

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes
St Catherine's Hill Hall 23rd February 2012 at 7.30 pm

1. **Present:** Chairman Jim Biggin; Maureen Biggin; Chris Gordon; Roger Hamilton; Eileen Lancaster; John Pendrill; Janet Robson
2. **Councillors Present:** Councillor Bungey; Councillor Neale; Councillor Spittle;
3. **Apologies from:** Councillor Fox
4. **Minutes of last year's meeting:** these were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The audited accounts as at December 31st 2011 were presented by John Pendrill. They showed an operating profit of £865.86 and reserves of £6244.32.
6. **Subscription rate for 2012:** this was left at £1 per household
7. **Chairman's report:** Jim Biggin thanked our collectors for once again doing a first rate job. He reported upon the successful streamlining of the CBC and EDDC administrations and the good working relationships that had been established with Strategic Directors David Barnes and Neil Farmer. He outlined the negotiations on the management plan for St Catherine's Hill and thanked the WCRA Management Committee for their outstanding efforts in bringing the plan to fruition. He urged all local residents to now participate in the public consultation. He outlined the forthcoming changes in waste collection and disposal. He indicated that in 2012 he anticipated working with other Residents' Associations and CBC to arrive at an understanding of the Localism Act 2011
8. **Election of Committee:** all existing officers presented themselves for re-election. The meeting approved their re-election unanimously
9. **Presentation by Dorset County Councillor Spencer Flower:** a very interesting and illuminating presentation revealed that:
 - 9.1. DCC still has a £15million pa shortfall in revenue
 - 9.2. 500 full time posts have been removed
 - 9.3. A further cut in central grant is anticipated but has not been budgeted for
 - 9.4. However, 75% of DCC revenue is raised by local taxation so this development will not be so serious for DCC as for other local councils where in extreme examples only 25% of revenue comes from local taxation
 - 9.5. The freezing of Council Tax generates a further £5 million shortfall that will eventually have to be made up from taxation or grant
 - 9.6. Cllr Flower believes he has established better control over DCC capital accounts and intends to ensure that any future borrowing does not produce a corresponding increase in servicing revenue
 - 9.7. He does not believe that the Euro can survive in its current form
 - 9.8. He still hopes to obtain at least 90p in the £ back on Icelandic funds
10. **Questions to Councillors and WCRA Committee:** questions were answered without drama.
11. The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.