

ACRA

Alliance of Christchurch Residents Associations

Minutes of the meeting on **Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm**

- 1. Present:** Liz Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Rob Evans (Christchurch Citizens); Mike Collard (SAMRA - Chairman); Debbie Stephens (SAMRA); Jim Biggin (West Christchurch – Secretary); David Barnett (WCRA); Sam Bragg (Winkton); Cheryl Pountain (Winkton)
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Highcliffe; Friars Cliff, Somerford
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes:** the minutes of December 2015 were accepted
- 4. Matters Arising:** it was noted that whilst the meeting with CBC at minute 8.4.3 had taken place, Cllr Ray Nottage had been indisposed
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** ACRA funds amount to £102.43 and there is no need for any subscription to be paid for 2016-17
- 6. Funding the ACRA Blog:** SAMRA have agreed to contribute £23
- 7. Appointment of delegates 2016-17:**
 - 7.1.** Chairman: Mike Collard (SAMRA) agreed to continue in this role but indicated that he would have to stand down in the near future as family commitments mean he will be leaving the area. The situation will be reviewed at that time. Jim Biggin expressed his appreciation of the work Mike had done on behalf of ACRA and these sentiments were endorsed by those in attendance
 - 7.2.** Treasurer: Debbie Stephens (SAMRA) indicated a willingness to continue
 - 7.3.** Secretary: Jim Biggin (WCRA) indicated a willingness to continue
 - 7.4.** It was decided to ask Cllr Margaret Phipps to continue as Airport Representative
- 8. Local Government Reorganisation:**
 - 8.1.** Jim Biggin outlined actions stemming from Central Government since December 2015. In particular the *Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016* in general and clauses 3, 15 and 16 in particular.
 - 8.2.** The letter from Chris Chope MP to ACRA was discussed. It was noted that he is the only person supporting a referendum. Those present thought that cost was a secondary issue in this debate. They believed that it would be impossible to frame a single referendum question that would be adequate to reflect the complex issues involved
 - 8.3.** Mike Collard reported on the helpful and constructive meetings that he and Jim Biggin had had with every individual RA.
 - 8.4.** Jim Biggin reported the finalisation of the ACRA Review Team formed to look at the "*high level review*" and subsequent papers. The team comprises: David Barnett (retired City based Director); Ray Carnally (retired auditor from the National Audit Office who specialised in

auditing local authorities); Colin Dewsnap (retired Chief Executive Officer CBC) plus himself as Secretary.

- 8.5.** ACRA comments on the DCC Options Paper to be discussed by DCC Councillors on Thursday 10th March will be circulated as soon as possible
- 8.6.** Jim Biggin reported on why CBC had not made provision for borrowing to meet the likely additional costs incurred in dealing with merger activity in its 2016-17 Treasury Strategy
- 8.7.** The presentation by Dave Barnes scheduled for **Thursday 21st April** to be followed by a Q&A session involving local CBC Councillors at the Hall on the Hill at 7.30pm was noted
- 8.8.** WCRA distributed its paper-based newsletter recently produced for its members who do not use e-mail.
- 8.9.** It was suggested that The Courier could be used for this purpose in future. ACRA have already told CBC they will write an article for The Courier if required. *It was noted that The Courier is not delivered to Winkton*
- 9. DPCC Hustings:** the date of **Wednesday 27th April** at 7.30pm in Drutt Hall was noted. Mike Collard undertook to contact CBC Democratic Services to try to establish who was going to stand so that they could be invited to attend
- 10. Removal of waste bins on the Quomps:** this was discussed and the view of most present was that the scheme was unlikely to be successful
- 11. E-Mails to CBC:** Jim Biggin outlined the system glitch that from about 1st February 2016 had resulted in e-mails to CBC being intercepted by protection software and prevented from reaching their proper destination. Each RA was urged to look back in its records to see if it had been affected
- 12. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 14th June 2016 at the Hall on the Hill, West Christchurch at 7.30pm.

Jim Biggin, Secretary

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