

Benches

Q – Will there be any benches in the West Harbour?

A – (IS) Yes, this area is next on our agenda to raise monies for.

Q - Location of other two benches?

A - (IS) One facing the locks (Madeira Way/Courtyard Gardens), the other will in the same North Harbour walkway alcove beside Pacific heights as the one installed last year.

Additional information given (IS): Midway Quay – the walkways either side have been adopted by the council along with the benches, but the lighting is dealt with by Midway Quay. We have to apply to get permission to locate the benches.

Port Moresby

Q – A section of the railings by Port Moresby are not powder coated but painted – are these going to be re-done by Premier?

A – (IS) This area does not belong to Premier; this area is under dispute with the householders/ council/management company – corrected by resident – this area is NOT in dispute by the householders! They have, over the last 4 years been trying to have this area adopted by the council (under the '106 Agreement') as the developer went into liquidation. So far there has been no response. It is dangerous, untidy and the householders are extremely upset by the lack of action being taken.

B&M

Q – There appears to be no work going on at the present time at the old cinema site – what is happening with the B&M Store?

A – By a resident, they said “They had seen works going on recently at the weekend, so maybe it is internal as opposed to external at the present time.”

ALDI – Site 7a

Q – What is happening with this – it's all gone quiet.

A – (PdC, KS, CA) This was put on hold because of the local elections, hoping for it to be on the agenda for the Council's planning meeting on 12th June. Site 7a only has permission for Light Commercial use not housing.

Q – Can further action be taken on site 7a if planning permission is agreed by the council – the Harbour Health Centre are very much against the proposal as are most of the residents in the surrounding area?

A – (CA) No, unfortunately not. The developers have ticked all the correct boxes in terms of the required elements for planning permission to be granted, but we will keep fighting.

Q – Could we discuss the matter with Michael Gove MP (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) over the ruling of Site 7a (overruling the government in a previous case).

A – (CA) No, this case cannot be dealt with by Mr Gove.

Southern Water

Q – Water quality was downgraded – why?

A (CA) There was a plumbing issue – the source was a misconnection. Just one toilet can use 40 thousand litres. Our water is SAFE though.

There is an Eastbourne Team 'Blue Heart Project' which is looking into water supply.

We use 145 litres per day which could be reduced to 90 litres per day which would save a lot of water!

CA mentioned that there is an uncharted sewer on the site of the Old Baths, Eastbourne.

CA also spoke about the incidences of sewage expulsion by water companies into the sea. CA said “this practice had been going on for 100 years. It happens after heavy rainfall when the draining water overwhelms the drains and wastewater pipes and has to be expelled into the sea in order to maintain the integrity of the infrastructure. Much of our drainage system was built in the Victorian era and subsequent development along with us paving over so much land has reduced natural drainage. To upgrade our drain capacity completely is a huge job, and the cost and upheaval would be massive.”

CA will share a link with DI about water supply which can be put on the SHRA website.

Dogs off Leads/Dog Waste around the Harbour

Q – What are the council doing about this ongoing issue – Signage is not large enough – it should be bigger and clearer?

A – PdC/CA/KS – There is a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order). Over the last three years only 3 fines have been issued. The council are trying to tackle these issues. The original signage was bigger, but they were torn down, so smaller metal ones were used to replace the notices which are harder to be broken.

The council no longer have ‘Dog Wardens.’ Should any residents see the same person continually having their dog off a lead ‘Neighbourhood First’ (<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/report-a-problem/>) should be contacted with a time and a place. Neighbourhood First can then investigate, although they have no power to ask for contact details – only the Police have the jurisdiction to do this. It was advised that it is best not to tackle some owners. The Sovereign Ward currently has two PCSO’s.

Flood Prevention

Q – What are the EA (Environmental Agency) currently doing? The resident has written to them but has received no response.

A – (DI) It is very early days. There is a 100-year plan, so it will take some time to evolve, and options are still being weighed up. We did invite the EA to attend the AGM or provide a written update, but we received no response.

Housing

Q – EBC (Eastbourne Borough Council) is very much behind in the house building stakes – are there not penalties or targets for them to build a certain number of houses per year?

A – (CA) There are no targets and no penalties for not building enough housing. Eastbourne currently builds approximately 200 houses per year, ideally it should be around 600. All over the county there is a serious housing shortage.

Q – The new apartment blocks that were due to be built on the land next to White Point close to the Martello Tower – is this still going ahead?

A – (KS) There was planning permission given for two apartment blocks, but we understand the developers went bankrupt, but the land was sold as ‘Change of Ownership.’ Due to the nature of the ground, construction of the houses involved pile-driving so the cost would be prohibitive.

