

WRA MEMBERS MEETING March 2025

WRA held its half yearly meeting for members in the New Hall on 29th March with financial updates and progress reports on our recent activities. We were pleased to invite Simon Everett from the National Trust to speak and to see our local district councillor Simon McGurk at the meeting. We also want to thank our MP Helena Dollimore for her continuing interest and support for our local initiatives.

Subscriptions

Members' subscription will be held at £10 per member for this financial year. This will cover current overheads, primarily insurance, IT hosting and printing with a small contingency fund. Thanks to those who paid on the day. Outstanding subscriptions can be paid directly to WRA and our bank details are sort code 600207; account 59667362. If you would prefer to pay by cheque or cash, we can arrange collection.

Toilets

We have ensured that Rother DC has kept a single local toilet open but the building's future remains uncertain. It is advertised for sale but we are not aware of any current commercial interest. We have asked Rother DC to clarify how long it may remain on the market and their contingency plans, should it fail to sell.

Traffic safety

National Highways has recently confirmed it is considering introducing no left turn/ no right turn at the bottom of Strand Hill without new construction. Their more flexible approach is very welcome and is based on the need to improve road safety at the junction with the A259. National Highways is also willing to pay some of the costs. This is good news but we have to wait for National Highways to complete yet another safety assessment before a final decision is made to go ahead or not. There is no guarantee of agreement at this stage but the agency has advised it will let us know by end of May.

The Little Shop

The Little Shop working group is focussed on possible purchase of the shop from its current owner and how the shop may continue trading after its proposed sale. A well-attended meeting was held on 23rd March in the New Hall and full details are published in the Parish magazine. We understand the working group will be updating residents later in the summer. In the meantime, the group is actively recruiting volunteers to work in the Shop on Sundays. You can contact the group at shopgroup@winchelsea.com.

National Trust

Simon Everett, one of the new local National Trust staff gave a helpful update on NT activities at the members meeting, in particular plans for local livestock grazing and the need to treat specific sites with appropriate chemicals to keep down unwanted growth.

We look forward to seeing members at our next meeting later in the year and you can contact us at any time about issues affecting the Town by email at RA@winchelsea.com