

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 16th June 2015 at 7.30pm**

- 1. Present:** Martin Axton (Friars Cliff); Rachel Sowden (Grange); Sharon Pym (Grange); Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); Mike Collard (SAMRA - Chairman); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch – Secretary); Cheryl Pountain (Winkton)
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Highcliffe; Somerford; WCRA
- 3. Absent:** Christchurch Citizens;
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of March 2015 were accepted
- 5. Matters Arising:**
 - 5.1. Roeshot Quarry:** the meeting arranged with the Meyrick Estate's consultant by Chris Hopkins (Somerford) for 24th June at 3pm in the ARC was welcomed although the exact format was not clear.
 - 5.2. Future Capacity of Middle and Senior Schools:** Jim Biggin reported that at a meeting to discuss the proposed new school at Marsh Lane, West Christchurch, DCC officers had verbally assured him that they believed there to be sufficient capacity within local schools to meet anticipated demand. He agreed to press for a written statement working in conjunction with Councillor Margaret Phipps
 - 5.3. Town Centre Development Plan:** Mike Collard and Jim Biggin outlined what was said at their meeting with CBC-EDDC Executive (full notes of which are at www.wcresidents.co.uk). The ball remains with CBC and until the next consultative document is produced there is little anybody can do.
 - 5.4. Dorset Waste Partnership:** noted that the investigation continues; also it had that day been announced that DWP is set to overspend by nearly £1 million in 2015-16 – Jim Biggin was asked to find out more and report back
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £130.23
- 7. Dorset Alert:** Mike Collard outlined the progress made in making Dorset Alert into a properly controlled, fully functioning, system. We are still waiting for Dorset Police to indicate that they are ready to proceed and Jim Biggin undertook to ask for a progress report if nothing had been heard by end June
- 8. Spring Meeting with CBC-EDDC Executive:** Jim Biggin and Mike Collard outlined a useful meeting with CBC-EDDC full notes of which are at www.wcresidents.co.uk . The healthy budgetary situation was particularly welcomed.
- 9. Spring Meeting with DCC Councillor Robert Gould:** Jim Biggin outlined his discussion with Councillor Robert Gould (full notes of which are at www.wcresidents.co.uk). The increased cooperation with Bournemouth and Poole was welcomed and Jim Biggin was asked to suggest to Councillor Gould that increased cooperation with Hampshire County Council could be profitable. The

promised case studies detailing projects that had led to cost reductions were thought to be a desirable development.

- 10. DCC Overspend 2014-15:** in response to questions Jim Biggin indicated that whilst the £3 million transfer from reserves represented a very small percentage of overall DCC income and expenses it represented a rather larger 15% of available reserves. Thus DCC could only repeat this process 5 more times at this level of subsidy before available funds no longer met the shortfall
- 11. Annual Meeting with PCC Martyn Underhill:** this meeting has been arranged and a draft agenda will be circulated for comment. A general level of dissatisfaction with our local police was expressed by all present. In particular burglaries appear to be on the increase whilst two members present had been told verbally that the police don't have the resources to investigate domestic break-ins. The whole question of local representation and the future of the old police station site on Barrack Road had yet to be resolved months after it became an issue.
- 12. The Beagle Stoney Lane Site:** it was noted that the Bristol Planning Inspector had reversed the decision taken by CBC Councillors, acting against the advice and recommendation of CBC-EDDC officers, and had granted permission for a supermarket to be built at Stoney Lane. The Inspector had instructed that a percentage of Beagle's costs should be borne by Christchurch Council Tax payers. It was also noted that in the interim Morrison had withdrawn from the scheme thereby producing a loss of Business Rate income to the town. Jim Biggin was asked to approach CBC with a view to trying to quantify the overall financial effect upon Christchurch of this sorry saga.
- 13. CBC Planning Department:** Friars Cliff RA expressed some frustration in their dealings with CBC-EDDC Planning Department. They had experienced difficulty in establishing exactly which officer is in charge. It was suggested that they should contact Neil Farmer in the first instance.
- 14. Barrack Buildings in Grange Road:** Grange RA described how healthy trees had been felled unnecessarily on this site whilst one dangerous tree had been left standing. Their ongoing discussions with CBC-EDDC Planning Department did not appear to be making much progress
- 15. PACT in Winkton:** Winkton RA reported problems with local PACT discussions
- 16. Next Meeting:** NOTE CHANGE OF DATE CAUSED BY HOLIDAYS Tuesday 15th September 2015 at the Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm.

Jim Biggin, Secretary

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