Q – Midway Quay – Antisocial Behaviour

A – (DI) Youngsters have been causing disruption in Midway Quay – if you have any concerns or are targeted, please call 101, the more calls they receive the more notice they will take and

investigate the issue. Midway Quay is looking to invest in CCTV. There is information on the Sussex Police website on how to report any incidents.

Bus Link

Q – What has happened to this?

A – (CA) it appears to have died unfortunately – no further news on this matter.

Live-aboards

Q – Why are the live-aboards not discharging their waste correctly, it appears to be affecting the water in the North Harbour? Where are they pumping their wastewater?

A – (DR) Premier Marinas state that no wastewater is pumped into the Harbour. The water is tested regularly, and Premier says the quality is always excellent. They are aware of a ‘handful’ of live-aboards who have Premier’s permission to do so. No planning permission from Eastbourne is required. There are no plans to sell any further boathouses either. We are in constant contact with Premier Marinas regarding this matter.

9 - CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, members were thanked for attending the AGM and for their support of the Association. The meeting closed at 9pm.

Thanks to our annual sponsors



Victoria Healthcare
Management
Private Medical Insurance Brokers
Honest, tailored advice. Harbour based.
• 01323 301 270 • info@victoriahm.co.uk
www.victoriahm.co.uk



The Flat Specialists
Property Consultants
"Empowering you to manage your property"
Office: 01323 736422 Mobile: 07809 436818
E-mail: peter@theflatspecialists.co.uk
Website: www.theflatspecialists.co.uk



HOBDENS
property management ltd
info@hobdensmanage.co.uk
01903 724040
Specialising in Block & Estate Management since 1946



AP-it
Your local friendly I.T. Service
Computer and Laptop
repairs for Residential and
Business clients...
01323 887894 - 07900 473134 - www.ap-it.co.uk



STC
seatrainingssussex
PRACTICAL BOAT TRAINING
Shorebased + Online
W: seatrainingssussex.co.uk T: 01323 387141



FIRST RESPONSE LEARNING
PROFESSIONAL - COST EFFECTIVE - QUALITY TRAINING
FIRST AID AT WORK EAST SUSSEX
T: 0800 999 0100 M: 07808 964796
E: enquiries@firstresponse.co.uk



GINGER & SANDERS
PROPERTY SALES & LETTINGS
10 YEARS
2012-2022
"Passionate about property" | 01323 701702
gssalesandlettings.com

SHRA

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 11th 7.30pm
Haven School
Atlantic Drive BN23 5SW

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Introduction of SHRA Committee
4. Committee's and Treasurer's Annual Report
5. Questions on Committee or Treasurer's report
6. Election of Committee for the Coming Year.
7. Caroline Ansell MP and Sovereign Ward County and Borough Councillors
8. Panel Discussion/Q and A on Local Issues
With MP, Councillors and SHRA Committee
9. Thanks and Close (by 9.05pm to clear the hall by 9.30pm).

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS 2022-2023

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period since the previous AGM, held in June 2022 to 1 May 2023.

THE SHRA COMMITTEE

Since the last report the committee has been joined by new members Frances Lawrence and Rajendra Pisavadia. Following the resignation of Sue Kerrison in October 2022, the Deputy Chair held the reins until January when Dilys Iverson returned to the committee and was appointed Chair.

Chair	Dilys Iverson	Committee Member	Frances Lawrence
Deputy Chair & Editor	Tony Smith	Committee Member	Rajendra Pisavadia
Secretary	Vacant	Committee Member	David Preager
Membership Secretary	Caroline Lynam	Committee Member	Dave Rogers
Treasurer	Carol Collier	Committee Member	David Shaw
Committee Member	Penny di Cara	Committee Member	Iain Shore

The Committee would like to thank Tony for his work on the SHRA website and Waterlines, Iain for his work on the Harbour seating, and Carol for her work as Treasurer - the SHRA accounts for 2022-23 are attached to this report. We are grateful to Caroline for carrying out the role of Membership Secretary and successfully introducing the new online membership system. We also thank Sue Kerrison for the work she did and commitment she gave during her time as SHRA chair.

The SHRA constitution specifies a committee of up to 14 persons, so we have three vacancies; we are particularly keen to fill the post of secretary. Please contact any committee member if you would like to serve on the SHRA committee and help with the Association's work.

THE COMMITTEE'S WORK 2022-23

Committee Meetings

Monthly committee meetings were held throughout the period. We are grateful to the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Clubs for the use of their facilities.

