

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 18th June 2013 at 7.30pm**

- 1. Present:** Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Ken Clay (Friars Cliff); Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); Mike Collard (SAMRA - Chairman); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch – Secretary); Roger Hamilton (West Christchurch)
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens – see minute 10); John Mather (Highcliffe); Brian Smith (Highcliffe); Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA);
- 3. Change of Date:** Mike Collard apologised for the change of date of the meeting that had caused Highcliffe representatives to be absent
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of 12th March 2013 were accepted with the proviso that the appointment of Debbie Stephens (SAMRA) as Treasurer should have been recorded at minute 7
- 5. Matters Arising:**
 - 5.1. Meeting With Martyn Underhill – see minute 6**
 - 5.2. Three Supermarkets:** Jim Biggin reported that negotiations between CBC and the Bailey Bridge developer are still on-going; Morrison's are going to reapply to develop the Stony Lane site
 - 5.3. Meeting Councillor Spenser Flower – see minute 7**
 - 5.4. Christchurch Hospital:** noted that development had been approved and a timetable is awaited
 - 5.5. Hengistbury Head:** Jim Biggin reported that CBC had confirmed their on-going awareness of the erosion issues
 - 5.6. Trees that damage roads:** Jim Biggin reported that this would be picked up in the next quarter, working with Councillor Margaret Phipps
 - 5.7. Town Centre Signage:** Jim Biggin reported that CBC had confirmed that this change had been authorised by local councillors.
- 6. Meeting With Martyn Underhill:**
 - 6.1.** Mike Collard and Jim Biggin reported on their meeting with Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill. A full report has been posted to www.wcresidents.co.uk
 - 6.2.** It was felt that Martyn Underhill would be unlikely to succeed unless he determined the priority he has assigned to his various projects – they all appear to be top priority at the moment and that would render proper implementation unlikely.
 - 6.3.** Jim Biggin outlined the difficulties of dealing with Martyn Underhill's office that reflected poorly upon the office of the Commissioner. He believed that if these problems were not resolved they would seriously detract from the Commissioner's ability to do his job.

- 7. Meeting With Councillor Spenser Flower:** Jim Biggin reported that following the County Council elections Councillor Spenser Flower had been appointed Leader of the Council and his responsibilities for budgets and finance had been passed to the Deputy Leader, Councillor Robert Gould. An initial meeting with Councillor Robert Gould is being arranged
- 8. Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £111.93.
- 9. Delegate to Bournemouth Airport:** one member had experienced problems obtaining a taxi from the airport to Christchurch. It would appear that no Christchurch taxi company was involved in providing this service. *It was resolved that* John Mather should be asked to enquire why this was so and if anything could be done about it
- 10. Druitt Hall:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens) entered the meeting during this discussion:
- 10.1.** The Business Plan for the development of the hall is still awaited. It was agreed that the new hall must be self-funding on an on-going basis
- 10.2.** The design plans for the new Hall will be debated by CBC Planning Committee on 20th June. It is anticipated by Christchurch Citizens that the new hall will be sited further back into Druitt Gardens than the present hall
- 10.3.** It was agreed that the wording of the note referring to the ACRA meeting with CBC of 4th April 2013 was misleading. The note said:
- CBC is allowing some time for the 'Druitt Hall Group' to produce a viable business plan. CBC believes that if there is funding within that plan (£1.5M has been mentioned before), the cost of demolition will be almost 'loose change' and should be included within the business plan rather than a cost placed on Council Tax-payers. ACRA agreed with that.*
- Christchurch Citizens believe the figure of £1.5M to be significantly higher than the current estimated cost. They also dispute that ACRA had reached any agreement as to the funding of demolition costs, which they believe should be taxpayer funded. Mike Collard and Jim Biggin agreed that the note should have contained a caveat to reflect the position of Christchurch Citizens.
- 11. Navitus Bay Wind Farm:** In a written report Brian Smith (Highcliffe) indicated that:
- 11.1.** Phase 3 consultation finished at the beginning of April. As yet, there has not been any communication from Navitus about the public responses.
- 11.2.** There will be another round of consultation in September (Phase 4). At the same time it is believed that Navitus will provide their Environment Impact Assessment.
- 11.3.** The Navitus application to the Planning Inspectorate is not expected before March 2014. When they submit the application they

will at the same time inform the Statutory Consultees (CBC, DCC etc.) that they in turn have 28 days to object to the application, but only on procedural grounds (e.g. that the consultation process wasn't valid, the public were misled etc.) The Planning Inspectorate can then only reject the application for the same reasons.

- 11.4.** There then follows the Pre-Examination stage. It is during this period that non-statutory consultees can have their say in writing with the Planning Inspectorate. Individuals will be able to register as well as organisations such as ACRA. The RAs umbrella group Poole and Christchurch Bay Association will register and submit a summary of their objections.
- 11.5.** Registered Individuals will then be asked if they wish to attend a preliminary meeting run and chaired by an Inspector. We believe that these meetings will not be adversarial but will be inquisitorial without the need for legal representation. Registered Individuals will not be cross-examined by Navitus. This stage lasts up to 2 months.
- 11.6.** The next stage is the Examination which takes up to 6 months. During this stage the Inspector will ask interested parties for more details of their views in writing. Early in this phase of the process CBC will be asked by the Planning Inspectorate to submit a Local Impact Report (with a very short deadline so CBC should start preparing one as soon as the application has been accepted.)
- 11.7.** The Planning Inspectorate then has a further 3 months after the end of the Examination to send its recommendation to the Secretary of State. He/she then has a further 3 months to make his/her decision. Thus it could be mid-2015 before the decision is made.

12. Proposed Referendum on Navitus Bay: this idea was unanimously rejected

13. Update Meeting With CBC: *it was resolved that* Mike Collard and Jim Biggin should arrange an update meeting with CBC Directorate

14. Potential Oak Tree Infestation: it was noted that a full description of this pest had been prepared by a Christchurch resident and posted to the website www.wcresidents.co.uk

15. Town Centre Development Issues: Christchurch Citizens reported issues related to: the Corn Factor building; Priory Hall; the bowling green opposite the Kings Head

16. Beach Maintenance: Friars Cliff reported problems with the redistribution of sand on Mudeford Beach

17. Staithe End, 119A Mudeford: SAMRA reported plans to knock down part of this building (which is in a conservation area) and replace it with a modern design

18. Fountain Roundabout: West Christchurch reported that DCC is the correct body to consider the layout of this roundabout and the very dangerous road exit from Waitrose car park.

19. Illegal Fence At Fairmile Road/The Grove: West Christchurch reported that the new CBC Enforcement Officer is looking into this issue

20. Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th September 2013 at The Hall on the Hill, West
Christchurch at 7.30pm

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