

CHRISTCHURCH CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2014

The meeting opened at 1930 with 30 members present.

1 **Apologies**

No apologies were given.

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 January 2014**

The Minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true record.

3 **Matters Arising**

Cynthia and Marion were thanked for their contribution in writing several letters and particularly with their success in gaining many new members.

- a) Vicarage/Archaeology. There is still an outstanding job to do
- b) Supermarkets – The Planning Committee meeting held on 23 January resulted in the planning applications for the Beagle and Meteor site being turned down.
- c) Corn Factor Site Development – Druitt Garden Trees – discussed elsewhere.
- d) Corn Factor Site Development – Compound – discussed elsewhere.
- e) Cooperative Store plan for the Fairmile. The Council could have overridden this but the time limit was now passed and no objections can be raised. However it was agreed to minute this for future reference.
- f) Druitt Hall – discussed elsewhere.
- g) Town Centre Bowling Green – Association needs to become involved with the plans that the Hotel are considering. Agreed to write a letter to the Kings asking for discussions to take place regarding where their plans for the Bowling Green are going - ongoing.

4 **Corn Factor Site Development – Druitt Garden Trees**

450 letters had been written regarding this development which were ignored. Cllr Hall said that there were TPO's on all the trees but ongoing work is hidden behind the hoardings so no-one can see if the trees are safe. The County has a covenant that they must provide 800 sq meters of ground for open space. DCC must provide a public open space of the same area if they take it away. A huge crane is going on site. It was agreed to write again to the Developer to implore them to look after the trees and also one to the Council to ask them to ensure they keep an eye on the trees.

It was suggested that the Association talk to the Regent Centre and the Council about a camera to overlook the site. It was also suggested that the developers are asked to cut windows into the hoarding so the public can see what is going on. Finally the developers should be forced to replace any lost trees with native trees. Tree roots very important and it was felt that footings can't be put in half a metre away without damaging the tree. It was decided that letters should go to all Planning Council members regarding the trees together with an arborological report.

Before the last Planning Meeting 12 letters were hand delivered to the Council for all the Planning Committee Councillors on Tuesday prior to the meeting to be held on the Thursday evening but apparently these remained on Ms McFee's (the Council's Tree Officer) desk until Friday morning. It was agreed a letter to the Chief Executive regarding the mismanagement of letters should be sent.

5 **Corn Factor Site Development – Compound**

The contractor has paid to have a path put in which was deemed to be unnecessary as is the blocking of the existing path from the Regent Centre to the Druitt Hall. It was also thought for H&S reason the footpath should not be closed as this is used by children from Poppets using the car park and the local infants and junior school. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the MD of company asking for the path to be open during school pick up times etc.

Another point raised was damage to the car park and it was agreed the developer should be asked to repair any damage caused by this development.

6 Druitt Hall

Robin Gray said the Council had given a complicated response regarding the future of the Druitt Hall. The Council gave UKIP 14 days to come up with a business plan regarding the building of a new hall but it can't be built on the current site but should be built on a site as yet unidentified. UKIP made a decision not to proceed but are still communicating with the Council about the hall as an amenity. The Chairman stated this is not over and whoever runs the hall is immaterial the point is to keep the hall.

CCA meetings have always held in the hall since it was built by Cllr Newbury (Cllr Sue Spittal's father). There should be a celebration in November to commemorate for 70 years.

The Council has insisted on a refurbishment budget of £25k to continue to run the hall for the next three years to fund a disabled toilet, ramps etc. A member of the CAA has offered to sponsor to a total of £25k

George Gregory and Charles Guest proposed a response to reach the Council by the deadline of Thursday of this week.

It was stated that the Association needs to form a charitable body to avoid paying full rates as rates are the largest expenditure. A charity has almost been set up which would be offered to the CAA but which would need three trustees. The charity would be known as the Druitt Hall Community Association.

The CCA Chairman proposed using £1,000 from CCA funds which will be decided at the next meeting. The March meeting will need a business plan and it was suggested this should be kept simple. The Chairman also sought permission to approach the Community Partnership about the funds they managed to which could allow the CCA to hold it as a separate fund for, say, a new kitchen or furniture etc. It was unanimously agreed that a letter should be written to them but the CCA should make sure no liabilities come with those funds. The money had been earmarked for a new hall rather than refurbishment. Some people had been claiming back funds from the Community Partnership.

A Foundation Trust of £1,000,000 has been set up with monies received from the proposed supermarket owners at Bailey Bridge which is appealing for directors who should be as free as possible from the Council. It was felt a new hall could be a worthy recipient of the trust.

9 Princess Hall

The recent edition of the Parish Magazine confirmed that the Princess Hall is definitely up for redevelopment for housing. Public Consultation is scheduled in the Priory on Thursday 10 February from 12.30 to 19.30. It was suggested that any funds made should go towards a new hall tacked on the back of priory House. Cllr Hall said it was being sold to fund a new visitors centre, church hall and Museum. The Princess Hall would be a terrific loss to the community if it was closed before a new hall was ready and it was agreed that if this was the case then a letter should be written saying the new hall should be built before the existing hall it sold.

10 Any Other Business

Subscriptions are now due for 2014.

November 2014 marks the 70th Anniversary of the CAA and should be marked by some form of celebration.

Sue Spittal's father (Cllr Newbury) November 1944 Stanley instigated the hall

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting takes place prior to the normal monthly meeting on Monday 4 March 2014 at 7.30. Any person wishing to stand on the Committee should put their name forward, together with a seconder, at this meeting.