Aldi

In August 2022 plans were announced for the development of Site 7A, the land next door to the Medical Centre and bordering Pacific Drive and Pevensey Bay Road. The developers are Aldi, McCarthy Stone and LNT Care and their initial plans for the site propose an Aldi store and car park, a 66 bed, three-storey, residential care home and a four-storey block of 57 retirement living apartments - the latter two within landscaped gardens. All three developments will be accessed from Pacific Drive.

Like almost all of the residents who contacted us, we believe the planned access, the increase of traffic along Pacific Drive, the resulting pressure on local infrastructure and local

services, as well as the environmental damage and loss of a peaceful ambience, would severely impact the safety, health and well-being of North Harbour residents.

In view of this, particularly the access to Aldi being from Pacific Drive, SHRA opposed the development proposal in its current layout and submitted its own contribution to the developers' initial consultation. The developers chose to largely ignore the comments stemming from their consultation and in November submitted formal planning applications to EBC for each of the three buildings.

SHRA has submitted a detailed objection to the EBC planners on each of the three buildings and over 300 objections have been posted by residents and interested parties. Our MP and ward councillors have supported our objections. In March, Aldi's planning consultants, Planning Potential, issued a "Supplementary Note on Employment Land Considerations and Retail Matters" to support their initial Planning Statement. We have sent a full response on the new document to EBC. All our documents are available on the SHRA website www.shra.co.uk/devsite7.html. The EBC planners have yet to make a recommendation on the three applications and the next meeting of the planning committee is not until 12 June.

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

We continue to engage with the Environment Agency (EA) and monitor progress on their Coastal Management Scheme.

In early 2023 the EA announced that the Delivery of the scheme will take three main strands:

- (i) A short-term 'interim' project from 2025 will continue to provide flood risk management to the project area while allowing time for the more complex strands to be developed.
- (ii) Phase 1 will be the start of the short-medium term works and will build upon the existing flood defence methods, with some localised construction activities. We expect this phase to run for approximately 10 - 20 years.
- (iii) The 100-year programme of works will allow for various choices in the future as climate change progresses and newer technologies evolve. This programme will be delivered following the end of phase 1 works and into the future, to manage the frontage in its entirety.

At this time, it appears that the EA will do no more than maintain the present flood defence management for a couple of years while they work out their future plans. Because the EA have indicated they would not fund flood defence improvements required to be carried out by a commercial company, SHRA remains concerned that should the EA demand Premier carry out such work, the costs will be passed on to the residents through the annual rentcharge.

For more information on the EA's scheme visit the dedicated website at:

<https://www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk/>

Rentcharge

Unsurprisingly, this year's (2023) rentcharge saw another increase. The Rentcharge has two elements: one part is paid to the Environment Agency (EA) and is capped as it is linked to the Retail Price index (RPI), a measure of inflation published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. The second part is paid to Premier for the maintenance of the locks and

water ways, is uncapped and can rise indefinitely. This year's increase is mostly because the element paid to the Environment Agency is linked to inflation.

The Rentcharge is collected by Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company on behalf of the Sovereign Harbour Trust (SHT). Community Interest Companies (CICs) are regulated, and to be compliant with the regulatory standards, CICs are required to seek the opinions of the local stakeholders and provide high quality information about their activities. In the Association's view the CIC continue to fall short in meeting these requirements.

The SHRA has consistently argued that the Rentcharge invoice could be made more transparent and the terms of payment made more user friendly. During last year the SHRA engaged with the CIC to discuss these matters, and this year's invoices contained more information than previously.

However, it was hugely disappointing to learn in April that some residents received payment demands for amounts that they had already paid earlier in the year. This caused affected residents unnecessary stress and additional work as contact to resolve the issue was not straightforward. SHRA brought this matter to the attention of the board of the Sovereign Harbour Trust. The SHT then posted an apology notice on their website stating that Cripps, the company that collects the rent charge, will be writing to affected residents. The SHT website is at: www.sovereignharbourtrust.co.uk/ We remain engaged with the SHT who must ensure that these administrative failures never happen again. For further information on the Rentcharge see our Q and A on the SHRA website www.shra.co.uk/rentcharge.html

Seating

During the last year the SHRA had great success, with considerable assistance from our Ward Councillors in securing funding from the devolved Budget, for the purchase, licensing (by East Sussex County Council), and installation of three benches around the Harbour walkways. Building on that success, we have again managed to obtain funding, albeit much reduced, from the significantly smaller devolved Budget this year.

A new licensing application has been approved and two further, British-made, benches, of the same pattern, will be sourced from the same supplier in the Midlands. These will be located close to two of the recently installed benches, one in North Harbour, one in South. A third bench will be located close to the lock gates, facing the sea, on Premier Marina's land. This means that, by the end of this year, six new benches will have been installed by the SHRA in the last two years, no mean feat.

