

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

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

- 1. Present:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Ken Clay (Friars Cliff); Rachel Sowden (Grange); Sharon Pym (Grange); John Mather (Highcliffe); Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); Mike Collard (SAMRA - Chairman); Chris Hopkins (Somerford); Simon Vollen (Somerford); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch – Secretary); Roger Hamilton (West Christchurch)
- 2. New Members:** the representatives of Grange RA and Somerford RA were welcomed
- 3. Apologies for Absence:** Malcolm Burton-Smith (SAMRA);
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of 18th June 2013 were accepted
- 5. Matters Arising:**
 - 5.1. DCC-Trees that damage roads (minute 5.6):** Jim Biggin reported that a meeting with DCC has been arranged for later in September by DCC Councillor Margaret Phipps
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £99.83. The Secretary had spent £12.10 on a return train fare to Dorchester to see Cllr Gould
- 7. Delegate to Bournemouth Airport:** John Mather reported that:
 - 7.1.** He had again raised the issue of the drop-off charge and that some of our concerns were shared by the Bournemouth Tourism Board, DCC and Hurn PC. He was assured that no-one wanted the charge but that it was necessary in the present economic climate and the Airport will dispense with it as soon as is possible. *It was resolved that we should take no further action at the moment*
 - 7.2.** In its last financial year the Airport had earnings before tax and depreciation of £2 million. Passenger numbers at 670,000 were below budget. Overall performance against budget was reasonable with some cost savings achieved.
 - 7.3.** There has been no decision on the potential siting of the Police helicopter at the Airport
 - 7.4.** Manchester Airport Group continue to stress to Central Government that the Airport has unused capacity and that this should be utilised in future plans
- 8. Druitt Hall:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens) reported that a decision was now awaited from CBC Resources Committee that will meet on 25th September
- 9. Navitus Bay Wind Farm:**
 - 9.1. Resignation of Brian Smith (Highcliffe):** the resignation of Brian Smith as ACRA representative was noted. *It was resolved that* no replacement would be appointed and that Jim Biggin will continue to distribute material received

9.2. ACRA position: in general discussion it became clear that the position has become rather more complex than it once was. Delegates around the table reflected all of the differing opinions that can be found amongst residents from outright full support through to full opposition.

10. Update Meeting With CBC: Mike Collard reported a useful and constructive meeting. A full report is at www.wcresidents.co.uk. *It was resolved that we should meet with CBC again at a sensible and convenient time in the budget cycle – probably November 2013*

11. Purbeck Council: Jim Biggin outlined the size and nature of Purbeck Council and described the “central hub + distributed pod” approach that would be used for Wimborne and could also embrace Purbeck. In response to a delegate he indicated that he could not imagine the amalgamation of Purbeck administration into CBC-EDDC administration without some staff redundancy at Purbeck – such cost saving was the basic rationale of the process.

12. Dorset Police:

12.1. Jim Biggin confirmed that the follow up meeting with PCC Martyn Underhill is now scheduled for 27th November. ACRA is now acting as a distribution channel for PCC material.

12.2. Jim Biggin confirmed that the meeting with DCC to discuss remarks made by Martyn Underhill and other matters related to local traffic management was scheduled for 11th September.

12.3. Mike Collard outlined the plans for Speed-watch. North Christchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team members are leading the pilot project in Christchurch, for Dorset Police.

13. Meeting with DCC Cllr Robert Gould: Jim Biggin reported a constructive but slightly worrying meeting. The budgetary situation at DCC remains difficult with for example £800,000 to be saved on bus subsidies. A full report is at www.wcresidents.co.uk and a further meeting will be held in November

14. Matters to note:

14.1. *It was resolved that* a strange letter from one J Probert talking about merging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole should be filed appropriately

14.2. *It was resolved that* the rebuttal of the approach by UKIP by informing them that ACRA and its members are all non-political was the correct response and should be maintained in future

14.3. Ash Dieback has reached West Dorset

14.4. DCC is progressing the rollout of high speed Broadband

15. Litter Bins: CCA raised the issue of litter bins, particularly at Quomps, being too small, insufficient in number, and not emptied often enough. SAMRA indicated that this could also be said of Mudeford Quay. Jim Biggin suspected that responsibility for all or some of this would lie with the Dorset Waste Partnership and undertook to find out

- 16. Planning Issues:** both Grange and Somerford indicated that they had planning issues in their area and in particular a backlog of local searches at CBC-EDDC. Other RA indicated they had heard of this backlog. *It was resolved that* Jim Biggin will contact CBC to seek clarification
- 17. DCC Lack of Consultation:** SAMRA reported that DCC had attempted to close a footbridge without prior consultation with residents. Following complaints DCC are now talking to people.
- 18. Manning of Christchurch Tourist Office:** WCRA reported that the Tourist Office in the town centre is to be manned by unpaid volunteers and the present specialist salaried staff are to be made redundant. Given the high dependence of Christchurch upon tourism this decision appeared to be a little strange
- 19. Fountain Roundabout:** WCRA reported that traffic lights are to be introduced at the exit to the Waitrose car park
- 20. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10th December 2013 at The Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm

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