



JUMPERS AND ST CATHERINE'S HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Committee Meeting Minutes

St Catherine's Hill: 5th September 2018 at 7.30 pm

In these minutes: BBC= Bournemouth Borough Council; BCP=Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole new unitary authority; CBC=Christchurch Borough Council; DCC=Dorset County Council; DWP=Dorset Waste Partnership; PBC=Poole Borough Council; PC=Parish Council; RA=Residents Association; SSSI=Site of Special Scientific Interest (Town Common and St Catherine's Hill for example)

1. **Present:** Chairman Jim Biggin; Maureen Biggin; Sue Fotheringham; Malcolm Green; Liz Oliver
2. **Apologies for absence:** Eileen Lancaster;
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** the minutes of the meeting of August 2018 were confirmed
4. **Accounts 2018:** we received £15 in subscriptions in August and spent nothing. Assets stood at £7,495.56. Jim Biggin was authorised to accept the insurance quotation of £95.20
5. **Membership:** Sue Fotheringham reported that despite her broken foot she was managing the situation and did not currently see any major problems
6. **Local Authority Reorganization:** the committee discussed recent developments.
 - 6.1. A Judge sitting in the High Court has conducted the Judicial Review. The verdict is in favour of Future Dorset and against CBC, which did not surprise the committee. He refused CBC the right to appeal
 - 6.2. CBC then decided not to appeal directly to the Court after receiving strong legal advice that it would not be advisable and a declaration by S151 Officer Ian Milner that further expenditure would not be in taxpayer's interest
 - 6.3. The committee noted that the Judge had found against CBC on four key counts: their legal case lacked substance; they were not within the permitted time frame by some considerable margin; if their claim succeeded the other councils and the ministry would simply recommence the process of reorganisation so that the effect of the CBC action would be delay not avoidance; most telling of all, that as a matter of discretion he would not grant their application because it was not in the public interest to do so. Given the waste of taxpayer's money by CBC it was scant consolation that the outcome exactly matched our prediction.
7. **Council Tax Harmonisation:** the committee discussed the motion passed by CBC at the council meeting of 4th September in which they had undertaken to oppose the six-year freezing of Council Tax for Christchurch residents and instead to press for harmonisation with Poole and Bournemouth from April 2019. It was noted that CBC had provided no detail of how it proposed that the new BCP Unitary make up the £5.8 million shortfall in funding this would cause. The committee was of the view that the Shadow Authority would have no option but to reject the CBC request and that the CBC action was irresponsible.
8. **Reorganisation of CBC Committees:** the committee discussed the motion passed by CBC at the council meeting of 4th September in which they had undertaken to reorganise

their internal committees to reduce the influence of councillors who had favoured Future Dorset, irrespective of their knowledge and experience. The committee believed this action would reduce effectiveness and efficiency and would be costly. It did not appear to have been taken in the interest of taxpayers.

- 9. Future Role of the Residents Association:** with the formation of the new unitary now certain the committee again discussed our future role. At the end of a fruitful discussion Jim Biggin undertook to formulate a plan of action
- 10. Hall on the Hill:** it was noted that Sainsbury has sold Nisa to the Co-Op.
- 11. Friends of St Catherine's Hill:** no meeting had taken place
- 12. WW1 Memorial Service:** Malcolm Green updated the committee with latest developments and undertook to advise CBC that if they wanted us to give publicity to the event they needed to pass details to us by 30th September
- 13. Termination of Meeting:** the meeting closed at 8.45 pm. Next meeting Wednesday 3rd October 2018