Greening the Harbour and the Environment

The committee has been actively trying to identify areas for "greening" - planting trees or wildflower meadows. A couple of small sites owned by Persimmon have been identified but thus far we have not obtained permission from Persimmon.

The state of the of new open space on Pacific Drive is causing concern. Initial planting was not followed up by adequate maintenance and the promised children's play area has still not been fitted out. We will be pressing EBC to ensure this open space is quickly completed and properly maintained.

Our attempts last year to persuade the management companies to look at installing solar panels was met with little enthusiasm from them. We will continue to look for other opportunities to increase solar power generation around the harbour.

Community Centre

Sovereign Harbour Community Centre is a purpose-built facility, providing multiple rooms for hire for meetings, conferences, social events or weekly clubs. After two years use as a NHS Covid vaccination hub, the centre was handed back to the management agents, Wave Leisure, at the end of March.

To mark the re-opening, Wave Leisure invite residents, local groups and organisations to attend an **Open Day at the Centre on Saturday 20th May from 1.00pm to 5pm**. We hope that the people who were using the centre on a regular basis prior to the pandemic will resume their activities and that new groups will see it as a suitable place for their activities.

We understand that Wave Leisure may set up some sort of users steering group to help with the Centre's management.

Retail Park and Cinema Site

Despite earlier plans to smarten up the Retail Park by upgrading the store fronts and resurfacing the car park, M&G, the owners have only removed the covered walkway. In late 2022 plans were submitted to locate a drive-thru Costa Coffee and McDonalds in the centre of the car park involving the demolition of the two existing buildings there (Defiant Sports/Blockbuster Video and the old Frankie & Benny's) and the erection of two new buildings each with a separate drive-thru facility. The plans have yet to be approved by EBC.

Plans to convert the cinema building into a B&M retail store with a garden centre at its rear have been approved and work on converting and fitting out the building is underway.

Brown-tail Moth Caterpillars

The hairs of the moth's caterpillar are an irritant to people and animals. Last year SHRA wrote to the various estate management companies and Premier Marinas pointing out that winter is the best time to dispose of the webs before the caterpillars emerge in the spring.

During this winter, we received a number of emails from concerned residents about the cocoons on shrubs fronting Macquarie Quay, Nautica La Marina, Caroline Way and Chatsworth, and on the harbour spit. In January, we wrote again to the management companies of the estates fronting the North Harbour Beach pointing out the webs; Wildheart, who manage Chatsworth, was the only company who responded. We also wrote to Premier Marinas about the webs on the Spit and they advised us they were 'looking into it'.

We wrote again in early April when the caterpillars emerged and only Macquarie's management replied saying they'd dealt with them. The caterpillars are now 'on the march' on both the North Beach and the Spit. The committee thanks Dave Rogers for pursuing this matter with the estate management companies and Premier Marinas.

Sewage Connection

We have been made aware by the residents of Vancouver Road that Southern Water are proposing to connect Bay View Holiday Park to the existing sewerage system in Vancouver Road. This does raise questions as to the suitability of such a move and we have written to Southern Water with our concerns and objections and asked for assurances about the capacity of the system.

Information Banners and Boards

We are grateful to the SHRA members attending last year's AGM who donated £56 towards the cost of the two "Seal Protection Area" banners that have been placed on the curved

outer harbour prom. For some reason, Premier objected to the wording “We have disturbed a seal if it is looking at us” and asked us to remove a third banner from the railings by the lifeboat station. We are looking for a new home for it, or it will be used as a spare.

SHRA committee member, Rajendra Pisavadia, has designed a “Harbour Seals” information board that will be on show at the AGM. Our thanks to Premier Marinas and Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited for donating £500 each towards the cost of the board and its installation. The board will be located close to the current bird information board near the locks. Thanks go to Rajendra, and Frances and her husband for the effort they have put in to bringing this to project to fruition and we also thank the Eastbourne Shed.

This year, SHRA is intending to replace the bird information board and the SS Barnhill and wildlife information boards on the North beach that are in a poor state. The wooden frameworks will be refurbished while we’re installing the new boards. We hope you will agree that these boards will add to the enjoyment of both residents of the harbour and the many visitors.

Other Issues

The committee will meet the Sovereign ward councillors on a regular basis and is grateful for their support on various issues during the past year.

SHRA’s STRUCTURE

Since it was set up, the Association has operated as a voluntary, fully constituted Residents Association. Last year, following a threat of legal action we considered proposals to change the structure of the Association to an entity where the officers are protected by limited liability. In a final vote, the vast majority of the committee thought the Association should remain in its present form.

