

## **ACRA**

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30pm**

- 1. Present:** John White (Christchurch Citizens); Ken Clay (Friars Cliff); John Mather (Highcliffe); Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); Mike Collard (SAMRA - Chairman); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch – Secretary); Roger Hamilton (West Christchurch)
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Brian Smith (Highcliffe); Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA);
- 3. Andy Glaser (Friars Cliff):** the long term illness of Andy Glaser was noted with regret and Ken Clay was asked to pass on our best wishes to her
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were accepted
- 5. Matters Arising:**
  - 5.1.** Minutes of Bournemouth Airport: John Mather passed the minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 issued on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 to Jim Biggin to prepare and circulate a summary
  - 5.2.** Proposed New Car Parking Charges: Jim Biggin confirmed that a letter had been sent to CBC outlining our caution as regards the new charges
  - 5.3.** Meeting with Martyn Underhill: Jim Biggin confirmed that a provisional date of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 had been agreed
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £111.93.
- 7. Appointment of Representatives 2013-14:**
  - 7.1.** Mike Collard (SAMRA) was appointed Chairman
  - 7.2.** Jim Biggin (West Christchurch) was appointed Secretary
  - 7.3.** John Mather (Highcliffe) was appointed to oversee the Airport
  - 7.4.** Brian Smith (Highcliffe) was appointed to oversee Navitus Bay
  - 7.5.** Liz and Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens) were appointed to oversee Druitt Hall and Gardens
- 8. Delegate to Bournemouth Airport:** John Mather outlined:
  - 8.1.** The planned developments of the B3073 from Parley Cross to Blackwater Junction and to the A338 Spur Road
  - 8.2.** The plans to place a large housing estate at Parley Cross with no commitment to new schools, doctors, etc.
  - 8.3.** Passenger numbers April to October 2012 were up on both budget and the same period in 2011
  - 8.4.** Problems caused by the UK Airport Tax and the adverse effect it is having upon UK aviation

- 8.5. The overall scope for bold planning given the need to reduce traffic at Heathrow. The lack of proper road and rail infrastructure is likely to hamper such ambitions
- 8.6. The continued success of the Aviation Business Park
- 8.7. The continued widely felt resentment as regards the access charge that is levied by the Airport. *It was resolved that* John Mather should again complain about this charge
9. **Druitt Hall:** John White (Christchurch Citizens) outlined the latest developments including queries related to the CBC-EDDC Strategic Plan. The Business Plan for the development of the hall is still awaited
10. **Navitus Bay Wind Farm:**
- 10.1. In a written report Brian Smith (Highcliffe) indicated that the current consultation ends on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013. He will be writing to oppose the scheme on behalf of Highcliffe RA following a public meeting at which more than 95% of attendees voted against Navitus
- 10.2. No new data has been provided on: the on-shore power lines; questions of noise; questions on ornithology
- 10.3. The RSPB are being neither open nor helpful
- 10.4. Bournemouth Council is holding a public meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 at The Royal Bath Hotel.
- 10.5. At the next meeting of the Poole and Christchurch Bay Association he will report that ACRA is opposed except for SAMRA
11. **The Three Applications to Build Supermarkets - update:** Jim Biggin reported that:
- 11.1. The Secretary of State has passed both the Bailey Bridge and the Meteor sites. It is now up to CBC to write to the developers
- 11.2. The Stony Lane site has been referred via the appeals procedure to Bristol. A decision is expected during March 2013
12. **Potential Relocation of Civic Offices:** Jim Biggin reported that CBC-EDDC is now proposing to centralise everything in the existing Christchurch building with a walk-in facility in Wimborne. The analysis to underpin this slightly surprising turn of events is not yet in the public domain but he will circulate details as soon as they are available
13. **CBC Budget 2013-14:** the consultative event on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January was considered a success by CBC Officers, our representatives and Councillors who were in attendance. Councillors had subsequently elected to increase the Council Tax slightly and this was not a surprise to those who had attended and had seen the underlying analysis. It was noted that this topic is likely to be of on-going concern in the years ahead
14. **DCC Budget 2013-14:***it was resolved that* we would now approach DCC Councillor Spencer Flower to discuss the overall County situation and that Mike Collard (Chairman) and Jim Biggin (Secretary) would represent ACRA

- 15. Christchurch Hospital:** it was noted that the key meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Jim Biggin reported that the latest list of planning applications issued by CBC reported 31 letters against and 1,300 in favour plus 2 petitions totalling over 100 names also in favour
- 16. DCC Bus Survey:** the DCC questionnaire is aimed at individuals and seeks to elicit the barest of information. *It was resolved that* ACRA need take no action
- 17. CBC Flood Fair:** some concern was expressed that the in the course of the CBC-EDDC administrative amalgamation sight could have been lost of the need to monitor the erosion at the back of Hengistbury Head. *It was resolved that* we would raise this at our next meeting with CBC, which could now be arranged
- 18. Mundeford Wood Community Centre:** SAMRA reported that fund raising remained an on-going issue but approaching the anniversary of the formation of the community trust, the centre is running at a small profit
- 19. Stanpit Recreation Ground:** SAMRA reported that work associated with the improvement plans was now out for tender. The plans for improvements on the site are available for public comment (closing date 31 May, see [www.dorsetforyou.com/stanpitrec](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/stanpitrec) ).
- 20. Trees on Public Land Damaging Roads and Pavements:** West Christchurch reported that in discussions with CBC it had been clearly established that such trees are the responsibility of DCC. They are going to wait until the new Dorset County Councillor has been elected in May 2013 before approaching DCC. They offered to make representation on any such trees that were causing difficulty in other parts of Christchurch
- 21. Fountain Roundabout:** West Christchurch reported that on behalf of some of their members they had raised issues associated with Fountain Roundabout with CBC. So far it was not entirely clear whether DCC would actually be the correct body. There was some discussion of the old plan to introduce a one-way system in the town centre combined with an A35 flyover of Fountain Roundabout but it was felt to be unlikely that this could be resurrected.
- 22. Signage in Town Centre:** Those in attendance were surprised by the new signs in the Town Centre, which have replaced the 'traditional' Black and Gilt signs in several places. Members were asked to feed back any information they might get about who implemented the changes, why they were necessary and the apparent absence of any consultation
- 23. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at The Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm

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