SHRA MEMBERSHIP

Membermojo System

In order to comply with data protection regulations, ensure membership eligibility in accordance with the SHRA constitution and simplify the issuing and updating of memberships and cards, the committee approved the use of secure online membership system and database called Membermojo. www.membermojo.co.uk

In August 2022 we transferred all SHRA current Lifetime members records into Membermojo’s online database. The cost of using this online system varies depending on how many members are enrolled and in order to offset these costs it was decided that new members joining after 1 August 2022 would pay an annual fee (currently £5 per person), while Lifetime would retain their lifetime status.

Lifetime Members

When lifetime membership was introduced over ten years ago, the then current members, who may have joined as far back as 2005 and were paying annually, were offered a Lifetime membership for a one-off payment of £10. This has now resulted in a large number of records of Lifetime members who have never needed to renew or make contact, and who may no longer be eligible for membership because they have moved way.

To confirm the continued eligibility of Lifetime members and ensure our membership records are continuously kept up to date we are using the Membermojo auto-renewal function to require all Lifetime members to renew their membership annually. Lifetime members will pay no charge to renew every year (unless they decide to purchase an

optional plastic membership card). Lifetime members who do not renew their membership will be classed as “expired” and their data will eventually be removed from the database.

KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED

Website

Our news and updates are announced first on the SHRA website or in a mass emailing to all members (see next paragraph). The website is regularly updated and contains a great deal of information useful to residents of Sovereign Harbour, including the history of the harbour and the annual rentcharge. It receives around 1,500 visitors a month.

MailChimp Distribution List & Social Media

For major or urgent announcements, SHRA’s *MailChimp* email distribution list is used to contact members and subscribers. You can subscribe to the list from the SHRA web site: www.shra.co.uk/waterlines.html. Where appropriate, we have responded to relevant posts that have appeared on the various Sovereign Harbour Facebook Groups.

Waterlines

Waterlines is our digital, online newsletter that is published as a PDF file every second month, commencing each year with a February edition. Contributions from members are always very welcome; anything that would be of interest to other harbour residents. Email the editor: waterlines@shra.co.uk

THANKS

We are grateful to our sponsors, AP-it, First Response Learning, Ginger and Sanders, Hobdens Property Management, Sea Training Sussex, The Flat Specialists, and Victoria Healthcare, for their financial donations that have allowed us to operate the SHRA website and produce *Waterlines* at little cost to members.

We also thank the local businesses who offer a discount to SHRA members. For the full list visit: www.shra.co.uk/join.html

Finally, I must thank you all for your continued support of the Association. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch if wish to bring any Harbour-related issue to our attention.

Dilys Iverson

Chair, SHRA

May 2023

chair@shra.co.uk

Income & Expenditure Account Year Ended 31 March 2023

SHRA

INCOME

	2022		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Advertising	900		1050	
Membership Fees	805		845	
Bank Interest	8		33	
Grant Monies Released	2250		0	
Devolved Budget			1389	
Seal Project (collection/Donation)			1056	
TOTAL INCOME		£3,963		£4,373

EXPENDITURE

	2022		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Insurance	256		153	
Website etc	228		120	
Computer Software	500		400	
Printing	21		125	
Telephone				
Meetings etc	130		189	
Sundries	132		39	
Postage	63		31	
Accountant				
Benches & Associated Expenditure	3599			
Licences			83	
IT Services				
Flowers	60			
Searches			18	
Stationary				
Seal Project			51	
Membership			90	
Transfer to Devolved Budget Fund			1389	
Transfer to Seal Project Fund			1056	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4989		3744

EXCESS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	-£1,026	£	629
--	----------------	---	-----

Prepared by:
 Carol Collier
 SHRA Treasurer
 May 2023

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

SHRA

ASSETS

Current Assets	2022	2023
Nat West Bank - Current Business Account	1,466	4582
Nat West Bank - Business Reserve Account	7,533	7566
PayPal Account	370	245
Equipment Assets	0	0
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	9369	12393

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2022	2023
Accrued Expenses	0	0
Grant Monies Held for EBC	0	0
Seal Project - Fund Held		1006
Devolved Budget -Fund Held		1389
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0	2395
NET ASSETS	9369	9998

REPRESENTED BY:

	2022	2023
Net fund brought forward	10395	9369
Surplus for the year		629
Deficit for the Year	-1,026	
NET FUND C/F	9369	9998

Prepared by:
Carol Collier
SHRA Treasurer
May 2023